



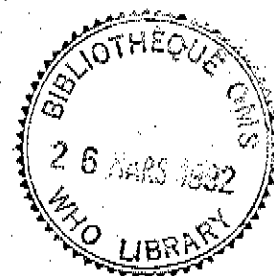
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SUMMARY REPORT

First Operational Meeting of the Multi-City Action Plan on Environment and Health regarding Baltic Cities

Helsinki
9-11 December 1991



1992

EUR/HFA target 24

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ABSTRACT

Representatives of ten cities in countries bordering the Baltic Sea convened to draw up a plan of work. The main objectives agreed on were the strengthening of the Healthy Cities project at city level and implementation of activities through partnership among cities. The draft plan of work would be put before decision-making bodies in the various cities, and an attempt would be made to begin activities within three months so that concrete results could be discussed later in 1992. The plan of work was considered a first step, leading ultimately to a master plan at regional level.

TARGET 24

HUMAN ECOLOGY AND SETTLEMENTS

By the year 2000, cities, towns and rural communities throughout the Region should offer physical and social environments supportive to the health of their inhabitants.

Keywords:

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
URBAN HEALTH
HOUSING
HEALTH PROMOTION
CONSUMER PARTICIPATION
CCEE
REPUBLIC OF LATVIA
REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

This second meeting on the Baltic Multi-City Action Plan (MCAP) was jointly organized by the WHO Regional Office for Europe and the City of Turku in Finland, and was supported financially by the Finnish National Board of Health and Welfare. The cities of Stockholm, Copenhagen, Tallinn, Kaunas, St Petersburg, Greifswald, Rostock, Riga, Turku and Helsinki were represented at the meeting.

The first working session was devoted to a presentation of the environmental aspects of the Healthy Cities project, with emphasis on the concept of environmental surveillance and multidisciplinary work. The Regional Office presented proposals for a detailed plan of work, a healthy lifestyle policy and a sound physical environment at city level to reach a supportive environment for health.

The participants presented short status reports on the environmental situation within their individual cities, and related progress made in the Healthy Cities project. Coordinating cities such as Turku, Copenhagen and Stockholm shared information and opportunities for collaboration.

Two workshops on physical environment and healthy lifestyles were held, concluding with a plenary during which the need to strengthen Healthy Cities structures and commitments at all levels was expressed. Emphasis was placed on community participation, political commitment and the need to give visibility to health in municipal life and policy.

Conclusions and recommendations

1. The participants agreed on two main objectives: (a) strengthening the Healthy Cities project at city level; and (b) implementing activities through partnership among cities.
2. Each participant would present to its decision-making body this report or a short summary of the major decisions, in order to obtain its full commitment to the proposed plan of work.
3. Where it did not exist, each city would create an intersectoral committee where the concepts of the Healthy Cities project and proposals for action would be presented.
4. Most of the activities in the plan of work should begin within three months, so that concrete results could be presented at the next meeting in 1992.
5. When bilateral activities not explained in the plan of work were undertaken, the participants agreed that a summary report of these activities should be sent to a Healthy Cities coordinator in Turku in order that a detailed record of results of the MCAP could be kept.
6. All activities undertaken according to the plan of work, i.e. consultantships, fellowships, study tours, and exchange or lease of equipment, should be accompanied or followed by a short activity report to a Healthy Cities coordinator in Turku, who would send a copy to all interested parties.
7. The support of the Regional Office's European Centre for Environment and Health in Rome and Bilthoven was requested by the participants.

8. WHO support was requested for help in drafting project proposals for funding or donor agencies.

9. The participants agreed to consider the plan of work as a first step in collaboration. The work to be implemented should lead to a master plan at regional level. However, it was felt it was too early and too ambitious at this stage to consider the possibility of drafting such a plan. Healthy Cities project offices should be further developed before major planning activities were undertaken.

10. The participants agreed to propose to their respective decision-making bodies that when working within the framework of the MCAP, travel expenses be charged to the city to which the traveller belonged and board and lodging be charged to the host city.

11. The necessity was stressed of coordinating workshops, exhibitions, meetings, symposia and conferences, in order to prevent excessive expenses in travelling and overloading the already heavy agendas of all participants.