

# Summaries

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## **Occupational Health Indicators and Country Profiles in the Baltic Sea Countries: a Follow-up Meeting**

Vilnius, Lithuania, 18–20 September 1997

The meeting was organized by the Bilthoven Division of the WHO European Centre for Environment and Health in collaboration with the Centre of Occupational Medicine of the Institute of Hygiene, Lithuania, the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, the International Labour Office, Geneva, and the European Foundation for Living and Working Environment, Dublin. Its purpose was to discuss further developments in occupational health in the Baltic Sea subregion and to follow up the implementation of decisions made at the first meeting in November 1995 and the second meeting in October 1996. The present meeting dealt with three main issues: practices in the notification and registration of occupational diseases and accidents in the Baltic Sea countries, workplace risk assessment, and the Telematic Information Network in Occupational Health and Safety among institutions in the countries surrounding the Baltic Sea.

### **Additional products**

In addition to this summary, a report on the meeting in English will be available in December 1997.

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### **European health for all target 25: health of people at work**

*By the year 2000, the health of workers in all Member States should be improved by making work environments more healthy, reducing work-related disease and injury, and promoting the wellbeing of people at work.*

### **Keywords**

- OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH
- HEALTH STATUS INDICATORS
- INFORMATION SYSTEMS
- BALTIC STATES
- EUROPE
- EUROPE, EASTERN

## **Coordination Meeting of Experts on Noise** Budapest, Hungary, 28–29 August 1997

Following the Helsinki Conference in June 1994, several programmes have been undertaken by the WHO Regional Office for Europe in reply to requests from Member States for help in implementing their policies on environment and health at both national and local levels. Among those programmes, the WHO pamphlet series for local authorities aims at providing local decision-makers with accessible and reliable information on various aspects of environment and health, so that they can quickly appraise their situation and take decisions more efficiently. The series is currently concerned with 10 themes, including noise, and under that theme 11 titles have been defined. The present meeting was organized, with the financial support of the Swiss Ministry of Health, to gather the authors of these documents together to design a clear table of contents, to ensure consistency and avoid duplication, and to take advantage of the experience of several specialists to make the pamphlets more comprehensive.

### **Additional products**

In addition to this summary, a report on the meeting is available in English.

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### **European health for all target 18: policy on environment and health**

*By the year 2000, all Member States should have developed, and be implementing, policies on the environment and health that ensure ecologically sustainable development, effective prevention and control of environmental health risks and equitable access to healthy environments.*

### **European health for all target 19: environmental health management**

*By the year 2000, there should be effective management systems and resources in all Member States for putting policies on environment and health into practice.*

### **European health for all 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**

- NOISE
- ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
- HEALTH POLICY
- EUROPE

## **WHO Round Table Meeting on Health Promoting Universities project: Criteria and Strategies for a New WHO European Network**

Lancaster, United Kingdom, 24–25 July 1997

The WHO Regional Office for Europe held a meeting to determine the scope, purpose, objectives and products of a project for health promoting universities. Topics of discussion included the concept of the project, its organizational development and management, and criteria and mechanisms for network membership. It was suggested that the guiding principles pay particular attention to equity, accountability and sustainability, and, to convince prospective members of the value of the network, it should be evidence based. To facilitate the management of the project, the participants agreed that guidelines for managers be collated, including an explanation of organizational development. They also debated three strategies for networking, favouring a network with a commitment to the project philosophy, products and infrastructure over looser affiliations that would yield higher membership but lower levels of commitment. Finally, a four-step strategy for launching the project, including future products, was summarized.

### **Additional products**

In addition to this summary, a report on the meeting is available in English.

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### **European health for all target 14: settings for health promotion**

*By the year 2000, all settings of social life and activity, such as the city, school, workplace, neighbourhood and home, should provide greater opportunities for promoting health.*

### **Keywords**

- HEALTH PROMOTION
- UNIVERSITIES
- ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION
- EUROPE

## **Intercountry Workshop on Implementation of WHO/UNAIDS Policies and Strategies on Prevention and Control of Sexually Transmitted Diseases**

Riga, Latvia, 15–17 July 1997

The WHO Regional Office for Europe, in collaboration with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), organized a meeting in May 1996 on the epidemic of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) in eastern Europe. The present Workshop was convened to review progress in implementing the recommendations of that meeting as well as the problems encountered by countries, and to formulate further action to control the epidemic. It was attended by representatives of the six countries attending the meeting and of six other countries experiencing a major increase in syphilis. It was found that the implementation of the recommendations of the meeting varied between countries. There was agreement on the need to continue the process of reform of general STD services by basing them on principles of confidentiality and anonymity, abolishing obsolete arrangements for the management of STD patients and their contacts, offering ambulatory treatment with modern drugs, collaborating closely with nongovernmental organizations, and providing accessible and affordable STD care for vulnerable groups. The participants also identified priorities in STD case management, and agreed to urge their national governments to accord the current epidemic of STDs the status of a national emergency.

### **Additional products**

In addition to this summary, a report on the Workshop is available in English. A Russian version will become available in December 1997.

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### **European health for all target 5: reducing communicable disease**

*By the year 2000, there should be no indigenous cases of poliomyelitis, diphtheria, neonatal tetanus, measles, mumps and congenital rubella in the Region and there should be a sustained and continuing reduction in the incidence and adverse consequences of other communicable diseases, notably HIV infection.*

### **Keywords**

- SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES – prevention and control
- SYPHILIS – prevention and control
- HEALTH POLICY
- HEALTH SERVICES – trends
- EUROPE, EASTERN
- COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES
- RUSSIAN FEDERATION

**Meeting of Experts on Economic Instruments  
for Environmental Health Services**  
London, United Kingdom, 10–11 July 1997

One of the priorities of the Regional Office is working closely with Member States to assist them in developing their capacities in environmental health management. This first meeting of a small working group of representatives of international organizations and Member States had two objectives:

- to design as accurately as possible a provisional table of contents for a book aimed at environmental health policy-makers and professionals on the topic of economic instruments; and
- to brainstorm on the best product that could be delivered at the Third European Conference on Environment and Health in 1999 on the subject of economy, environment and health, to allow ministers to make a decision (or to reach an agreement on a proposal) on a topic related to economic instruments.

The participants considered the agendas of various participating agencies and began making a quick analysis of the existing situation. The group developed a plan of work covering needs for human and financial resources, a proposed process and time frame, and the identification of experts who could compose a resource group as well as a steering group until the end of the project.

**Additional products**

In addition to this summary, a report on the meeting is available in English.

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**European health for all target 18: policy on environment and health**

*By the year 2000, all Member States should have developed, and be implementing, policies on the environment and health that ensure ecologically sustainable development, effective prevention and control of environmental health risks and equitable access to healthy environments.*

**Keywords**

- ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH – economics
- HEALTH SERVICES
- FINANCIAL SUPPORT
- EUROPE

## **Planning Meeting to Develop European Health Communications Network**

London, United Kingdom, 16–17 June 1997

The political, social and economic commitment and will to create conditions conducive to good human health depend greatly on people's access to health information that is accurate, relevant, readily available and impartial. To address this problem, a planning meeting was organized to develop a framework for a European health communications network. The participants represented a wide range of areas including medicine and public health, journalism, communication, education and television. They decided that working groups on ethics, management and science should be convened to further develop the concept of the network. They also agreed that designated national coordinators should meet in the autumn of 1998 to launch the network.

### **Additional products**

In addition to this summary, a report on the meeting is available in English.

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### **European health for all target 37: partners for health**

*By the year 2000, in all Member States, a wide range of organizations and groups throughout the public, private and voluntary sectors should be actively contributing to the achievement of health for all.*

### **Keywords**

- HEALTH EDUCATION – methods
- MASS MEDIA
- HEALTH POLICY
- EUROPE

## **WHO Healthy Cities Project Business Meeting**

Gothenburg, Sweden, 27-29 April 1997

Project coordinators and politicians from 34 cities and 12 national networks of the Healthy Cities Project attended the business meeting. The main items on the agenda were: Phase 3 of the Project (health for all in the twenty-first century), evaluation of Phase 2, and preparations for the Athens Symposium in June 1998. The participants reached agreement on a number of points, including the preparation of a Phase 3 package that would set out the criteria for the eligibility of cities, and the agenda for the Athens Symposium. Consideration of these and other issues will form part of the agenda of the next business meeting, scheduled to be held in Jerusalem in November 1997.

### **Additional products**

In addition to this summary, a report on the meeting is available in English.

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### **European health for all target 14: settings for health promotion**

*By the year 2000, all settings of social life and activity, such as the city, school, workplace, neighbourhood and home, should provide greater opportunities for promoting health.*

### **Keywords**

- URBAN HEALTH
- POLICY MAKING
- HFA STRATEGY COORDINATION
- PROGRAM EVALUATION
- EUROPE

## **Consensus Meeting on the Policy Aspects of Water-related Issues** Yerevan, Armenia, 9-11 April 1997

The supply and quality of drinking-water have high priority as environment and health concerns in Armenia, where outbreaks of waterborne disease have occurred in recent years. To follow up a 1996 WHO workshop, the Ministry of Health of Armenia, with support from WHO and Italian Cooperation, organized a national interministerial consensus meeting. The participants comprised 53 representatives of the ministries for health, the economy, ecology, finance, agriculture and urban construction and of local government, and two WHO staff. The participants unanimously adopted a resolution with recommendations calling for the development of a financial and legislative basis for the sustainable management of water supplies, the revision of relevant legislation, the creation of multisectoral coordination mechanisms, the development of a master plan for water management, and a pilot project to assist in these tasks. In the resolution, the participants affirmed their intention, as representatives of the appropriate national agencies, to take immediate action to address these issues.

### **Additional products**

In addition to this summary, a report on the consensus meeting will be available in English in autumn 1997.

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### **European health for all target 20: water quality**

*By the year 2000, all people should have access to adequate supplies of safe drinking-water, and the pollution of groundwater sources, rivers, lakes and seas should no longer pose a threat to health.*

### **Keywords**

- WATER SUPPLY
- WATER QUALITY
- DRINKING WATER
- HEALTH POLICY
- CONGRESSES
- ARMENIA

## **WHO/EURO Water Collaborating Centres Meeting**

Kiev, Ukraine, 19, 20 and 23 March 1997

WHO receives substantial support in its activities concerning water in Europe from a small group of collaborating centres. A meeting of such centres working with the Regional Office was held to review strategic issues and to initiate discussions on preparations for the Third European Conference on Environment and Health, to be held in London in 1999. The meeting made a series of recommendations on optimizing the relationship between WHO and the collaborating centres, and on water-related preparations for the London Conference.

### **Additional products**

In addition to this summary, a report on the Consultation is available in English.

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### **European health for all target 20: water quality**

*By the year 2000, all people should have access to adequate supplies of safe drinking-water, and the pollution of groundwater sources, rivers, lakes and seas should no longer pose a threat to health.*

### **Keywords**

- ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
- WATER
- INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
- CONGRESSES – organization and administration
- EUROPE

## **Progress on Strengthening Maternal and Child Health in the Central Asian Republics, Azerbaijan and Kazakstan. Proceedings of the Second Meeting of CARAK Coordinators.**

Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 10–11 December 1996

The CARAK project started in autumn 1994 when the health ministries of six central Asian republics decided to participate in a district-based project to strengthen maternal and child health. The project has now reached its third year of implementation. At the second meeting of the district and national coordinators of the CARAK project, progress was reviewed on family planning, maternal and child health, and clinical practices and policies. Although the material resources for the project have so far been limited, certain positive trends are noticeable at district level. Among these are a reduction of post-natal complications in mothers and children, an increase in the prevalence of contraceptive use and a fall in abortion rates, and the introduction of patient-friendly practices such as rooming in and early breastfeeding. National data were also reviewed, and these showed a general trend towards improvement in maternal and child health.

### **Additional products**

In addition to this summary, the proceedings of the meeting are available in English. A Russian version of the proceedings will be issued in early 1998.

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### **European health for all target 7: health of children and young people**

*By the year 2000, the health of all children and young people should be improved, giving them the opportunity to grow and develop to their full physical, mental and social potential.*

### **European health for all target 8: health of women**

*By the year 2000, there should be sustained and continuing improvement in the health of all women.*

### **European health for all target 16: healthy living**

*By the year 2000, there should be continuous efforts in all Member States to actively promote and support healthy patterns of living through balanced nutrition, appropriate physical activity, healthy sexuality, good stress management and other aspects of positive health behaviour.*

### **Keywords**

- MATERNAL HEALTH SERVICES
- CHILD HEALTH SERVICES
- FAMILY PLANNING
- ASIA, CENTRAL
- COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES
- AZERBAIJAN
- KAZAKSTAN

## **Third WHO Meeting of Government Chief Nurses from the Newly Independent States**

Stockholm, Sweden, 17–21 June 1995

Improving the effectiveness of nurses and midwives as key players in current health care reforms is a potential solution to the major health problems facing the newly independent states (NIS) of the former USSR. WHO has worked to highlight the importance of nursing leadership and to strengthen links between nurse leaders to increase their effectiveness. At their Third Meeting, government chief nurses of the NIS discussed the current state of nursing and midwifery in their countries, their common problems and possible solutions, relevant WHO policies and guidelines, and the importance of developing a vision and national action plan for nursing. They sought to strengthen their links with other international networks, WHO and potential project partners (donors). Finally, the participants made a statement, summarizing key themes and goals formulated during the Meeting and making specific recommendations to countries and WHO, and committed themselves to pursue immediate steps in line with the statement.

### **Additional products**

In addition to this summary, a report on the Meeting is available in English.

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### **European health for all target 30: community services to meet special needs**

*By the year 2000, people in all Member States needing long-term care and support should have access to appropriate services of a high quality.*

### **Keywords**

- NURSE ADMINISTRATORS
- NURSING SERVICES – organization and administration
- MIDWIFERY
- HEALTH CARE REFORM
- COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES