

1st Conference of the Deans & Directors of the Schools and  
Institutes of Public Health and of the Representatives of the  
National Public Health Associations in South Eastern Europe

**THE PROFESSIONALISATION OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH IN SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE:  
THE PRESENCE AND THE FUTURE**

Dresden, Germany, November 30 - December 2, 2006

**THE IMPACT OF THE SKOPJE  
CONFERENCE ON PEACE AND PUBLIC  
HEALTH, December 2001**

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# BACKGROUND OF THE SKOPJE CONFERENCE ON PH&PEACE

- Conflicts have persisted in South Eastern Europe since 1989
- In the spring of 1999, Macedonia experienced a major humanitarian catastrophe as a result of an influx of almost **400.000 refugees** stemming from the war in Kosovo
- Consequently, **international organizations** – NATO, EU, UN and others - have increased their presence and responsibility to resolve existing humanitarian problems and prevent new conflicts
- The **Stability Pact** is the first serious attempt by the international community to replace the previous, reactive crisis intervention policy in SEE with a complex, long-term conflict prevention strategy.
- On **10 June 1999**, at the EU's initiative, the Stability Pact for SEE was adopted in Cologne.
- In the founding document, **more than 40 partner countries and organizations** undertook to strengthen the countries of SEE "in their efforts to foster peace, democracy, respect for human rights and economic prosperity in order to achieve stability in the whole region".
- At a summit meeting in Sarajevo on **30 July 1999**, the Pact was reaffirmed.

# 2001 Conflict in Macedonia

Since the Spring of 2001 pre-conflict and early conflict conditions have emerged in Macedonia. They include elements of ethnic cleansing, especially between Macedonians and Albanians, as well as other ethnic groups.

# **ZAGREB INITIATIVE FOR THE CONFERENCE ON PH&PEACE IN MACEDONIA**

- **2001, July 22-27, Zagreb, Croatia: 1st PH-SEE Summer School for Public Health Professionals on the Internet in Health Sciences**
- **Slobodan Lang & Doncho Donev Initiative**
- **Paper on HEALTH & HUMANITARIAN RESPONSIBILITIES IN PRECONFLICT AND EARLY CONFLICT CONDITIONS IN MACEDONIA (Lang S, Donev D, Levett J), presented by Doncho Donev on 27.07.2001**

# OHRID DEVELOPMENT OF THE INITIATIVE AND CONCEPT FOR PH-PEACE CONFERENCE

**2001, Sept 14-16, Ohrid, Macedonia: 2. Coordinative PH-SEE Conference "PUBLIC HEALTH TRAINING AND RESEARCH COLLABORATION IN SEE" objectives:**

- To broaden & strengthen PH professionals **network** among SEE countries
- To review the state of **PH-SEE program development** especially the review process
- To recommend and initiate further development of mutual public health **curriculum and training modules** based on regional specificities in the European context
- To discuss feasibility in development of a **common Internet-Platform**
- To identify priorities of national public health research projects and stimulate further collaboration and **joint research** within SEE network

# OHRID STATEMENT

**Tolerance in Macedonia** has been severely reduced in the previous five months causing ethnic splitting, polarization and inducement of hatred. **Tolerance responsibility** should be undertaken by *all religions* in support of the growth of mutual respect, by *political parties* in support of the principles of democracy, by *academic and civil organizations* in support of human rights. Tolerance is a basic need of the people of Macedonia to prevent further deterioration in the area and to foster a culture of peace. It is a prerequisite for health and growth of social well being. **Consequently, the conditions in Macedonia demanded urgent support by the International Public Health Community.**

- Engagement had to ensure:
- **Its continuing presence and visibility**
- **Promotion of tolerance by all actors**
- **Health and humanitarian preparedness by society**
- **Vulnerability reduction for the population as a policy commitment**

# OHRID RECCOMENDATIONS

Participants at the Ohrid Meeting, on behalf of the PH SEE Network:

- **Suggested** that the Ministry of Health of Macedonia should form a Coordinating Group of leading health and humanitarian experts to manage necessary activities and prevent further deterioration of the situation in RM.
- **Advocated** that a Conference on tolerance responsibility and promotion should be immediately held in Macedonia. It should include participation of representatives of all religions, political parties, universities and Macedonian Academy for Sciences and Arts, Economic Chamber, human rights organizations and associations, Red Cross, Mass Media, Medical Chamber and Macedonian Medical Association, as well as representatives from the International Community.

# **SOUTH EASTERN EUROPEAN CONFERENCE PUBLIC HEALTH AND PEACE Skopje, December 6-8, 2001**



FOUNDATION ФОНДАЦИЈА  
OPEN ИНОСТИТУТ  
SOCIETY ОТВОРЕНО  
INSTITUTE ОПОШЕСТВО  
MACEDONIA МАКЕДОНИЈА

**Organized by:**

**The Stability Pact: Training & Research in Public Health  
South Eastern Europe (PH-SEE)**

**Faculty of Medicine, University "Ss. Cyril and Methodius"-Skopje  
Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts (MASA)**

**Funded by:**

**Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), Germany  
German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)**

**And**

**Foundation Open Society Institute-Macedonia**

# The Conference aims and objectives

- To identify **vulnerable populations** in SEE and develop models for support and health intervention;
- To initiate development and exchange of **public health curricula and training modules** based on regional specificity, however, relating to the European perspective;
- To identify priorities of public health research and stimulate collaboration and **joint research** within the SEE network;
- To broaden and strengthen public health professionals **network** among SEE countries;
- To support the process of establishing **new schools of public health** in SEE countries.

# **Patrons of the Conference:**

- 1. H/E Mr. Stojan Andov, President of the Parliament of Macedonia**
- 2. H/E Mr. Werner Burkart, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Macedonia**

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- Mr. Azis Polozani, Struga, member of the Parliament of Macedonia

# Honorable Board:

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- Prof. Dr. Vladimir Milchin, Director, Open Society Institute, Skopje

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## **Invited Scientific Media**

- 1. Matko Marusic (Editor-in-chief, Croatian Medical Journal)**
- 2. Oliver Mohr (Medical Journalist, German media)**
- 3. Detlef Kleinert, ARD South Eastern Europe**

## **Invited Media**

**TV Media:** Maced TV, A1, Sitel, Telma TV, C 5

**Journals:** Dnevnik, Utrinski V, Vest, Vecer, Nova Mak.

**Regional Journals:** Politika

# **PROGRAMME – Working Sessions**

- **Opening Plenary Session: SCHOOLS OF PUBLIC HEALTH: A CATALYST FOR PEACE**
- **Working Session I: Migration in South Eastern Europe**
- **Working Session II: Reflections on Public Health Training**
- **Work. Session III: Reflections on Public Health Research**
- **Working Session IV: Population Vulnerability Reduction as a Policy Commitment: Conclusions for Prevention and Intervention**
- **DECLARATION OF SKOPJE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND PEACE**  
(Based on the Dubrovnik Pledge and Ohrid Conference Statement)



PUBLIC PEACE AND PEACE  
ЈАВНО СПАЧНО И МИР

With the support of the  
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STABILITY PACT  
FOR SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE



Hochschul  
Rektoren  
Konferenz





# THE DECLARATION OF SKOPJE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, PEACE & HUMAN RIGHTS DECEMBER 2001

- **We the representatives of public health of South Eastern Europe (SEE) have gathered in the historical city of Skopje, to engage the good offices of public health in promoting peace, preventing violence and to make our own unique contribution to the building of a more equal, stable and democratic world. We do so in significant and congenial consort and in unimpeachable union with the international community.**
- **We believe that the future well-being of our one and only world, Mother Earth resides in the prevention of violence; the eradication of poverty and the promotion of democratic principles. Furthermore, we believe that public health constitutes one basic element and practical ingredient, for mankind's hope for the future.**
- ....
- **Together, we can build a better world, closer to the human heart's desire.**

**For the participants of the South Eastern European Conference on Public Health and Peace, Skopje, December 6-8, 2001**

Prof. Doncho Donev, Skopje Prof. Ulrich Laaser, Bielefeld Prof. Jeffrey Levett, Athens

<http://www.cmj.hr/2002/43/2/02.htm>

# **WFPHA Declaration on Public Health, Peace & Human Rights**

## **May 2003**

- **The World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) at its Annual Meeting of 19 May, 2003, in Geneva has taken notice of the Declaration of Skopje on Public Health, Peace & Human Rights of the Public Health Collaboration Network in South Eastern Europe, of December, 2001 (1). It highly values the constructive spirit of collaboration and peace building reflected in this declaration, issued in one of the most conflict-ridden regions of the world, and strongly supports its conclusions. Based on the Declaration of Skopje, the WFPHA issues the same declaration, but modifies it so as to extend its application to all regions and populations in conflict worldwide.**
- **The World Federation of Public Health Associations engages the good offices of public health in promoting peace, preventing violence and to make our own unique contribution to the building of a more equal, stable and democratic world.**
- **We believe that ...**  
[www.apha.org/wfrha/skopje.htm](http://www.apha.org/wfrha/skopje.htm)

# CROATIAN MEDICAL JOURNAL



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## THEMATIC ISSUE OF CMJ ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND PEACE

500 copies printed and distributed to:

- all participants to the Conference
- Parliament of R. Macedonia
- Ministry of Health & Gov. Bodies
- Universities in Macedonia
- Faculty of Medicine in Skopje
- MASA
- Macedonian Medical Society
- Doctor's Chamber
- Health care institutions
- Embassy of Germany & other Embassies
- WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, IOM
- EUPHA, ASPHER, APHA, WFPHA
- other relevant institutions and individuals



# THREE KEY SECTORS FOR PH & PEACE

- The Stability Pact is based on experiences and lessons from worldwide international crisis management. Conflict prevention and peace building can be successful only if they start in parallel in three key sectors: the creation of a **secure environment**, the promotion of **sustainable democratic systems**, and the promotion of **economic and social well being**. Progress in all three sectors is necessary for sustainable peace and democracy.

# PH professionals role in achieving health and peace

- To continue to serve effectively in promoting & protecting the health of the public in traditional ways;
- develop & implement pgms & projects to assure conditions in which people can be healthy;
- to assure that human needs are met that health care and PH services are available and that healthy and safe physical environments exist;
- to advocate for human, financial and other resources for implementation of those programs & projects;
- to promote community participation in the decisions that affect their lives,
- to promote non-violent means of resolving conflicts;
- to promote and protect human rights;
- to promote building a capacity for peace;
- to teach the future PH workers how to promote peace.

Health professionals and PH professionals must be peace professionals committed to health and to peace, to be people of values, vision and leadership

Let us go forward with values, vision and leadership, as leaders ready to address the challenges of the 21st century toward **health and peace and peace and health**

# MACEDONIA TODAY

- Within the last five years Macedonia continued successfully to build peace and stable multi-ethnic and democratic community
- In 2003 the Center for Public Health was created within the FM-Skopje and MPH Program started
- In 2006 Macedonia got status of a Candidate country to become a Member of the European Community
- It is expected in 2008 NATO to start the process for broadening it's membership and Macedonia to be one of the new Members