Acknowledgements	VI
Foreword	vii
Authors	X
Abbreviations	xi
Executive summary	1
1. Health inequities in the WHO European Region	3
1.1. Health inequities in Europe	3
2. Trends in governance thinking and practice	8
2.1. Reducing inequities in health through action on social determinants  – why governance is important	8
2.2. Reasons for acting on social determinants and reducing health inequities 2.2.1. Reducing preventable ill health is a matter of fairness and social justice 2.2.2. Health is a human right 2.2.3. Health is a public good 2.2.4. Loss of health and increasing health inequity lead to social conflict and undermines community cohesion	13 13 13 16 16
<ul><li>2.2.5. Population health is an economic asset and a productive good</li><li>2.3. Summary of key issues in governance for health equity</li></ul>	17 18
2.4. Summary of the main principles of effective governance for health equity	20
3. Progress and responses in Europe	25
3.1. Integrated policies capable of acting on social determinants	25
3.2. Instruments that incentivize collaboration across stakeholders and hold decision-makers to account	26
3.2.1. Horizontal and vertical integration of actions	28



3.3. Active participation and engagement of communities	29
4. Why governance and delivery fail	31
4.1. Conceptual failure	31
<ul> <li>4.2. Delivery chain failure</li> <li>4.2.1. Reliance on small-scale project and pilots</li> <li>4.2.2. Lack of appropriate incentives and mechanisms for acting across sectors and determinants</li> </ul>	<b>36</b> 36 37
<ul><li>4.2.3. Lack of investment in ongoing assessment of trends in inequities and social determinants</li><li>4.2.4. Gaps in quality and type of data/intelligence</li></ul>	39
4.3. Governmental control strategy failure	41
4.4. Public health system failure	43
5. Systems checklist for governing for health equity through action on social determinants of health	46
5.1. Characteristics of delivery systems important to reducing inequities through action on social determinants of health	50
6. Recommendations	52
6.1. Promote and ensure shared responsibility for equity results across government	52
6.1.1. Strengthening the mix and coherence of instruments which enable and reward joint action on social inequities (i) across sectoral portfolios and (ii) between local, regional and national governments	52
6.2. Accountability instruments and capacities for equity	53
6.3 Equity and health equity as indicators of a fair and sustainable society	55

6.4. Involving local people and communities improves the design and impact of policies and investments aimed at improving health and reducing social inequities	56
6.5. Europe-wide information exchange	57
7. References	58
8. Bibliography	62