

**Health Literacy – a social determinant, moderator or mediator of
health behaviors and health?**

Organiser:

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Finally, health literacy as a concept and measure has arrived in European health sciences and health sociology. There are now definitions and instruments available developed by European scientists and data surveyed on European populations. In contrast to most US American definitions and measures which focus primarily on clinical health literacy of patients, the European Health Literacy Survey (HLS-EU) definition and instrument has a broader public health meaning, including besides skills for health care also necessary skills for doing decisions and actions related to disease prevention and health promotion. Therefore this instrument mainly has been used on general populations, and thus has also measured health literacy for peoples' roles of workers, consumers and citizens and not just as patients. Such a broad concept of health literacy easily and adequately relates to the title of this ESHMS conference Healthy lives: technologies, policies and experiences. It can be asked, how and in how far does health literacy contribute to a healthy life, or more concretely, to a healthy life style and better health outcomes. In this context there is an ongoing debate in what way does health literacy influence health behaviors and health, as a specific social determinant or by mediating or moderating the impact of other determinants. The session will address these issues by offering and discussing empirical studies from different countries using the HLS-EU and other instruments.

Deadline to submit your abstract: 20th of January 2016

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