



# WHO

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE

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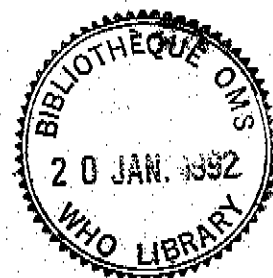
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**CONSULTATION ON WHO  
NURSING ACTIVITIES FOR  
HIV/AIDS PREVENTION AND CONTROL  
FOR SOUTHERN AND  
CENTRAL EUROPEAN  
NURSE EDUCATORS AND MANAGERS**

**Phase I: Preparation of Educational Material**

Turin  
10 – 14 December 1990



SCHERFIGSVEJ 8  
DK-2100 COPENHAGEN Ø  
DENMARK

TEL: (45) 39 17 17 17  
TELEFAX: (45) 31 18 11 20  
TELEX: 15348

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EUR/HFA TARGET 4

This activity was organized by the WHO Regional Office for Europe to promote work aimed at achieving the following target in the health for all strategy.<sup>a</sup>

## TARGET 4

### REDUCING CHRONIC DISEASE

*By the year 2000 there should be a sustained and continuing reduction in morbidity and disability due to chronic disease in the Region.*

### Index terms

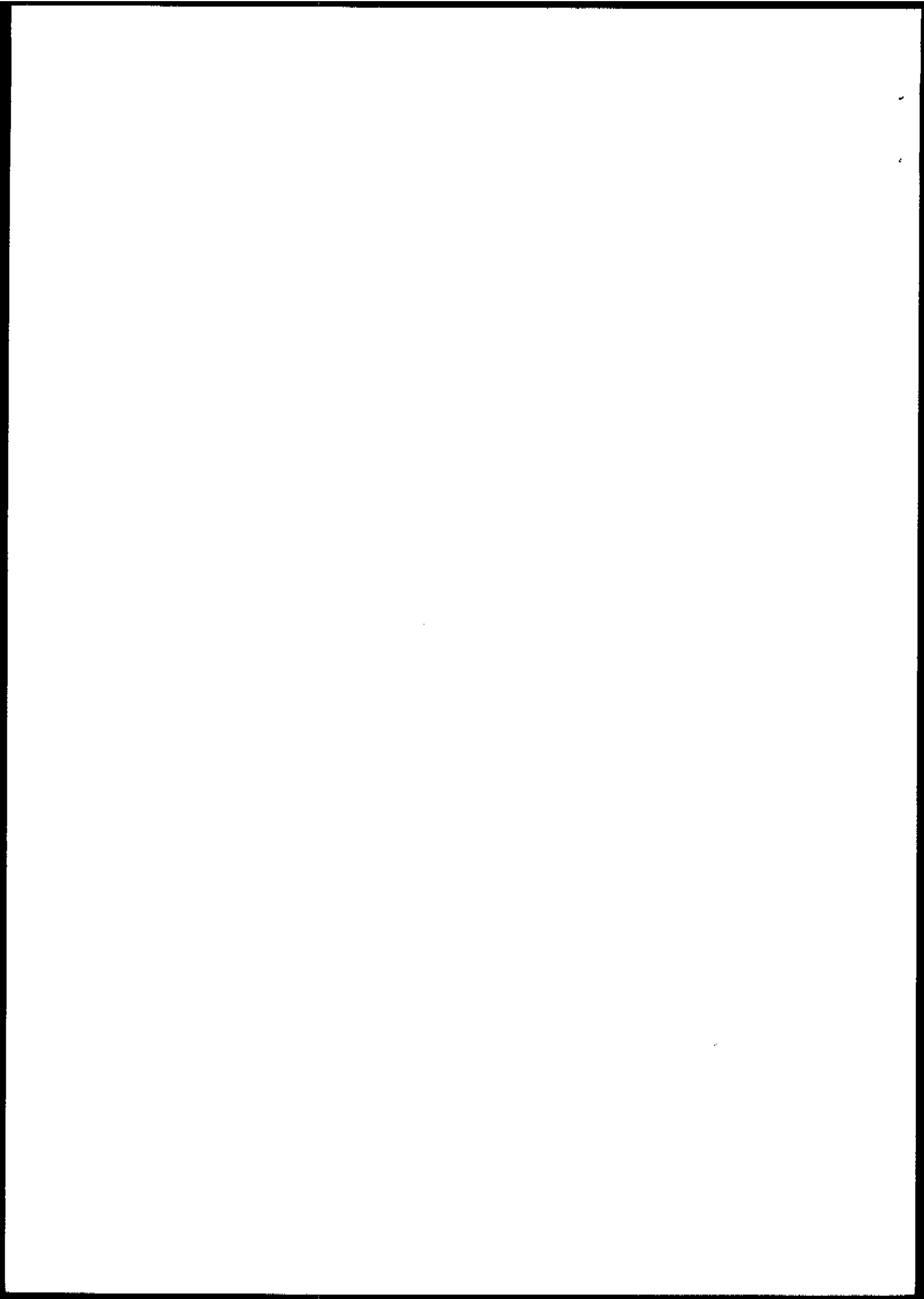
ACQUIRED IMMUNODEFICIENCY SYNDROME - prevent/control  
HIV INFECTIONS - prevent/control  
NURSING SERVICES  
NURSING CARE  
EDUCATION, NURSING  
TEACHER TRAINING  
EUR  
CCEE

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<sup>a</sup> *Targets for health for all*. Copenhagen, WHO Regional Office Europe, 1985 (European Health for All Series, No. 1).

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## Introduction

There is a crucial need for nursing services to respond to the health care needs presented by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) pandemic. A comprehensive plan requires interventions in three distinct areas: management of human resources, community development and provision of health and social services. Commitment to a caring philosophy and a humanistic approach is the baseline. As key members of the health care team, nurses at all levels need to work with individuals, families, communities and other health professionals to prevent the spread of HIV infection.

The World Health Organization (WHO) and its Member States recognize that the current challenge of the HIV pandemic demands the energy and commitment of all health personnel, including nurses who, as professionals, have traditionally provided skilful and empathetic health services to individuals, families and communities. This commitment is needed not only for today but for the decades to come. Implementation of a primary health care strategy in this joint endeavour will bring us closer to our goal of health for all.

## Scope and purpose

On 7 April 1987, the International Council of Nurses (ICN) and WHO issued a Joint Declaration on AIDS, which set out the rights and responsibilities of nurses throughout the world in caring for people infected with HIV. Nurses were called on to safeguard confidentiality in relation to patients and to assist their families and friends in coping with the complex problems associated with HIV infection.

Guidelines containing basic information on the nursing management of people with HIV infection, including the prevention of transmission and the care of people with the infection, were developed jointly by WHO and ICN with the understanding that these guidelines would need to be adapted in the light of local circumstances, culture, belief and values. Furthermore, draft "care modules for basic nursing and midwifery education in the prevention and control of HIV infection" were prepared by the WHO Global Programme on AIDS (GPA), and sent to regions for adaptation.

As the HIV/AIDS pandemic spreads in the southern and central European countries, it has become imperative that nurses and midwives working in those countries be adequately prepared to face this universal health problem.

Therefore, the Nursing unit of the WHO Regional Office for Europe, in collaboration with the WHO Global Programme on AIDS, (GPA/HQ) and the European Programme on AIDS (GPA/EURO), decided to convene a consultation for selected nurse leaders with the aim of adapting the above-mentioned guidelines and care modules to the southern and central European context. It was planned that this material would then - after translation and national adaptation - be used in national training of trainers (ToT) workshops for nurse educators and managers, to enable them to develop basic and continuing education as appropriate in their respective countries. The participants are listed in Annex 1.

## Objectives

1. To review selected existing documents on the prevention of the spread of HIV, on the care of people with HIV/AIDS and on infection control.
2. To identify priority material to be included in nursing guidelines and teaching modules for southern and central European countries.

3. To plan for the translation and production of the educational material.
4. To plan for the organization of national training of trainers workshops on HIV/AIDS prevention and control, for nurse educators and managers.

#### Outcomes

1. Nursing guidelines and teaching modules on HIV/AIDS have been adapted and are in draft form for translation into the languages of southern and central European countries.
2. Discussions on the principles and models for the organization of national ToT workshops on HIV/AIDS prevention and control.

Following review and adaptation of the selected training material, revised drafts were forwarded to the Collegia Provinciale Infermieri Professionale di Torino, Italy for printing.

During plenary discussions, it became clear that there is an urgent need to introduce a systematic approach in teaching about HIV/AIDS in nurse education programmes. To date very little basic and continuing education has taken place in the majority of countries represented and appropriate training material is almost non-existent.

Most participants had limited knowledge and understanding of the role and functions of their respective national AIDS programmes, and of the availability of relevant WHO publications and documents.

Basic and continuing training material, competent teachers and adequate funding are essential to meet these needs.

Issues raised during the Consultation included:

- planning an educational strategy for teaching about HIV infection/AIDS;
- nurses' duty to provide care;
- counselling;
- confidentiality;
- human sexuality, including illegal or socially unacceptable behaviour;
- testing or screening and individuals' consent; and
- the prevention of nosocomial and occupational HIV transmission in various health care settings.

#### Recommendations

The participants made the following recommendations for future mobilization of the European nursing workforce:

##### Countries/ministries of health (national AIDS committees)

1. Inclusion and active involvement of government chief nursing officers (or their equivalent) and other key nurse educators and managers as members of national AIDS committees and relevant subcommittees.

2. Development of nursing activities, including appropriate human resource development and budget allocation, as part of national AIDS programmes.
3. National revision and approval to translate into national languages the three booklets prepared by the Consultation on:
  - guidelines for nursing care of people with HIV infection and AIDS;
  - prevention of HIV transmission in health care settings; and
  - teaching modules for basic nursing education in the prevention of HIV infection.
4. National ToT workshops for nurse educators and managers on HIV/AIDS.
5. Review of policies that govern decision-making processes to ensure standards of nursing practice and principles of cost-effectiveness. This includes the provision of essential equipment, supplies and appropriate technology to prevent nosocomial infection and minimize occupational risk in all health care settings.
6. Provision of care equally to all people, including those with suspected or confirmed HIV infection, and respect for human rights without discrimination or prejudice.

GPA/EURO

7. Technical assistance to national AIDS programmes as requested by countries, to develop and implement country health care activities on HIV/AIDS and to assist with national ToT workshops for health providers working in central and eastern European countries.
8. Encouragement of national AIDS programmes to include a health care and support component in their HIV/AIDS nursing activities by translating, producing and disseminating essential training material, such as:
  - guidelines for nursing care of people with HIV infection and AIDS;
  - prevention of HIV transmission in health care settings; and
  - teaching modules for basic nursing education in the prevention of HIV infection.
9. Proper clearance of copyright and appropriate recognition given to authors and organizations responsible for all published materials used in production of the booklets.

Acknowledgments

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The WHO Regional Office for Europe, Global Programme on AIDS, acknowledges the contribution of the following consultants: Elisabeth Pettersson, Infection Control Nurse, Aarhus, Denmark; Donatella Barberis, Infection Control Nurse, Turin, Italy; Andrée Juvet, Consultant Nurse, Lausanne, Switzerland.

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Annex 1

PARTICIPANTS

TEMPORARY ADVISERS

- Ms Donatella Barberis  
Centro Studi delle Professioni Infermieristiche (CESPI), Turin, Italy
- Ms Paolo Berto  
Centro Studi delle Professioni Infermieristiche (CESPI), Turin, Italy
- Ms Venera Botescu  
c/o WHO Liaison Office, Bucarest, Romania
- Dr Manuele Doroano  
Medica Especialista, Servço de Doenças Infecciosas, Hospital de Santa  
Maria, Lisbon, Portugal
- Ms Andrée Juvet  
Infirmière de santé publique, Centre Info. SIDA, Lausanne, Switzerland
- Ms Elisabeth Pettersson  
Infection Control Nurse, Aarhus Amtskommune, Sygehusforvaltningen,  
Amtshygiejnesygeplejersken, Aarhus, Denmark
- Ms Carmen Sanchis Pinol  
Nursing Programmes Unit, Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo, Instituto de  
Salud Carlos III, Subdireccion General de Investigacion, Madrid, Spain
- Dr Chrysanthi Plati  
Nursing Department, University of Athens, Athens, Greece
- Ms Malca Shacham  
Head Nurse, Internal Medicine "d", Tel Aviv Elias Sourasky Medical  
Center, Tel Aviv, Israel
- Ms Fatma Yigital  
Chief, Programme and Development, Department of Nursing Service,  
Directorate-General of Curative Service, Ministry of Health, Ankara,  
Turkey

OBSERVERS

- Ms Silvia Maltauro, R.N.  
Sacco Hospital, Milan, c/o Centro Studi delle Professioni  
Infermieristiche (CESPI), Turin, Italy

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WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Headquarters

Dr B.S. Sylvest Hansen

Global Programme on AIDS, ICS/HSC