



RESOLUTION

REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

EM/RC55/R.7
October 2008

Fifty-fifth Session

Bridging the gap between health researchers and policy-makers in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

The Regional Committee,

Having reviewed the technical paper on bridging the gap between health researchers and policy-makers in the Eastern Mediterranean Region¹;

Recalling World Health Assembly resolutions WHA58.34 Ministerial Summit on Health Research for Development and WHA60.15 WHO's role and responsibilities in health research, and Regional Committee resolutions EM/RC40/R.11 Report on the progress of WHO-sponsored research activities in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, EM/RC48/R.8 Renewed health research for development in the Eastern Mediterranean Region and EM/RC51.R.11 Development and use of genomics and biotechnology for public health;

Referring also to Regional Committee resolution EM/RC55/R.4 Report of the Eastern Mediterranean Advisory Committee on Health Research (Twenty-third Meeting), particularly in relation to the need to communicate the results of research in simpler language;

Taking into consideration the far lower average health-related research output in countries of the Eastern Mediterranean Region, by income group, than the world average;

Aware of the critical disconnect between research findings and their use for policy-making, and the need to integrate research with practice and policy, to improve policy and decision-making;

1. **URGES** Member States to:

- 1.1 Design and develop inclusive and participatory national strategies for health research, involving all the main players and stakeholders in the public and private sector, including policy-makers in the Ministry of Health, and other relevant ministries, development partners, civil society, professional bodies, industry and national research councils;

¹ Document no. EM/RC55/4

- 1.2 Develop communication and dissemination plans for all research proposals funded from public sources to ensure policy-makers and the community are informed of research outcomes;
- 1.3 Raise awareness among policy-makers of the importance of using research evidence in decision-making and strengthen their capacities in this regard;
- 1.4 Establish/strengthen a research unit in the Ministry of Health and establish an evidence-informed policy network at the national level;
- 1.5 Provide content to the regional electronic repository of published and unpublished research material that is not normally identifiable through conventional methods of bibliographic control (grey literature), once it is developed;
- 1.6 Develop strategies for recognizing the work of researchers in the health field;

2. **REQUESTS** the Regional Director to:

- 2.1 Support Member States in developing their national health research strategies with enhanced focus on communication, dissemination, and use of research evidence for improved policy-making;
- 2.2 Support the efforts of the Member States to involve civil society and the media, in dissemination of research findings to enhance interaction between researchers, policy-makers and the community;
- 2.3 Establish an electronic repository for regional published and unpublished research material that is not normally identifiable through conventional methods of bibliographic control (grey literature), to facilitate knowledge sharing in the Region and support policy formulation.