

**PACE-NET Plus Platform
of bi-regional policy dialogue
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Pacific-Europe Network for Science, Technology and Innovation



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1. Think Tank 1 – Health NCDs

Think Tank 1 - Health NCDs - Tackling Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs): Lifestyle Options for Improved Nutrition and Well Being

PACE-Net Plus Conference, Bremen, Germany (9-11 September 2014)

- Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are currently recognized by WHO as the leading cause of death in the world.
- The four major NCDs upon which this Think Tank largely focused are: **cardiovascular diseases (CVDs), chronic respiratory diseases, cancers, and type two diabetes mellitus (hereafter diabetes).**



2. Main Outcomes

Situational analysis

- Wide range of public initiatives across the (South) Pacific region.
- One-size-fits-all approaches are unlikely to be successful.
- Strong interest from both Pacific and EU in research collaboration - first step is understanding of current situation.



2. Main Outcomes

Situational analysis

- ‘Strengths’ may simultaneously be ‘Weaknesses’: eg.: country size.
- Lack of resources (money, human resources, evaluation and surveillance).
- Main challenges:
 - turning policy statements and commitments into real actions;
 - achieving multi-sectoral cooperation;
 - engaging local communities;
 - improving communication between stakeholders.



2. Main Outcomes

Priorities	Suggested Action Plans
<p><u>Food Policy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical approach to improve diets. Requires monitoring and evaluation and health impact assessment (HIA) of cross-sectoral policies including trade agreements • Development of relevant evidence for Pacific islands, with global significance 	<p><u>Food Policy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health impact assessment of trade agreements and cross-sectoral policies • Development for key food policy interventions (building evidence base) • Public health advocacy institute for the Pacific

2. Main Outcomes

Priorities	Suggested Action Plans
<p><u>Community informed and led action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase focus on community-based NCD intervention studies • Provide provision of prevention and treatment via primary health care 	<p><u>Community informed and led action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening civil society organizations • Build on existing structures and traditional systems

2. Main Outcomes

Priorities	Suggested Action Plans
<p><u>Research</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonisation of research priorities and cooperation • Accessibility of research opportunities and findings • Turning research into action and holding policy makers accountable 	<p><u>Research</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stronger focus and resource allocation for NCD related research • Culturally appropriate and national prioritised research • Build research capacity and dissemination within the EU and Pacific

2. Main Outcomes

Priorities	Suggested Action Plans
<p><u>Data and surveillance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approach to policy development based on evidence and data • Monitor progress of quality of data across a range of domains • Use and translation of data into powerful messages to drive policy and change 	<p><u>Data and surveillance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build a regional COD coding facility • Create an ICT platform for improved access to NCD data and knowledge • Build regional innovative accountability frameworks – support Pacific Monitoring Alliance for NCD Action (Pacific MANA)

2. Main Outcomes

Across cultures

- Create conditions for community project design
- Consider how to get funding
- Involve local communities and civil society
- Consider how to tackle Brain Drain

Across disciplines

- Engage community to understand real needs
- Consider multisectoral approaches
- Create platforms for communication within network
- Build on existing plans and structures

Across scales

- Assess impact
- Cooperate cross borders
- Avoid creating barriers
- Frame projects within existing country structures

Sustainability and accountability

- Network
- Lobby
- Develop projects beyond PACE NET +
- Be accountable and responsive to communities