

Prof. Ilona Kickbusch

Senior Health Policy Advisor and WHO Consultant

Professor Ilona Kickbusch PhD is known throughout the world for her contributions to innovation in public health, health promotion and global health. She has had a distinguished career with the World Health Organization and Yale University. She is a sought after speaker and advisor on policies and strategies to promote health at the national and international level. She now works as an independent global health consultant based in Switzerland. In particular she serves as senior health policy advisor to the Swiss Federal Office for Public Health.

The focus on social and political determinants of health has always been at the center of her work. She initiated the Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion, a seminal document of the new public health. She launched the WHO Healthy Cities project and other worldwide initiatives such as health promoting schools and health promoting hospitals. She was the founder of the journal Health Promotion International and serves as the chair of the editorial board. At present she is engaged in supporting a range of future developments in health promotion and public health, including a European strategy to promote health literacy.

During her tenure at Yale University she contributed significantly to shaping the new field of global health with a focus on global health governance. She served as the first distinguished scholar leader of the Fulbright New Century Scholars program which in its initial year focused on "Health in a Borderless World". She continues to serve on the Yale faculty as a lecturer and acts as an advisor to the Fulbright program.

Throughout her career she has been committed to issues of women's health. While at WHO she launched a major European initiative of national women's health reports "Women's Health Counts". She is now exploring the interface of gender, globalization and health.