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News-mail 01 September 1, 2006 FORUM FOR PUBLIC HEALTH IN SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

Collegiality, Professionalism, Amity

Editorial

The Forum for Public Health in South Eastern Europe (FPH-SEE) has developed steadily over time since its beginnings in the year 2000. By now it comprises institutions for training, research and practice nota bene the new Schools of Public Health, Public Health Associations and National Institutes of Public Health in the Region.

This multi-laterality is mirrored in the European and global links relating the Forum to the European Public Health Association (EUPHA) and the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER) as well as to the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) and the recently established International Association of National Public Health Institutes.

Cooperation, mutual exchange and regional visiting programmes have built bridges across formerly insurmountable borders. A network of colleagues often connected by enduring personal friendship has been established, based on professional standards and debate. Innumerable meetings have been organized in South Eastern Europe and teaching books been published almost exclusively by authors from institutes in the countries of South Eastern Europe (see www.snz.hr/fph-see).

It is now the right time to broaden the scope of the network by a newsletter which more appropriately may be called a News-mail. This first emission will cover news relevant for public health development in South Eastern Europe and serve as a forum for reports from its public health institutions. It will not only be sent to interested parties and published at the website of the project (www.snz.hr/fph-see) but also in regional journals. A preliminary list of journals which are invited to reprint this News-mail can be found in this issue.

We see this as an important step to strengthen the cooperation in South Eastern Europe and to cope with the inherited and future problems in the field of Public Health in togetherness, following the motto of Collegiality, Professionalism and Amity. Reports on the manifold public health activities in South Eastern Europe are welcome.

Prof. Ulrich Laaser
Faculty of Health Sciences
University of Bielefeld

Prof. Luka Kovacic
Andrija Stampar
School of Public Health
University of Zagreb

News

Workshop: Maastricht September 17, 2006 (afternoon) RESTRUCTURING TRAINING AND PUBLIC HEALTH IN SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE 2000-2006.

Chair: Ulrich Laaser (Bielefeld) and Luka Kovacic (Zagreb)

The transition countries in the region of South Eastern Europe share the historical burden of communism and four centuries of Ottoman dominance. In spite of deep rifts inherited they are going to develop multilateral collaboration as expressed in the Dubrovnik Declaration of 2001. Recently a common public health strategy has been drafted and a regional Forum for Public Health been agreed (www.snz.hr/fph-see). This workshop is meant to provide an overview of relevant developments in South Eastern Europe with reference to new Schools of Public Health and National Public Health Associations.

Ulrich Laaser (Bielefeld), Luka Kovacic (Zagreb) and Tamara Bajic (Podgorica)
The Development of the Public Health Collaboration in South Eastern Europe
2000-2006

Jovanka Karadzinska-Bislimovska (Skopje)
Training for Public Health in South Eastern Europe: Achievements and the Next
Steps.

Genc Burazeri and Enver Roshi (Tirana)
Research on Spousal Physical Violence in Albania and South Eastern Europe.

Vesna Bjegovic (Belgrade)
Assessment of the Institutes of Public Health in Serbia and Implications for South
Eastern European Countries.

Lidia Georgieva and Mariana Dyakova (Sofia) (unconfirmed)
The Transition of the Systems of Health Care and Public Health in Bulgaria: A
Case Study in South Eastern Europe.

Adriana Galan and Gabriela Scintee (Bucharest) (unconfirmed)
Framework for a Common Regional Public Health Strategy of South Eastern Europe and the Role of National Associations of Public Health.

Draft as of August 29, 2006

**1st Conference of the Deans and 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
Deutsches Hygiene-Museum**

**Organized by the
German Society of Health Sciences and Public Health (DVGPH)
in cooperation with
Forum for Public Health in South Eastern Europe (FPH-SEE)**

Mission:

The 1st. Conference of the new South Eastern European leadership in Public Health provides a forum for the analysis of the expectations and needs of the societies in transition, the exchange of first experiences with the new postgraduate study programmes, and the career development of health professionals.

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Thursday, November 30

Workshops zu Demografiefolgen und zur Ernährungserziehung

20.00 Get-together

Friday, December 1

Opening Session (Wilhelm Kirch, Dresden and Ulrich Laaser, Bielefeld)

- 09.15 Welcome
- 09.30 Addresses of the World Health Organization (HQ), the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region and the European Public Health Association
- 10.00 Societies in Transition and the Role of the Public Health (*Gabriela Scintee, Bucharest*)
- 11.30 The Forum for Public Health in South Eastern Europe (*Ulrich Laaser, Bielefeld*)
- 11.00 Coffee break

II. Session (Enver Roshi, Tirana and Vesna Bjegovic, Belgrade)

- 11.30 New Training Schemes for Public Health in South Eastern Europe (*Vesna Bjegovic, Belgrade*)
- 12.00 Postgraduate Public Health Education, the Medical Curriculum and the Bologna Declaration (*Jadranka Bozikov, Zagreb*)
- 12.30 Developing Criteria for Accreditation of Programmes and Schools of Public Health in South Eastern Europe (*Kasia Czabanowska, ASPHER*)
- 13.00 The Evaluation of the Essential Public Health Functions (*Dennis Lenaway, Atlanta, USA*)
- Lunch break

III. Session (Luka Kovacic, Zagreb and Mariana Dyakova, Sofia)

- 14.30 New Public Health Associations in South Eastern Europe and Their Mission (*Jovanka Bislimovska-Karadzinska, Skopje*)
- 14.45 The Institutes of Public Health and Their New Priorities (*Alban Ylli, Tirana*)
- 15.00 The Perspectives for Public Health Training and Practice in Bosnia & Herzegovina (*Enida Imamovic, Sarajevo and Jasminka Vuckovic, Banja Luka*)
- 15.15 The Role of Health Management in the New Public Health (*Stefan Gladilov, Sofia*)
- 15.30 The Role of Health Promotion in the New Public Health (*Zorica Dimitrijevic, Belgrade*)
- 15.45 The Regional Public Health Strategy for South Eastern Europe (*Adriana Galan, Bucharest*)

- 16.00 Coffee break
- 16.30 **Round Table: Creating a Workforce for the New Public Health under the Conditions of Transition and Accession to the European Union**
Chair: Jovanka Bislimovska-Karadzinska, Skopje
Tit Albreht, Ljubljana
Vesna Bjegovic, Belgrade
Stephanie Bailey, Atlanta
Slobodanka Krivokapic, Podgorica
Horst Noack, EUPHA
Zvonko Susic, Zagreb
- 18.30 Dinner
- 20.00 Frauenkirche

Saturday, December 2

Public Health, Peace and Human Rights

A follow-up of the Skopje-Declaration, December 2001

- 09.00 Opening (Genc Burazeri, Tirana and Ulrich Laaser, Bielefeld)
- 09.30 The Impact of the Skopje Conference on Peace and Public Health, December 2001 (Doncho Donev, Skopje)
- 10.00 Chair: Valeriu Sava, Chisinau
Exchange of opinion: What do we do? What should we do?
- 11.00 Coffee break
- 11.30 Chair: Lijana Zaletl-Kragelj, Ljubljana and Ehud Miron, Haifa
Final Discussion and Conclusions
- 13.00 Lunch

Book Review

Financing Health Care: A Dialogue between South Eastern Europe and Germany

**Prof. Dr. Luka Kovacic
Andrija Stampar School of Public Health
Zagreb, Croatia**

The 18th volume of the International Public Health Series published by Jacobs editing company in Germany covers a very timely topic, namely how to organize health insurance in the transition economies of the former communist sphere. South Eastern Europe (SEE) is of special interest as this region – sooner or later – also will receive full membership in the European Union. The two editors have a long experience in the field, Prof. Ulrich Laaser as the coordinator of the Programmes for Training and Research in South Eastern Europe, financed on behalf of the Stability Pact for SEE by the German Academic Exchange Service, and Ralf Radermacher, working at low cost health insurance at Cologne University.

In the preface by Dr. Ruediger Krech, head of the Section of Sustainable Social Protection of GTZ, the German governmental agency for international cooperation, it reads: A question with huge public health implications is therefore, how national health systems can ensure universal coverage. Universal coverage is defined as access to key promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative health interventions for all at an affordable cost. One of the crucial factors for achieving effective universal coverage is to improve the quality of provided health services and interventions. In a similar way, the extension of social protection in health is a key strategy to remove financial barriers to access health services and preventing people from the impoverishing effects of catastrophic health expenditures thereby reducing poverty. This strategy involves a move towards enhanced risk-sharing and risk-pooling, thereby increasing the amount of pre-payment and reducing the reliance on out-of-pocket payments. Besides protecting people from the direct costs of illness, health financing through collective arrangements provides financial resources to diagnose, prevent and treat illness and promote better health.

The book contains 16 contributions, 8 of them by German authors, the other half by authors from Albania, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine. Although the last is not precisely in South Eastern Europe (SEE) there are many similarities and connections mainly through Moldova, which became recently as the first country of the former Soviet Union a member of the Stability Pact for SEE. The topics covered range from the systematic evaluation of health

insurance schemes to health regimes for the elderly in SEE, the quality management in the German health system and supplementary payments in dental care. The most interesting information, however, can be extracted from the case studies of countries in the region. There is very little elsewhere for example on health insurance in Albania or say Moldova. Of course a more general discussion is also provided in the two introductory chapters on the health care financing process and on the benefits and challenges of social health insurance models.

The health care financing system has direct impact on the accessibility of care for people in need. Poor access to health services rapidly leads to poverty and smaller future chances for a decent standard of living. In short, the way health care is financed has a strong influence where in society the cut-off point is that divides the winners and losers. These implications of health care financing system had to be born in mind by eastern European transition economies facing the extraordinary challenges of redesigning a health care system in a short time frame since the 1990s. More than a decade later, experiences of south-eastern European countries in financing the health system are available for research, but remained in many cases not well analyzed. This book intends to close this gap by taking a deeper look into these systems showing how different the approaches were that these countries have taken. It will become a valuable platform for dialogue between South Eastern European countries, Germany and beyond. In any case it is the first book publication on this highly relevant and nevertheless extremely complex issue. It is recommended to all who work in this field.

Ulrich Laaser, Ralf Radermacher (Eds.). Financing Health Care. A Dialogue between South Eastern Europe and Germany. Band 18. Lage 2006, 323 S., ISBN 3-89918-154-9, 29,90 Euro

JOURNAL OVERVIEW

Preliminary list as of August 31, 2006

Health Journals in South Eastern Europe

(FPH-SEE Task Force: Tit Albreht (chair), Tatjana Bajic, Maryana Dyakova,
Izet Masic, Ulrich Laaser)

Name	Language Issues/yr	Place URL	Editing Company	Editor in Chief	Remarks
Croatian Medical Journal	English Bi-monthly	Zagreb www.cmj.hr	Naklada? 230 paid subscr.	Matko Marusic	Current Contents
Health Care	Serbian	Belgrade		Predrag Dovijanic	Zorica Dimitrijevic
Healthcare Management	Bulgarian Bi-monthly	Sofia http://www.bg-jhm.net healthcare_management @mail.bg	SIMEL PRINT	Veselin Borisov	Mariana Dyakova
Journal of Preventive Medicine	English Quarterly	Bucharest www.pub-health-iasi.ro	CERMI IASI	Elena Lungu	
Journal of Public Health Policy	English Quarterly	London www.palgrave- journals.com/jphp	Palgrave Macmillan	Anthony Robbins	For the Federation's Pages: Ulrich Laaser
Materia Socio Medica	English Quarterly	Sarajevo imasic@lol.ba	Soc. Soc. Med. & PH of BiH	Izet Masic	
Medical Investigations	Serbian/ English	Belgrade	Faculty of Medicine		Bogdan Djuricic
medici.com	Serbian Full English translation?	Banja Luka www.medicicom.com	UNAPRESS 5000 distributed	Momir Pusac	Jasminka Vuckovic
Medicinskih Komunikacija		Banja Luka			Jasminka Vuckovic
Public Health Reviews	English	Jerusalem		Sigmund Geller	Ted Tulchinsky
SEJournal of PH & Healthcare Management	English	Sofia PROPOSAL			Mariana Dyakova
Srpski Archiv	Serbian	Belgrade		Zorica Lapcevic	Zorica Dimitrijevic

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