

A National Position Paper: Health Literacy from a Structural Perspective A path to equity in health?



Dansk Selskab for Folkesundhed

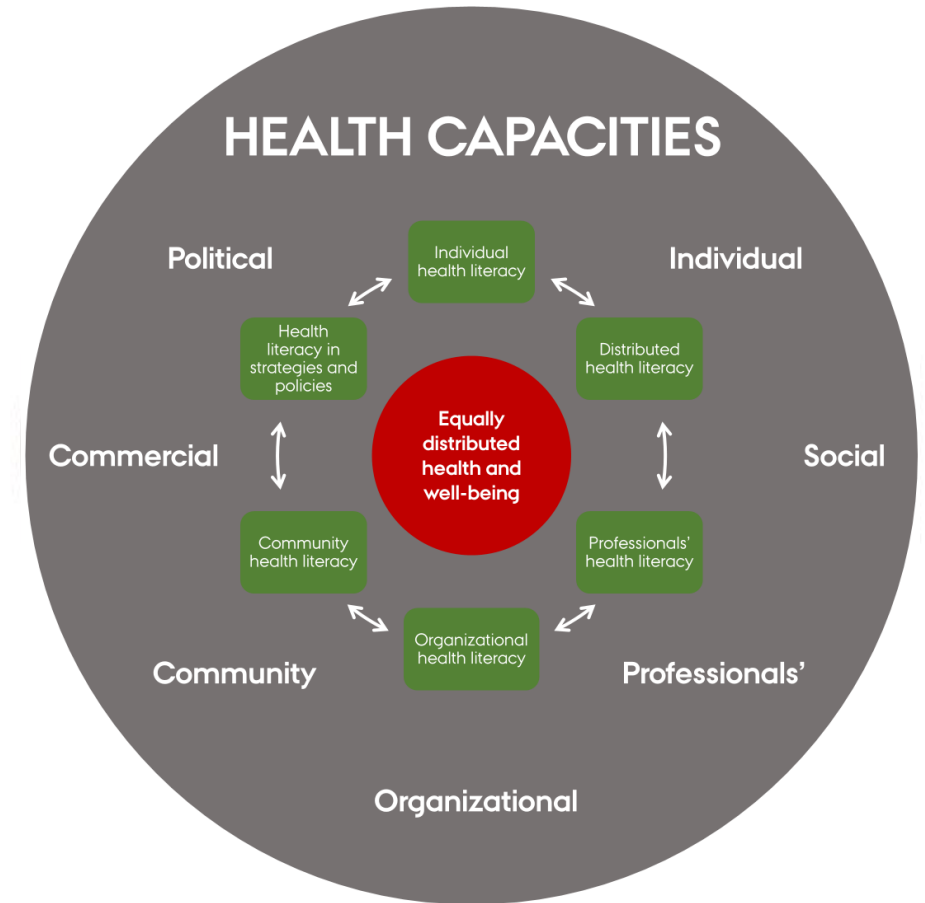
Dansk Health Literacy Netværk

Background



- A policy brief with eight recommendations to improve health literacy in Denmark from a structural perspective was developed by the Danish Society of Public Health and the Danish Health Literacy Network, in collaboration with Danish experts and practitioners
- The policy brief was launched at the annual meeting of the Danish Society of Public Health in September 2019.

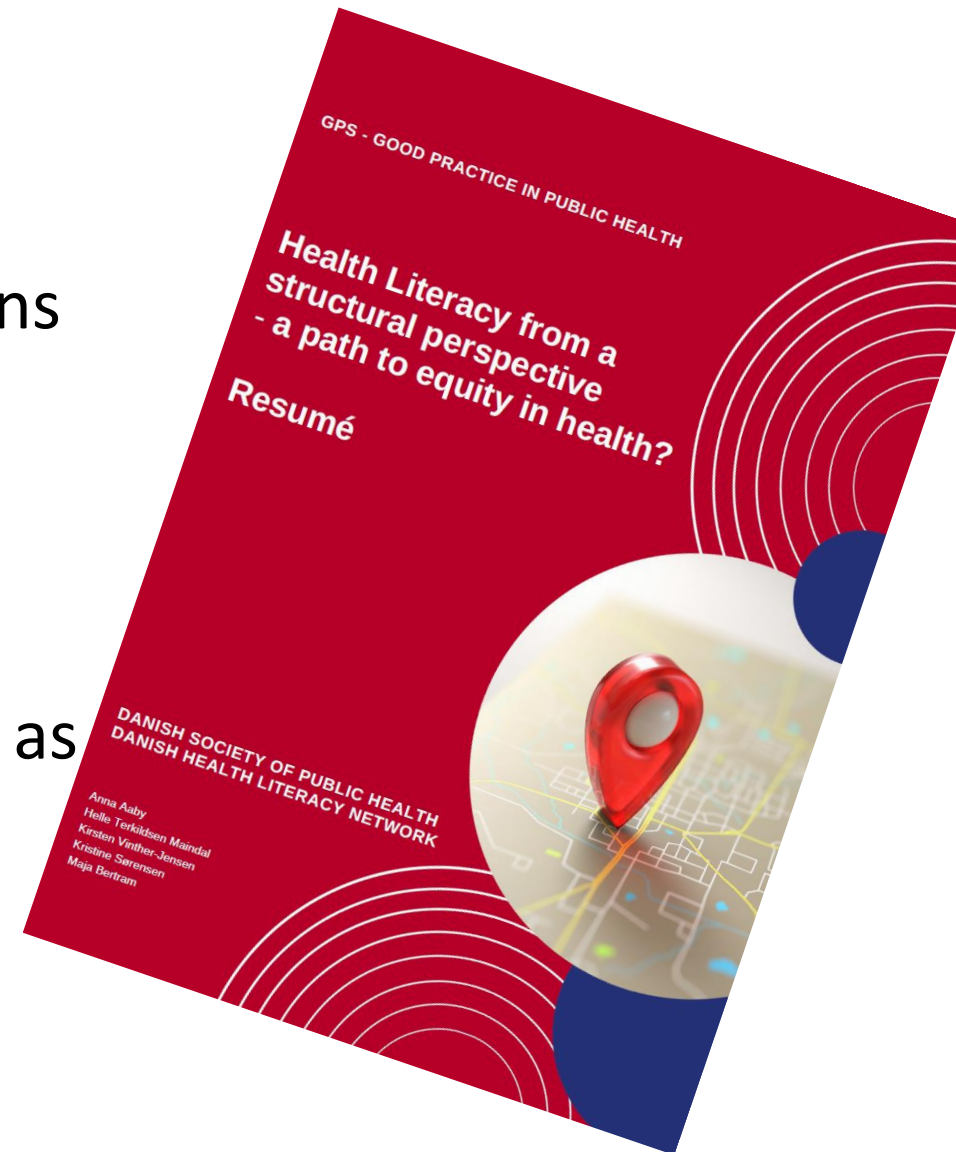
Fig. 1. Health literacy as an enabler of health equity and health promotion



Draft WHO European roadmap for implementation of health literacy initiatives through the life course

The GPS – showing the road

- The policy brief contains **8** recommendations aiming to prevent and accommodate low health literacy and its consequences for the Danish population by targeting the organizational and structural levels.
- Concrete measures and tools are introduced as part of each of the recommendations to support implementation.



Methods

- A rapid literature review
- Three different methodologies:
 - (i) stakeholder meetings
 - (ii) expert interviews (policy, practice, research)
 - (iii) thematic meetings focusing on different dimension of the initial recommendation for the position paper



Recommendations 1-4

- **Recommendation 1: Integrate health literacy into Danish health policies and strategies**
- **Recommendation 2: Develop health literacy throughout the life course**
- **Recommendation 3: Include health literacy in health education curricula**
- **Recommendation 4: Integrate health literacy at organizational levels**

Recommendation 1: Integrate health literacy into Danish health policies and strategies

- Given the increasing complexity of health information, health literacy should directly or indirectly be addressed by all Danish national and local health policies and strategies.

Recommendations 5-8

- **Recommendation 5: Integrate health literacy into partnership and co-creation processes**
- **Recommendation 6: Measure and monitor health literacy using local and national data**
- **Recommendation 7: Develop, test and evaluate health literacy interventions**
- **Recommendation 8: Consider health literacy in all forms of health communication**

Conclusion

The recommendations are expected to support the integration of a health literate thinking and a health literacy responsiveness into current health strategies, including the ongoing efforts to achieve the 17 UN Global Goals for Sustainable Development, and thereby contribute to the equitable distribution of health in the Danish population.

The resume of the national document can be downloaded from:

<https://www.dankselskabforfolkesundhed.dk/vore-gps-er/gps-health-literacy/>

Thanks

To the audience and to co-authors; Vinther-Jensen, Sørensen, Bertram, Aaby and to the Danish Society of Public Health, and The Danish Health Literacy Network