

**Book Review**

**PUBLIC HEALTH STRATEGIES: A TOOL FOR REGIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT, ISBN 3-89918-145-X, 2005**

This book was published within Public Health Collaboration in South Eastern Europe (PH-SEE), under the coordination of Ulrich Laaser (Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Bielefeld, Germany) and Luka Kovacic (School of Public Health, Medical Faculty of Public Health, Croatia) and edited by Silvia Gabriela Scintee and Adriana Galan (Institute of Public health Bucharest, România). It is a handbook for teachers, researchers, health professionals and decision makers.

It is structured in four chapters ending with a draft framework for common regional Public health strategy of south Eastern Europe.

After a comprehensive introduction, with refer to the framework of public health, the economics of evidence in public health and providing evidence for high level decision-making, the flour is given to the broad issue of strategy development: best practices of public health strategies, the public health strategy of Europe, components of a public health strategy, setting community health priorities, are only some of the articles written by the authors participated into the project. Within the framework of strategy implementation, planning in public health is discussed from recommendation to implementation, there are defined partnerships in health and there are

provided different approaches as system analysis and Computer-Assisted Political Analysis (CAPA) that could be applied within implementation in public health.

A broader chapter is dedicated to Case studies in Albania, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Croatia and Republic of Moldova.

Specific arguments for the development of a public health strategy in the SEE region are considered to be the benefits of harmonization of the various health approaches and the orientation of these countries towards the European Union. The final chapter refers to the SWOT Analysis, a tool very usefully within planning process, originally developed for strategic planning in business and marketing.

Dissemination of the strategy content and framework, discussion, including relevant key stakeholders within countries are the next steps that participants -41- propose to forward.

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