



# ***Towards a Common Public Health Strategy for the Region of South Eastern Europe***

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**there a real need for a regional public health policy framework in SEE countries, when global health policies and strategies are available?**

- **Public Health Programme of the EU, 2003-2008**
  - **WHO Health 21 policy framework**
  - **international sectoral policies and strategies**






# **Answer: probably YES**

**Specific situation in the SEE region has to be considered for the development of **relevant** and **realistic** public health goals.**

**Some particular characteristics of the region:**

- transition from centralised systems to open democratic political systems**
  - some have to cope with the consequences of the war in the 90's**
  - level of poverty is of main concern in all SEE countries**
  - scarce health resources**
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**A framework for a regional SEE public health strategy was developed during a seminar in August 2004, held in Belgrade\*, organised in the framework of the Public Health Collaboration in South Eastern Europe Programme**

**\* Expert Summer Retreat: National Public Health Strategies in South Eastern Europe and the EU**






**Seminar was attended by 36 public health professionals from seven SEE countries<sup>1</sup>.**

**An additional number of experts from other European countries attended the seminar and assisted in the development process<sup>2</sup>.**

**<sup>1</sup> SEE countries represented: Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, and Slovenia**





# Methods used for the Development Process


**General principle: participatory and consensus  
approach**

**Step one: presentation and discussion of the current  
national public health strategies**

**Step two: situation analysis of public health in  
SEE region, using SWOT methodology**

**Step three: priority setting and goal formulation  
the nominal group technique**

**Step four: translating goals into action plan (in  
work groups); presentation and discussion  
in plenary session**





# Evaluation of the current situation in SEE countries

- 1. first round focused on the identification of *factors supporting or hindering* the development of a regional public health strategy**
- 2. next round *mapped the interactions* between these factors and further analysed the strategic options that originated the decision for one strategic approach**





# Strengths

- **tradition and history of public health**
- **legislation and regulations (e.g. laws on surveillance of communicable diseases, occupational health, school children health, immunisation, etc)**
- **core group of public health professionals with international training and links, together with a PH infrastructure**
- **education and training systems**
- **nongovernmental involvement**





# Weaknesses

- **changes in health sector reforms**
- **health information systems**
- **insufficient financing**
- **poor human resources management**
- **corruption was perceived as a problem**





# Opportunities

- **Dubrovnik Pledge, 2001**
  - **climate to foreign investment in SEE countries (main funding agencies: PHARE, World Bank, European Agency for Reconstruction, UNICEF, etc**
  - **access to information**
  - **increasing professional co-operation within and between the SEE countries (Stability Pact - PH SEE project, Sharing for Action project, new FORUM for PH in SEE countries, etc.)**
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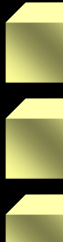
# Threats

- **political instability**
- **priorities and approaches are primarily oriented towards short-term goals**
- **lack of public support**
- **risk of international goals being inadequately transferred and inappropriately adapted to the region**






# Mapping the interactions

- **Interaction of strengths and opportunities**
  - **Interaction of weaknesses and opportunities**
  - **Interaction of strengths and threats**
  - **Interaction of weaknesses and threats**
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## Possible strategic choices

- **Damage control strategy (WT)**
  - **Mobilisation strategy (ST)**
  - **Investment-divestment strategy (WO)**
  - **Comparative advantage strategy (SO)**
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# 8 key messages and recommendations

- 1. reduction of health inequalities**
  - 2. participation of communities**
  - 3. inter-sectoral collaboration (vertical and horizontal)**
  - 4. economic and social development, with a positive impact on public health**
  - 5. regional co-operation**
  - 6. development of human resources**
  - 7. evidence based policy making**
  - 8. professional collaboration**
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# Process of drafting the SEE regional public health strategy framework

- **Five priorities**
- **Goals**
- **An initial five-year term, 2005 - 2010**





# Goals and objectives of the draft SEE regional public health strategy framework, 2005 - 2010

## **Goal 1**

***Reducing inequalities in health***

**1.1: Targeting vulnerable groups**

**1.2: Ensuring adequate and safe living conditions**

## **Goal 2**

***Strengthening social participation***

**2.1: Mapping social participation opportunities and initiatives**

**opportunities and initiatives**

**2.2: Rising awareness and public empowerment**

**empowerment**

**2.3: Developing mechanisms to involve**

**society in decision-making process**





Goals and objectives of the draft



SEE regional public health strategy



framework, 2005 - 2010

**Goal 3**

***Strengthening HR in public health***

of

**3.1: Ensuring sustainable development  
human resources**

**3.2: Enhancing regional professional  
collaboration**

**Goal 4** ***Improving regional public health  
information and knowledge***


health

**4.1: Establishing a regional public  
information system**

analysis  
level

**4.2: Developing mechanisms for  
and reporting at regional**

**4.3: Improving the level of public health  
knowledge among three key groups:  
professionals, the decision-makers and the**



Goals and objectives of the draft  
SEE regional public health strategy  
framework, 2005 - 2010

**Goal 5**      ***Establishing intersectoral co-operation***

**5.1: Establishing involvement in  
programmes of non-health**

**sectors**

**5.2: Introducing intersectoral research**





## Action plan


**The goals have been specified into objectives and operationalised into an action plan (activities with timeframe estimation, outcomes, deliverables and indicators).**

**Additionally, potential partners, resources and risks have been identified.**





# Conclusions

- **only a first step towards an officially agreed regional strategy framework.**
  - **scientific community may challenge the methodological approach**
  - **lack of policy proposals**
  - **solid and scientific basis to build on for political and technical sustainability**
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# Where IS the strategy draft

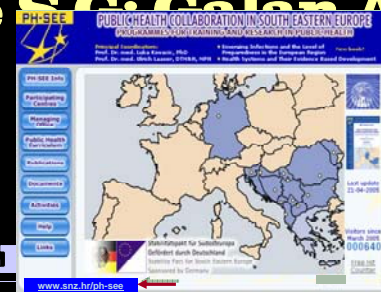


## • IN A BOOK

**Public Health Strategies: A Tool for Regional Development. Framework for a common regional public health strategy of south eastern Europe. Bucharest: Hans Jacobs Publishing Company, 2005, Scîntee S.C. Galen A. Editors.**

## • On the website

<http://www.snz.hr/ph-see/publications.htm>



## • IN A leaflet

**Framework for a common regional public health strategy of south eastern Europe, 2005**



# Thank you

