

News

**THIRD MEETING OF THE NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS OF THE SEE
HEALTH NETWORK PROJECT FOR
“STRENGTHENING PUBLIC HEALTH CAPACITY AND SERVICES”**

Iași, Romania, 27 to 30 November 2007

The South Eastern Europe (SEE) Health Network and WHO Regional Office for Europe organized the third meeting of the national focal points of the south-eastern Europe project for “Strengthening public health capacity and services”. This meeting was a follow-up to the evaluations of public health services (PHS) of the member countries of the (SEE) Health Network and our discussions at the 16th Meeting of the SEE Health Network in Sofia in June 2007.

The meeting took place in Iași, Romania, 27 to 30 November 2007.

The meeting was attended by the national focal points for the SEE PHS project, the Regional Project Manager, representative of the Executive Committee of the SEE Health Network, Council of Europe Development Bank, members of the WHO Regional Office for Europe Expert Advisory Group on PHS and WHO Regional Office for Europe, as well as by other partners and observers.

The purpose of this meeting was to agree final conclusions and recommendations following the evaluations of PHS in the countries. This will then form the conclusions and recommendations of the regional

report into PHS and provide a basis for future actions. In addition, during the meeting there have been also discussed:

- Demonstration and training of the revised tool for evaluation of PHS and feedback;
- Discussion and final agreement on the implementation of the revised tool;
- Discussion and final agreement on the production of national reports;
- Scoping of a Framework Public Health Law applicable to European countries;
- Discussion on an Opinion of the PHS Country Focal Points on the WHO Health Systems Charter, for discussion by the SEEHN.
- Drafting of a Declaration on PHS for adoption at the SEE Health Network meeting in 2008.

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DETERMINE - An EU Consortium for Action on Socio-economic Determinants of Health

Lisbon, Portugal, 30 to 31 Oktober 2007

DETERMINE proposes to bring together a high level Consortium to apply evidence based approaches across policy sectors in the EU and its member states. The Consortium is comprised of approximately 50 governments, health bodies, organizations and institutions from 26 countries. These bodies will analyze and apply the most relevant and important knowledge on socio-economic determinants of health (SEDs), introduces innovative pilot projects and develop and implement awareness and capacity building programs.

Building on the work of the WHO Commission on Social Determinants the objective is to generate greater understanding and to change conceptions and approaches amongst policy makers and practitioners, so that improving health and health equity is considered in all policy sectors.

The first DETERMINE Consortium Meeting took place on 30-31 October, 2007 in Lisbon, Portugal.

There were discussed issues related to how to identify comprehensive approaches that can be used to influence policy by:

- Analyzing the evidence in the EU on socio-economic determinants. This will involve establishing the evidence of how other policy areas can contribute to health

- Using this information to identify gaps, possible synergies and new opportunities, to promote ‘whole government’ and ‘healthy governance’ approaches.

- Awareness raising on the socio-economic determinants in public health and relevant sectors at the national, EU and global level in order to influence change in public health actions

- Development of supporting materials to train and build capacity at the European, national and sub-national levels.

- Informed and better quality inputs into EC and national multi sectoral policy processes.

- Partnerships and collaboration.

- Translating relevant global work on social determinants to the EU policy context, and vice versa, via shared learning with global bodies (WHO, OECD etc) on good approaches to develop Health in All Policies (HIAP) - from the EU and Member States

Disseminating the Consortium’s work through development of a web-based resource of knowledge and tools in the EU context on socio-economic determinants that will support policy making in public health and other policy sectors

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