



fighting heart disease
and stroke

european heart network

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OECD report on Cardiovascular Disease and Diabetes – warning, danger ahead

The European Heart Network (EHN) welcomes the new OECD report on '*Cardiovascular Disease and Diabetes: Policies for Better Health and Quality of Care*'.¹

The report confirms that cardiovascular diseases (CVD) remain the leading cause of death in the world and in Europe.

Says Susanne Løgstrup, Director EHN: “We celebrate the spectacular decline in CVD mortality – more than 60% on average in the world. But, we also recognise that the party may be over.”

OECD warns: “*The prospects for reducing the CVD disease burden are diminishing and the pattern of declining mortality is coming to an end or even reversing amongst some population groups, particularly younger age groups.*”

More than ever, the EU and its Member States need to strengthen their efforts to prevent and manage cardiovascular diseases. This is possible; as the OECD report reminds us, CVD is highly preventable. Indeed, WHO estimates that 80% of heart attacks and strokes can be avoided by controlling the main risk factors: tobacco, unhealthy diets and physical inactivity.²

Along with recommendations to strengthen primary care for better management of patients and risk factors, and improve access, OECD recommends:

- Improving the breadth or the attractiveness of health choices, relative to the free market situation;
- Modifying preferences to encourage healthy choices;
- Increasing the price of selected unhealthy choices; and
- Regulating selected unhealthy choices.

¹ http://www.keepeek.com/Digital-Asset-Management/oecd/social-issues-migration-health/cardiovascular-disease-and-diabetes-policies-for-better-health-and-quality-of-care_9789264233010-en#page18

² <http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/noncommunicable-diseases/cardiovascular-diseases>

EHN has published a detailed analysis of how to reduce the burden of CVD through diet and physical activity <http://www.ehnheart.org/publications/publications/publication/521-diet-physical-activity-and-cardiovascular-disease-prevention.html>

For more information on EHN, its research and publications on CVD, please visit our website <http://www.ehnheart.org/> or contact us at info@ehnheart.org

About the European Heart Network

The European Heart Network (EHN) is a Brussels-based alliance of heart foundations and likeminded non-governmental organisations throughout Europe, with member organisations in 25 countries. The EHN plays a leading role in the prevention and reduction of cardiovascular diseases, in particular heart disease and stroke, through advocacy, networking, capacity-building and patient support, so that they are no longer a major cause of premature death and disability throughout Europe.