

# Summaries

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### **Third Workshop of National/Regional Health Promoting Hospitals Network Coordinators**

Vienna, Austria, 16–17 April 1997

The Workshop was organized jointly by the WHO Regional Office for Europe and the International Health Promoting Hospitals (HPH) Coordinating Centre in Vienna. Twenty temporary advisers, delegates from 20 national/regional HPH networks, 2 observers and representatives from the Austrian Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs were present.

The Workshop marked an important milestone in the HPH movement, as the Pilot Hospital Project reached its end and the new International Network of National/Regional Networks was officially launched. Some of the pilot hospitals will be coordinators of the National/Regional Network. Reports on the development of the National/Regional Networks were presented, followed by discussions on ways to develop the National Networks and on building alliances.

#### **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 29: hospital care**

*By the year 2000, hospitals in all Member States should be providing cost-effective secondary and tertiary care and contribute actively to improving health status and patient satisfaction.*

#### **Keywords**

- HEALTH PROMOTION
- HOSPITALS – trends
- INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
- COMPUTER COMMUNICATION NETWORKS – organization and administration
- EUROPE

## **The Public Health Impact of Nuclear Weapons Testing in Kazakstan**

Rome, Italy, 26-27 September 1997

The Semipalatinsk Region of Kazakstan was subject to radioactive fallout from weapons testing which, it is alleged, has resulted in substantial exposure of the population and significant health effects. The meeting, attended by experts in radiological science, reviewed the evidence from recent studies designed to establish the importance of these exposures to public health.

The meeting concluded that, in the most heavily exposed settlement, doses to individuals subject to the fallout were 1-2 orders of magnitude lower than previously claimed. While there is need to confirm this result in other exposed settlements, the Kazakstan health authorities should be advised that health problems related to past exposures are not as great as previously thought and that, with existing agricultural practices, there is at present no threat to health. Changes in agricultural practices could cause a hazard from plutonium.

### **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 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.*

### **Keywords**

- NUCLEAR WARFARE
- RADIATION EFFECTS
- RADIOACTIVE FALLOUT
- EXPOSED POPULATION
- KAZAKSTAN

## **Working Group on Revision and Adaptation of HFA Indicators to the New HFA Policy**

Copenhagen, Denmark, 20–22 October 1997

The renewal of the European health for all (HFA) policy for the twenty-first century necessitates revision and adaptation of the HFA indicators. This in turn requires not only careful statistical consideration and judgement, but also extensive international consultation and collaboration to prepare for the decisions to be made by the WHO governing bodies in conjunction with the endorsement of the new HFA policy. The Regional Office has regularly revised and updated the HFA monitoring and evaluation system since the European HFA policy and targets were first adopted in 1984. The renewal of the HFA policy, however, provides a unique opportunity to carefully consider again all aspects of the system of indicators, including the experience of the last two decades. The main objective of the meeting was to initiate the process of revision and adaptation of the indicators by advising on the process of revision and the principles to be applied; recommending changes in the current list of indicators where possible at this stage; and identifying needs for the further development of indicators. Consequently, the Working Group devised a procedure for revision and adaptation and, by systematically applying it, recommended overall principles for revision of the HFA indicators; a number of specific changes and amendments to the indicators system vis-à-vis the new draft HFA targets; and areas where new indicators would be necessary.

### **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 35: health information support**

*By the year 2000, health information systems in all Member States should actively support the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of health for all policies.*

### **Keywords**

- HEALTH STATUS INDICATORS
- HEALTH FOR ALL
- HEALTH POLICY
- EUROPE

## **Workshop on Measurement of Particulate Matter (PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>) in Europe**

Berlin, Germany, 27–29 October 1997

Recently accumulated epidemiological evidence on the health effects of particulate matter (PM), and especially on its inhalable fractions PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>, indicate that a comprehensive programme to prevent the adverse effects of these particles on health should be established in Europe. The workshop was organized with the aim of discussing the issues related to PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> monitoring. Specific objectives were to review PM<sub>10</sub> measurement and assessment techniques; to share experiences among those the countries where monitoring has been established; and to recommend to Member States the most cost-effective and efficient methods of PM<sub>10</sub> monitoring, focusing on the prevention of the adverse effects of pollution on health. The workshop formulated conclusions and recommendations concerning the needs for PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> monitoring in the Region; the selection of equipment; the measurement of other properties of PM; activities related to PM<sub>10</sub> monitoring; and implementation. The recommendations should be considered in the implementation of national programmes, and in particular of national environmental health action plans (NEHAPS). The supporting role of WHO was also specified.

### **Additional products**

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

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### **European health for all target 21: air quality**

*By the year 2000, air quality in all countries should be improved to a point at which recognized air pollutants do not pose a threat to public health.*

### **Keywords**

- AIR POLLUTANTS – adverse effects
- ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURE
- ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING – methods
- EUROPE

**Working Group on Vaccine Quality and Sustainability  
of Immunization Programmes in the Newly Independent States  
and the Baltic Countries**

Berlin, Germany, 12 and 13 November 1997

The Working Group was convened by the Regional Office with financial support from the Government of Germany and the Interagency Immunization Coordinating Committee (IICC). Logistic support was provided by the Robert Koch Institute, Berlin. The participants included representatives of 15 countries and their international partners: WHO, UNICEF, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the US Agency for International Development (USAID), Basic Support for Institutionalising Child Survival (BASICS) and the Centre international de l'enfance et de la famille (CIDEF).

Sustainability of national immunization programmes is an achievable target for all the countries. This should entail national responsibility for the quality of vaccines distributed in the country through a national control authority constituted by law. Regional collaboration will facilitate this task. The Working Group noted that some of the NIS and Baltic countries are becoming independent in vaccine supply. Countries most in need are still dependent on donor support, however, and this will be facilitated by a national interagency immunization coordinating committee. The Group recommended that the implementation of WHO/UNICEF policy on the safety of injections should be considered by all countries, through a set of practical measures, in order to prevent adverse events following immunization.

#### **Additional products**

In addition to this summary, a report on the meeting is available in English. German and Russian versions will appear in spring 1998.

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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**

- VACCINES – standards
- QUALITY CONTROL
- IMMUNIZATION PROGRAMS
- COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES
- BALTIC STATES

**Editorial Meeting for the Finalization of the Document  
"Cyanobacteria, their Toxins, Water and Health"**  
Bad Elster, Germany, 10–15 November 1997

A process of rolling revision of the WHO Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality was begun in 1995, and is to include aspects of risk management as well as risk assessment. The manuscript in preparation, which will contribute to this process, has been retitled *Toxic Cyanobacteria in water: a guide to public health significance, monitoring and management* and is to be produced as a book. A group of 21 experts met at the Research Department of the Institute for Water, Soil and Air Hygiene in Bad Elster, a WHO collaborating centre for research on drinking-water hygiene, and made detailed recommendations on the content and format of the book and on its publication. The programme of work adopted at the meeting will lead to publication by the end of 1998.

**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 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**

- DRINKING-WATER – standards
- WATER QUALITY
- CYANOBACTERIA
- GUIDELINES
- PUBLISHING