



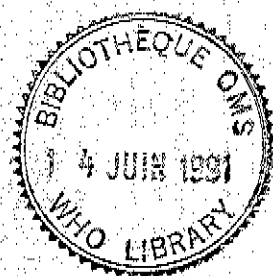
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SUMMARY REPORT

Workshop on Mortality Trends in Central and Eastern European Countries

Budapest
21-22 March 1991



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ABSTRACT

Mortality rates are high in the countries of central and eastern Europe. A WHO workshop met to review the analysis and use of mortality data in these countries. If possible, such data are best displayed in the form of maps. The participants decided that adequate data exist to do this and made plans to begin the production of an atlas of avoidable mortality.

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The Workshop was organized jointly by the WHO Regional Office for Europe and the Hungarian Central Statistical Office, within the framework of a UNFPA-funded project on mortality differentials in Hungary. The meeting was attended by 12 experts from Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, the USSR, the United Kingdom and Yugoslavia.

The meeting had two main purposes. Taking into account the high mortality levels in the countries of central and eastern Europe, the first task was to review the most recent achievements and experiences in analysing and using mortality data in these countries. The second aim was to discuss and assess the feasibility of producing an atlas on avoidable mortality for the countries of central and eastern Europe, similar to one prepared for the European Community countries.^a The production of this atlas is considered to be the way to convert a large amount of practically unusable tabulated mortality data into a form that is easy to understand, i.e. maps.

Data and overviews from seven countries of central and eastern Europe were presented and discussed. Because of the potential value of the data presented for different users, the Hungarian Central Statistical Office will try to publish the presented papers in a collected volume. The revised papers should reach the Hungarian Central Statistical Office not later than mid-May 1991.

The issue of the minimum data required to produce an atlas on avoidable mortality was also discussed. The preliminary assessment indicated that total and cause-specific mortality data as well as corresponding population figures are available at the appropriate administrative levels in each country. A detailed proposal including the requirements for the atlas will be sent as soon as possible to all the participants for their comments and final assessment. They will receive information on the technical options for submitting the data, and be asked for their agreement to participate in the preparation of the atlas on avoidable mortality for the central and eastern part of Europe.

^a Holland, W.W., ed. European Community atlas of avoidable death. Oxford, Oxford Medical Publications, 1988 (Commission of the European Communities Health Services Research Series, No. 3).