## Palliative care in the WHO European Region: a call for action



#### What is palliative care? It benefits health systems, which can save money by It is a special care using resources better. for people with life-threatening illness It can be given and their families. in homes, health centres, hospitals For the entire It improves the and hospices. quality of life. disease trajectory: from the beginning It relieves pain and It can be done by many and alongside health professionals physical, psychosocial the disease. and spiritual suffering. and volunteers.

### Palliative care for everyone who needs it



People with many types of diseases need palliative care

16% Dementia



33% Cardiovascular diseases



6% Chronic

lung diseases

income level.

and also for children

7% Others

### Who needs it?

Are we ready

0

WE HAVE

Palliative

care teams

population.

per 100,000

0.8



## **Consumption of main opioids**

38% of the people who need

palliative care have cancer



### What are the barriers?

Excessively restrictive regulations for opioid pain relief.

Future health professionals are not taught about palliative care

No specialization for palliative care professionals. Poor public and professional awareness of how palliative care can help. Cultural and social barriers.

### What can countries do?



Policies Revise laws and processes to improve access to opioid pain relief.



Education Promote palliative care education for all health professionals.



#### Primary health care Provide palliative care through primary health care centres and homes

More information is available in the EAPC Atlas of Palliative Care in Europe. https://bit.ly/2FoPpox

More information is available at www.euro.who.int/en/palliativecare @ WHO 2020

# Map production: ATLANTES Global Palliative Care Observatory | ICS - University of Navarra