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EUR/ICP/HFAP 94 01/CN01

10175

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

EUROPEAN HEALTH POLICY CONFERENCE: OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE FUTURE

Report on a WHO Conference

Copenhagen
5-9 December 1994

1996

EUR/HFA target 33

ABSTRACT

Representatives of each Member State of the WHO European Region attended the European Health Policy Conference: Opportunities for the Future. The Conference was dedicated to enhancing the ability of decision-makers to take action, through the sharing of experience of effective international, national, regional and local approaches. The importance of action networks was emphasized, and the participants were encouraged to support them.

The wide variety of country case studies and experiences presented highlighted the fact that the way health systems are organized, administered and financed in particular countries depends to a great extent on their past history, ideology and culture. Nevertheless, it also indicated that countries in Europe are experiencing common problems owing to the need to invest scarce resources for health gain and to reorient health systems more effectively, efficiently and equitably. The Conference proved to be of major benefit in identifying practices and interventions which could help countries to achieve these goals.

While delegations for all the Member States present were extremely active in the discussions, the impact of participants from countries of central and eastern Europe and the newly independent states, many of whom were participating for the first time in a policy conference of this nature, was particularly notable.

The Conference identified ways in which international organizations could provide stronger support to countries and called for increased collaboration between the intergovernmental organizations. There was strong commitment to HFA as a yardstick of improvements in health in Europe. Participants emphasized the need to continually review and revitalize their policies and to generate greater support for health issues at the local, regional, national and international levels, and to reduce the growing inequities in health. These goals were expressed in the "Copenhagen Declaration", which will be referred to the Standing Committee of the Regional Committee for consideration.

Keywords

HEALTH POLICY
HEALTH FOR ALL
CONGRESSES
CEC
CE
EUROPE

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The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. It emphasizes that every entry, no matter how small, should be recorded to ensure the integrity of the financial data. This includes not only sales and purchases but also expenses, income, and any other financial activities.

The second part of the document provides a detailed breakdown of the accounting process. It outlines the steps from recording transactions to the preparation of financial statements. This includes identifying the accounts affected by each transaction, debiting and crediting the appropriate accounts, and ensuring that the accounting equation remains balanced.

The third part of the document discusses the importance of regular reconciliation. It explains how comparing the company's records with bank statements and other external sources can help identify errors and discrepancies. This process is crucial for maintaining the accuracy of the financial records and for detecting any potential fraud or mismanagement.

The fourth part of the document covers the preparation of financial statements. It details the requirements for the income statement, balance sheet, and statement of cash flows. It also discusses the importance of providing clear and concise explanations for any significant changes or trends in the data.

The fifth and final part of the document discusses the role of the accountant in providing financial advice and support to the business owner. It emphasizes that the accountant should be able to interpret the financial data and provide insights into the company's financial health and future prospects.

INTRODUCTION

All 50 Member States in the WHO European Region have committed themselves to developing their policies for health using the health for all (HFA) approach. Representatives of each of these Member States attended the European Health Policy Conference: Opportunities for the Future, organized by the WHO Regional Office for Europe in collaboration with the Commission of the European Communities and the Council of Europe in Copenhagen from 5 to 9 December 1994.

The Conference was dedicated to enhancing the ability of decision-makers to take action, through the sharing of experience of effective international, national, regional and local approaches. In this regard, a wealth of practical "tools" and materials were provided for participants to take back home, and an attempt was made to engage participants in action networks which could both inform and support them. The specific goals of the Conference were:

- to assess health trends and emerging public health issues, particularly measures to reduce inequities in health;
- to enhance competence in dealing with these issues at national, regional and city levels by sharing effective approaches to investing in health and reorienting health care systems;
- to explore the ways in which international organizations and their member states can work together more effectively to meet the future challenges and tackle the health policy agenda facing Europe.

Dr Pall Kovacs, Minister of Welfare, Hungary was elected as President of the Conference. Dr Ara Babloyan, Minister of Health, Armenia, and Dr Danielle Hansen-Koenig, Director-General of Health, Luxembourg, were elected as Vice-Presidents. Dr Helen Zealley, Director of Public Health, Lothian Health Board, United Kingdom, was elected as Rapporteur. Annex 2 contains a list of conference papers and Annex 3 the participants.

The Conference was arranged in eight plenary sessions, four of which were followed by sets of parallel working groups in which participants were asked to identify pragmatic ways of making progress and to draw up proposals for WHO, other intergovernmental organizations, the European Union (EU), Member States and other partners, including nongovernmental organizations. There were over 38 presentations of formal papers.

THE CONTEXT

“Without knowing and understanding the past you cannot plan for the future”

The context for the Conference was set in an opening review of the radical changes taking place in Europe over the past decade: the shifts in geographical, organizational and managerial boundaries and in the responsibility between the central and the local level, the state and the citizen, and the public and private sectors. Participants were reminded that in health policy, changes had culminated in a shift from normative planning techniques and systems analysis to adoption of the HFA policy as a soft planning approach. In looking beyond the health services, to strengthen health in more fundamental ways by also promoting healthy lifestyles and healthy environments, HFA represented a radical break with conventional health policy in Europe.

In view of the wide political changes sweeping the Region, it was hoped that the HFA policy could transcend political boundaries and prove capable of achieving acceptance by politicians across the full ideological spectrum.

Participants were reminded that the aim of HFA is to achieve a broad national consensus on the long-term direction in health development that a country should take. It was emphasized, however, that the formulation of policies involving all relevant actors takes time, as does the essential mobilization of regional and local structures. It was hoped that the Conference would provide some of the bricks for building new alliances.

Participants were informed that health policy development is not a static initiative but an ever deepening process to absorb new initiatives which strengthen and further progress in the desired direction. WHO had already worked with many countries to formulate, implement and update policies for health gain based on the HFA approach. This type of work in some of the new democracies in eastern Europe recognizes that the way ahead for health development is through clear long-term policies built on a scientific analysis of health status and risk factors, an assessment of the effectiveness of different intervention strategies, and their integration in overall development strategies.

DISCUSSION

Health trends and challenges in Europe

A multi-media presentation of a report on Health in Europe demonstrated that Europe is currently facing enormous challenges owing to demographic trends, armed conflicts and a reduction in overall gross domestic product, leading to economic recession. Unemployment, poverty, homelessness, migration and social exclusion are common problems in many countries. The presentation also exposed the deepening inequities within the Region and, in particular, the gap between east and west.

In some countries it was reported that figures for life expectancy have fallen to levels found in the 1950s. An increase in deaths due to increased levels of consumption in tobacco and alcohol, a resurgence of certain communicable diseases and higher rates of mental disorders, suicide, drug dependency and homicide have contributed to the decline in health status and the rise in mortality rates in some countries.

In looking to the future, the principal concern of the Conference was how to meet the challenges. The importance of identifying vulnerable groups and targeting resources through intersectoral policies for health, was suggested as one way of reducing inequities. It was emphasized that the provision of appropriate health care which focused on targets for health gain could significantly improve health in

Europe. Primary health care was identified as an effective health intervention, and it was a matter of concern that the uneven distribution of services and over-reliance on medical models were inhibiting its development in some countries. In most countries, there had been changes in the financing of health care, the most radical changes occurring in eastern Europe where centrally planned and funded services had been replaced with insurance-based care and market forces had come into operation. The possible impact on equity in health was of grave concern.

The policy framework to meet the challenges: intersectoral action for health

The plenary discussion focused on why countries need to develop intersectoral policies for health and how such policy frameworks can meet the challenges of the future. It was pointed out that the main determinants of health stem from factors relating to the wider economic and social environment, and the policy framework for health should reflect this wider perspective. The importance not only of economic growth but of its distribution was highlighted. While at the national level economic wealth and health were recognized as being positively correlated, it was emphasized that improvements in health could be achieved without waiting for economic growth, provided countries developed a comprehensive policy extending to all sectors of economic and social life.

Specific actions in areas such as employment, housing, traffic accidents and education were seen to have an impact on health, and the scope for many sectors to put health on the agenda was obvious. In the health services sector there were fears that some so-called reforms were being driven by the market, and could be contrary to improving health.

WHO, EU and the Council of Europe have all expressed a commitment to improving health through action in sectors other than health. Their representatives were particularly concerned to ensure that intersectoral action translates into practical action. The Health Promoting Schools project, involving WHO, EU and the Council of Europe, provided a concrete example of effective collaboration. In describing their own policy frameworks for public health, these

organizations expressed their willingness to continue such pragmatic and fruitful collaboration. Nevertheless, the participants agreed that the different cultures, perspectives, roles and responsibilities of each organization should be respected and fully utilized. They also acknowledged that there is a time for collective action but also a time when action by one organization may be more effective.

In the discussion groups, participants explored the possibilities for putting health on the agenda in a number of sectors. Examining care for the elderly, they felt that the relationship between the health and welfare sectors could largely determine the nature of being old in many countries. It was a matter of concern that in countries where welfare standards have declined elderly people are facing serious health risks. With regard to health and the environment, the Declaration on Action for Environment and Health in Europe, Helsinki 1994, had demonstrated the importance of building a partnership between two sectors sharing a common interest. It was suggested that the influence of nongovernmental organizations and force of public opinion could help promote intersectoral action in some cases.

The achievement of intersectoral action between sectors where there was an obvious conflict of interests was acknowledged to be more difficult, and participants were particularly concerned with devising mechanisms to curb the promotion of health-damaging products such as tobacco. The importance of housing was recognized, and in this respect improving links between local government and the community, to benefit from the expertise of users or consumers was vital. Legal measures and regulations were seen to be a prerequisite for intersectoral action for health in areas such as agriculture, food and nutrition. It was also felt that health promotion could benefit from broadening its spheres of reference. In the field of education and health a wider perspective encompassing principles of democracy and citizenship could usefully be taken.

Implementing policies for health at country, regional and city levels

In the plenary session a panel of speakers from the national, regional and city levels were asked: why they introduced HFA, how they

achieved alliances between sectors and links between levels, how they achieved consensus and dealt with conflicts. The speakers critically examined their actual experiences of developing comprehensive policies for health.

It was agreed that an HFA policy was a means of targeting resources more effectively at every level, which was particularly important in view of the current economic pressures. However, enlisting the support of other organizations and sectors had not been so easy. The importance of adopting a clear, structured approach was stressed. Networking with other actors was vital to the success of intersectoral action, and enlisting the support of the health professions and local actors was identified as particularly crucial.

The speakers were conscious of the need to interlink activities at all levels and to develop systems for monitoring and evaluating progress. National targets for health offered a focus and direction for health development, but they should be sufficiently flexible to take account of regional differences.

The Conference recognized the benefits to be gained from international collaboration. Exchange of information between countries was seen as a good means of promoting learning, sharing common problems and accessing limited expertise.

In the discussion groups which followed, the ability to sustain the momentum of an HFA policy over the long term was discussed, and participants agreed that the approach should be based on realism rather than idealism. Some of the principal questions concerned the sharing of power and defining the real implementers of HFA. In some countries the role of central government had been more important than in others, and political changes shortened the life span of a policy. In other situations ways had to be found to continuously revitalize long-term policies for health. Fears were expressed by many participants that new reforms are incompatible with the achievement of equity in health, which can be one of the first issues to suffer when governments change. Regarding policy implementation, participants agreed on the need to involve all actors in the initial planning stages. A smooth transition to HFA was preferable to dramatic change.

Regions in Europe were making innovative progress towards HFA, and participants assessed the value of working together

through the Regions for Health Network (RHN) and discussed ways of developing this further. Experience from the Healthy Cities project indicated that the local level can provide a learning environment for the national level, while the national and international level set the essential framework for policy development.

Institutions were also setting targets for health. Focusing on a case study of a Danish school where this had been done, participants debated whether a broader perspective could be adopted in other schools. There were calls to expand the Countrywide Integrated Noncommunicable Disease (CINDI) programme, which combines scientific evaluation with a community action programme. Suggestions were made for better informing and mobilizing parliamentarians to promote health, and proposals were made to set up a network of parliamentarians committed to public health and a centre to carry out policy analysis.

Health care reforms for health gain

Many countries have carried out reforms driven by principles of efficiency and cost containment. Participants were asked to reflect on how far this had contributed to health gain. The Conference highlighted the need to provide appropriate care and confirmed the importance of maintaining public trust in the health care system. In this respect, the task for policy-makers was to provide "macro leadership" for micro-level decision-making, focusing on effective outcomes through a system of partnerships with patients and providers.

In some countries there was a tendency to focus on utilization and demand rather than on need, and on facilities and human resources rather than the provision of care. In this regard there was a significant need to distinguish between interventions that increase health gain and those that could be detrimental, and to seek a balance between focusing on individuals who use and provide services and society's effective use of resources.

The role of governments as regulators in conflicts between those who pay for health care and those who provide it was also discussed. It was agreed that the aim must be to achieve health gain for the entire population, including the most vulnerable groups. This

would require a managed system of needs assessment, surveillance and monitoring.

Participants debated whether health gain, democratization and public involvement could be more successfully achieved through a planned or market approach. In view of the varying opinions, there was broad support for stimulating a pan-European research and development strategy. The meaning of innovations in management for health gain was explored and new examples were presented. It was a matter of concern that many managerial innovations result in efficiency gain but not necessarily health gain. The danger of applying managerial innovations successful in one system to another was acknowledged, and it was emphasized that innovation only flourishes in a learning culture which encourages risk-taking and even failure. It was felt that WHO should play a leading role in establishing a system for exchanging experiences.

Participants also pointed to human resource development as a means to enhance health gain. Health professionals need to learn to listen to society and assess developments in other sectors. Further, service reforms and training of professionals have not always been well coordinated in many countries.

It was recognized that monitoring outcomes was essential for assessing the achievement of quality development through health care reforms. Participants agreed that useful and relevant data could be collected with the involvement of health professionals. They were unresolved as to how to achieve quality development at different levels; how to link costs and quality development; to achieve a balance between professional autonomy and bureaucratic control; and how patients' opinions can be included in an assessment of quality of life.

Increased citizen participation in the health care system was seen to lead to the development of a citizens' society, which was particularly important for the newly independent states (NIS). The notion of choice in health care is sometimes complicated and ambiguous, and participants recognized the need for more information. It was agreed that citizens' views can act as a catalyst for health gain, and there were calls to evaluate the mechanisms for citizen representation.

Health on the political agenda

Although technical experts and administrators compile information and analyse the impacts of policy initiatives, ultimately the health policy agenda is decided by politicians. In a very frank plenary discussion, two former ministers shared their experiences, outlining some of the prerequisites for success. These included early and broad dissemination of information on HFA, participation by relevant actors in different sectors from the outset, and a high level of political commitment and energy, particularly from the minister of health as the principal coordinator. Enlisting the support of the medical profession was identified as a crucial factor but had proved difficult to achieve in some countries.

Difficulties in communicating HFA concepts to those outside public health and in understanding the need for intersectoral action had hampered the implementation of HFA. The importance of being able to demonstrate the use of HFA in other countries was therefore identified as one means of building awareness and support. Participants agreed that the popularity of HFA had the potential to mobilize cross-party support but could also create inter-party competition. Public opinion was felt to be a strong pressure for change. During the very lively debate, it was generally felt that politicians must seize the opportunity when it presents itself, or at least prepare the ground for introducing HFA at a later date. The comparatively weak position of the minister of health in relation to other cabinet colleagues could be an obstacle to change.

There was broad consensus that economic necessity is driving health reform in most countries, and it was hoped that economic challenges could act as a stimulus for the implementation of an intersectoral policy, integrating health and development. The vexed question of how to achieve equity and satisfy public demand simultaneously was also raised.

Finally, the discussion focused on the role of international organizations, and it was felt that they must continue to play a leading role in providing a long-term vision and the stability which may be lacking at the national level.

Health challenges for the countries of central and eastern Europe

While the Conference focused on the health challenges facing the whole of Europe, particular attention was given to the countries of central and eastern Europe (CCEE). A well documented view of the increasing gaps between the eastern and western parts of the Region caused participants to reflect on the reasons for this and to suggest measures whereby they could be addressed. Three pressing challenges were how to reconcile the HFA approach with urgent health care reform and pressing socioeconomic problems; how to reduce dependence on outside aid and foster a climate of self-reliance; and how to promote coordination at all levels, particularly the top.

Economic recession, unemployment, poverty and new social conflicts had adversely affected the health status of people in the NIS, and it was felt that there should be more research to establish the precise mechanisms for this decline. Ethnic conflicts and war were destabilizing potential policy initiatives further. Nevertheless, participants highlighted some of the positive aspects to transition such as greater articulation of social and health needs, the development of a voluntary sector and increased international solidarity. HFA was described as a learning process for democracy. The general feeling was that the capacity for policy-making and planning at the national level needed to be quickly developed. It was through that that the establishment of an international centre for policy analysis – to provide information, advice and training – would be of significant benefit.

It was agreed that centralized and up-to-date management information systems provided an important basis for health reform; nonetheless, it was felt that countries would benefit from decentralized systems of analysis and review. WHO was called upon to develop standards for indicators and essential information for policy development.

Participants felt that health care reform based on economic considerations had encouraged market-oriented reforms and had to some extent pushed HFA from the agenda in some countries. The integration of health care reform concentrating on health gain with the HFA approach was strongly advocated. It was also suggested that WHO

and other intergovernmental organizations should focus on improving the skills of local staff and foster a climate of self reliance.

Participants stressed the concept of total quality management in the workplace. It was agreed that the health services should be one of the prime work environments to encourage health at work. Other key issues debated included the decline in the living and working conditions of migrants, and it was suggested that codes of practice should be developed to protect and promote the health of migrants once they entered a country. Nongovernmental organizations were acknowledged to be a good learning environment for people to work together, and they were already emerging as potentially strong partners. WHO was asked to encourage further networking among nongovernmental organizations in Europe.

Working together in Europe: rapprochement in action

International organizations have a major role to play in supporting countries to achieve health gains. The enormous challenges facing Europe give added momentum to the need for these organizations to further improve their cooperation. This was the main outcome of the plenary discussion during which six organizations for the first time joined each other on the same podium.

Representatives from WHO, the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Council of Europe, the Commission of the European Communities and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) outlined specific measures they are taking to promote the cause of health in Europe and gave examples of collaborative ventures in which they are already engaged. These organizations and institutions varied widely with respect to their purpose and structure and the underlying principles on which they were based. Nevertheless, the general view was that they could successfully collaborate on specific programmes. The Health Promoting Schools project involving WHO, EU and the Council of Europe was cited as a prime example.

It was strongly felt that the time had come for a new synergy to be created based on a search for shared or converging values and collaboration in the field of health. It was proposed that this could be achieved through mutual knowledge and respect and a positive

interest in cooperation. The importance of joint analysis and evaluation was also stressed, and it was agreed that organizations should be more involved in each others' planning processes.

The discussion highlighted concerns about the way international organizations approached countries, particularly the NIS, and it was felt that in some instances there was poor understanding of their historical heritage. The benefit of "parachuting" experts into countries was questioned and the point was raised that organizations sometimes give conflicting advice. A tendency to view eastern Europe in aggregate and overlook the differences between individual countries was noted. In response, some donor countries have developed successful bilateral relations. It was emphasized, however, that there can also be value in regional operations, particularly as many countries are experiencing similar problems. Many of the new countries in the eastern part of the Region were concerned with the problem of obtaining safe drugs, for example, and in this regard a reliance on international standards such as the WHO essential drugs list or the European pharmacopia was seen as a safeguard.

Actions at international and national levels should complement each other, and international standards could stimulate action at the national level and help harmonize actions between countries.

Participants called for better dissemination of information on joint ventures and proposed that intergovernmental organizations could play a leading role in distributing such information. Attention was drawn to possible conflicts between the pursuit of trade and the pursuit of health but the means of addressing these were not clear.

THE COPENHAGEN DECLARATION

In the final session, participants discussed and adopted a revised draft of the Copenhagen Declaration. It was agreed that this should be referred to the Standing Committee of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe for consideration and preparation of a draft resolution to be submitted to the Regional Committee at its forty-fifth session. It was also agreed that the Copenhagen Declaration would be forwarded to the United Nations Social Summit to be held in Copenhagen in March 1995. The text of the Declaration is given in Annex 1.

*Annex 1***THE COPENHAGEN DECLARATION¹**

We, the delegations of the Member States in the European Region of the World Health Organization, meeting in Copenhagen from 5 to 9 December 1994, acutely aware that our societies stand at an historic crossroads, pledge ourselves to promote and protect the health of our peoples as a fundamental value of our societies.

I. THE CHALLENGES TO HEALTH IN EUROPE

Actions to improve health must be recognized as a measurement of a country's social consciousness and as a means of investing in its human capital.

We are concerned about the fact that, in spite of some progress observed, the 1993/1994 exercise to monitor progress towards health for all (HFA) shows that considerable inequities in health still persist between countries and between population groups in almost all countries.

We recognize the problems posed by the resurgence of communicable diseases in some countries and by the unhealthy lifestyles in every country of the Region, and we support the actions proposed to create a healthy environment and to address the consequences of the Chernobyl accident, the development of the Aral Sea basin for intensive agriculture and the use of Semipalatinsk for nuclear weapons testing, as outlined in the Helsinki Declaration of June 1994.

The increasing numbers of health problems, with increasing numbers of migrants, refugees and displaced persons now turning also to less affluent parts of the European Region, are not being attended to with a view to making long-term solutions emerge. Since migrants form an integral part of our Region, they must also inevitably be a part of the implementation of HFA policies designed to tackle inequities, promote health and ensure access to high-quality health care. And they need to be included in inter-European cooperation for health.

¹ The Conference agreed to refer this Copenhagen Declaration to the Standing Committee of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe for consideration and preparation of a draft resolution to be submitted to the Regional Committee at its forty-fifth session.

Health in some countries is facing a crisis due to a deterioration in the prerequisites for health and the economic constraints that affect health care services.

2. THE VISION

We have a responsibility not merely to react to change but to create necessary change and to shape our own future. To do this:

- we need a strategic approach that strikes a delicate balance between long-term goals and short-term feasibility in today's pluralistic society;
- we need to reinforce the values of solidarity, equity and human rights, while recognizing the rights of individuals to freedom of choice, participation and dignity, as well as their obligations to help strengthen their own health;
- we need to reinforce the role of governments in protecting and promoting health while striving to safeguard access to the highest affordable quality of health care, even in situations of unchanging or even decreasing national resources.

The Member States in the Region should strengthen their commitment, individually and collectively, to making every effort to:

- implement the European HFA policy in countries, by ensuring that health policies and programmes are truly based on its principles and methods of preventing disease;
- promote healthy lifestyles, a healthy environment and quality-conscious, cost-effective and accessible health care systems;
- shape intersectoral policies and strategies for health gain at the country, regional and local levels, clearly defining targets that focus on outcomes in terms of health status, risk factors and determinants of health;
- monitor and evaluate progress towards these targets, thus providing a scientific basis for continuous learning and improvement of policies.

3. SOLIDARITY WITH PEOPLE IN NEED

We are committed to the fundamental value of the HFA movement in directing our efforts towards those people and countries most in need.

3.1 Preferential support for vulnerable and high-risk groups within countries

Today, more than ever, there is a need to give a sharp focus, in our social and health development, to policies and programmes that can improve the health and quality of life of all our fellow citizens, particularly children, the elderly, the poor, migrants, refugees, displaced persons and the socially disadvantaged.

We therefore pledge ourselves to:

- heighten people's awareness of the need for health policies and programmes that tackle inequities in health between different groups in the population;
- provide for equity in access to health care and health promotion opportunities, ensuring that new systems for the financing and provision of care do not endanger this;
- ensure as far as possible that information is available on inequities in health;
- carry out health impact assessment of policy measures where appropriate.

3.2 Priority support for the countries of central and eastern Europe and the newly independent states

We recommend that the following principles be adopted and actions taken, in order to improve the efforts currently being made.

- In countries receiving support, we believe it is necessary to develop national policies based on the HFA principles and, following this, to draw up medium-term programmes for health development. WHO and other international organizations should continue to give support to countries in doing this.
- For European countries and international aid and funding agencies which are willing to assist the above-mentioned countries in their

development, such assistance should support the same principles. WHO and other international organizations, as well as the European Community, can offer useful guidance in this process.

- For States which are members of intergovernmental organizations and the European Community, we recommend that they support those principles within the governing bodies of such organizations.

3.3 Support to victims of armed conflict, natural and man-made disasters

We believe that all European countries should make greater efforts to help countries affected by armed conflict, natural and man-made disasters and to support their agencies – international and nongovernmental – that are currently trying to provide relief with the aims of protecting the health of the suffering populations, including refugees and displaced persons, and improving their health care.

4. BETTER MANAGED HEALTH CARE DEVELOPMENT FOR HEALTH GAIN

Attention should be focused more sharply on the improvements that can be expected from different health care programmes, with particular efforts to:

- strengthen public health infrastructures, management, training, and research for the development of HFA policies and to ensure that health system changes focus on health gain;
- develop effective mechanisms for intersectoral action for health at country, regional and local levels, as appropriate;
- strengthen information systems, in order to identify health problems, support the implementation of strategies for health gain, and monitor and evaluate action;
- assess the effectiveness of policy measures, both for health promotion and for health care, and their impact on equity in health;
- ensure that new approaches to the financing and provision of health care lead to health gain, continuous quality development and effective use of resources, giving due weight to health promotion, disease prevention and the reduction of disability.

5. FACILITATING A DIALOGUE FOR HEALTH

Those who implement and are affected by health policies should be involved at an early stage in a dialogue for health. Countries should encourage their participation in the process of health policy formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. In so doing, countries should pay particular attention to :

- mobilizing parliamentarians, citizens and other partners in policy development for the promotion and protection of health;
- building new alliances with social groups with an interest in health development.

6. A NEW INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF PARTNERS FOR HEALTH

Noting with satisfaction the increased collaboration between international organizations and the European Community, we believe that all European governments could take the following steps to further these developments:

- support closer and more effective cooperation by international organizations and the European Community for the achievement of health gain, in such a way as to build on their respective strengths and complementarities;
- promote and support the HFA approach when collaborating with intergovernmental, nongovernmental and integrational organizations and in bilateral agreements;
- use national HFA policy frameworks in countries of central and eastern Europe and the newly independent states to guide international investors and donors towards addressing priority areas and concerns;
- further develop cooperation between countries in improving methods of health policy formulation, monitoring, evaluation, management, training, research and development;
- explore the possibility of creating a network of health databases, including those of the WHO Regional Office for Europe, the European Commission and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, as well as country databases;

- promote and facilitate the sharing of expertise and experience, to strengthen problem-solving skills in countries, and support the development of international expertise;
- explore ways of enhancing parliamentarians' knowledge of the European HFA policy and its approaches and, in so doing, see how existing structures in intergovernmental and integrational organizations can contribute to such efforts.

7. ONWARDS TO THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

As we strive to develop our economies, countries in the north, south, east and west of the Region are presented with an historic opportunity of moving towards health for all by putting health high on the political agenda.

In adopting this Copenhagen Declaration, we hereby pledge ourselves to renew our efforts to look closely at the health policy challenges, learn from each other and together lead the peoples of Europe to better health in the twenty-first century.

Annex 2

CONFERENCE PAPERS²*Plenary papers*

- Health in Europe. The 1993/1994 health for all monitoring report*
Copenhagen, WHO Regional Office for Europe, 1994
(WHO Regional Publications, European Series, No. 56)
- ICP/HSC 419/Pl.A *Health care in the era of value creating systems*
Richard Normann
- ICP/HSC 419/Pl.B *The need for intersectoral action for health*
Göran Dahlgren
- ICP/HSC 419/Pl.B *Public health policy*
Robin Guthrie
- ICP/HSC 419/Pl.C *Health of the nation*
K.C. Calman
- ICP/HSC 419/Pl.C *Implementing policies for health – the regional level*
Dr Birgit Weihrauch
The Copenhagen City Health Plan in a Nutshell
- ICP/HSC 419/Pl.D *Health care reforms for health gain*
Hans Maarse
- ICP/HSC 419/Pl.F *Health care reforms in the CCEE/NIS: issues of spending, health insurance and efficiency*
Ellie Tragakes
- ICP/HSC 419/Pl.F *East-West health divide and potential explanations*
Martin Bobak and Michael Marmot
- ICP/HSC 419/Pl.F *Health for all in CCEE/NIS – the policy environment*
Peter Makara

² Copies can be obtained from the CHP unit, WHO Regional Office for Europe, Scherfigsvej 8, DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø, Denmark.

- ICP/HSC 419/Pl.G *ILO and occupational safety and health*
Georges H. Coppée
- ICP/HSC 419/Pl.G *Future collaboration for health in Europe – a
conference discussion paper*
WHO Regional Office for Europe

Discussion group papers

- ICP/HSC 419/B1.1 *The "welfare mix" of social care for the elderly:
a Nordic perspective*
Kari Waerness
- ICP/HSC 419/B1.2 *The social care of older people in the European
Union – deconstructing dependency in old age*
Alan Walker
- ICP/HSC 419/B1.3 *Health and the social sector*
Simo Kokko
- ICP/HSC 419/B1.4 *Social security and medico-social care of the elderly
in CCEE/CIS countries*
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- ICP/HSC 419/F6.2 *Romanian information clearing house (RICH)*
Monica Paslaru

Abstracts (presentation only)

- ICP/HSC 419/B1(A) Health and the social sector
by Professor Leo A. Kaprio, Finland
- ICP/HSC 419/B2 (A) The Second European Conference on Environmental Health
by the WHO Regional Office for Europe – presented
by Professor Jussi Huttunen, Finland
- ICP/HSC 419/B5(A) Health, agriculture and the food industry
by Ms Karin Bemelmans, Netherlands
- ICP/HSC 419/B5(A) Nutrition policy in Norway
by Professor Kaare R. Norum, Norway
- ICP/HSC 419/B5(A) Nutrition in the health policy context of Catalonia
by Mr Lluís Serra Majem, Catalonia, Spain
- ICP/HSC 419/B5(A) Nutrition policy – England
by Dr M.J. Wiseman, United Kingdom
- ICP/HSC 419/C6 (A) The CINDI programme in Lithuania – Its contribution
to national health policy development
by Professor V. Grabauskas, Lithuania
- ICP/HSC 419/F5 (A) Health care reforms in the CCEE/NIS – Executive
summary of background documents prepared for the
Health Services Management unit, WHO Regional
Office for Europe
by Dr Mikko Vienonen, Regional Adviser for Health
Services Management, WHO Regional Office for
Europe, Dr Ellie Tragakes, Consultant in Health
Services Management, WHO Regional Office for
Europe and Dr Katarzyna Kissimova-Skarbek, Poland
- ICP/HSC 419/F6.3(A) Public health policy and other health care priorities
in Russia
by Dr Sushma Palmer, Germany

Glossary

- ICP/HSC 419 Terminology for the European Health Policy
Conference. A glossary with equivalents in
French, German and Russian

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