



# Welcome

## **Socio-Political Challenges in the Mediterranean Region Implications for NCD Prevention and Control**

*2<sup>nd</sup> RESCAP-MED Regional Symposium*

### Beirut

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# What is RESCAP-MED?

RESCAP-MED is a project to build research capacity, relevant to public health research in NCDs.

Aim: to create a Mediterranean regional network for NCD researchers, fostering research skills in 5 core disciplines for public health:

- epidemiology
- health economics
- environmental health
- medical anthropology
- health policy

Funded by the European Union FP7, 2012-2014

Response to EU call on **health & social determinants of health**

Coordinated by Newcastle University, UK



# Who we are: a network of 11 partners



## 6 academic institutions in this region

- Lebanon: American University of Beirut
- Jordan: Jordan University of Science & Technology, Irbid
- Palestine: Birzeit University, West Bank
- Syria: Syrian Center for Tobacco Studies, Aleppo
- Tunisia: University of Tunis
- Turkey: Dokuz Eylul University, Izmir

## 4 academic institutions in the EU

- Ireland: Trinity College, Dublin
- UK: Liverpool University; St. George's, University of London; Newcastle University

## 1 international organisation

- WHO-EMRO: Cairo, Egypt



# What RESCAP-MED does

- Training workshops (discipline-based + writing)
- Visiting Fellowship programme
- Organised two regional symposia
  - Istanbul 2013: The social determinants of NCDs in Mediterranean countries
  - Beirut 2014: Socio-Political Challenges in the Mediterranean Region
  - Each provides a forum for rising generation of researchers
- Developed public health research e-learning website – NETPH
  - <http://www.netph.org/>



# RESCAP-MED evolved out of MedCHAMPS



- MedCHAMPS was a multi-disciplinary research project
- Funded by the EU, 2009-13
- Integrated: epidemiological modelling + healthcare organisation & use + economic analysis of policy options
- Aim: to provide empirical basis for policy initiatives to reduce burden of CVD and diabetes in the Middle East and North Africa.
- To date 25 peer reviewed papers
- MedCHAMPS partners are all in RESCAP-MED
  - In this region: from Palestine, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey
  - Same EU partners
  - Scientific Coordinator: Julia Critchley (ex-Newcastle, now London)



# Symposium themes and our keynote presentations

- **Epidemiological transition:** the rapid increase in prevalence of major NCDs
- **Health System fragility:** the capacity of health systems to cope with NCDs, and policy responses

In a context of

- **Social and political crisis:** The complex impacts of acute upheaval and transformation on NCD management and care

*Highlighting the necessity for multi-disciplinary perspectives*



# Thank You

And on behalf of RESCAP-MED we hope you have a stimulating and enjoyable two days of debate and discussion