



fighting heart disease
and stroke

european heart network

Fact sheet on tobacco use and cardiovascular diseases¹

- Cardiovascular diseases (CVD) are the main cause of death in the EU accounting for over 1.9 million deaths per year
- In the EU (EU-25), 28 % of deaths from CVD in men aged 35 – 69 (532.000 men) and 13% of deaths from CVD in women of the same age (247.000 women) are due to smoking
- The World Health Report 2002 estimated that in developed countries around 12% of all disease burden and over 20% of CVD is due to smoking
- Prevalence of smoking in men is generally higher in Eastern Europe. Death rates from coronary heart disease and stroke are higher in these countries than in Northern, Southern and Western Europe
- Tobacco smoking is one of the most important modifiable risk factors for premature mortality
- Cardiovascular diseases are estimated to cost the EU economy almost 196 billion Euro per year

¹ Nichols M, Townsend N, Scarborough O, Luengo-Fernandez R, Leal J, Gray A, Rayner M (2012). European Cardiovascular Diseases Statistics 2012. European Heart Network, Brussels, European Society of Cardiology, Sophia Antipolis.