Public health is a broad field that touches several different medical disciplines such as epidemiology, public health informatics, health statistics, environmental protection (ecology), sociology, health promotion, disease prevention and organization of health care for nosological groups of the population. In Europe and the world today is developed a fairly extensive network of scientific and professional institutions engaged in research projects, studies, organization of scientific conferences and publishing scientific and professional articles from the field of public health. Their goal is to promote scientific advances in the field of public health through the exchange of experiences of public-health professionals, training, demonstration of appropriate research models, simulation and application in medical practice.

Key words: Public health, WHA, EUPHA, Public health projects.

1. INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE AND TRAINING

International exchange and training in the field of public health is organized by the World and European Association of Public Health and their working groups established during the past 20 years since these associations exist. Formation of these working groups followed a stream of demand for their content depending on the acute public-health problems (1). Most of them are focused on diseases and conditions that are widespread in the field of public health, such as cardiovascular diseases, malignant diseases, AIDS, mental health or other contemporary illness.

The schools of public health are founded within these working groups based in some European cities and within their university centers. Generally, the content of these workshops cover (1, 2, 3):

- Analysis of public health and management;
- Monitoring and control of work in the field of public health;
- Public health aspects of medical information and their international comparability;
- Rapid response and action plans;
- Exploration of the most important parameters for the current public health problems.

Within this are implemented appropriate studies in the field of public health and made strategies for development of:

- Assistance in decision making;
- Assistance in the development of information and communication technology;
- Presentation of the results at the scientific meetings.

These results and experiences are presented at the annual EUPHA Conference in some of the European cities and are organized on regular basis or as continuous supervision by experts, and program coordinators who are responsible for organizing workshops and help their quality organization from distance. EUPHA and WHPA have developed an excellent international network and well designed 24-hours active websites with the possibility of international communication between public health experts and also very respectable journals of which is among the most prominent European Journal of Public Health which is continuously published for 15 years and is indexed in Current Contents, Medline and other databases. Great attention is paid to the promotion of young researchers in the field of public health especially within countries in transition.

2. MONITORING AND CONTROL OF WORK IN THE FIELD OF PUBLIC HEALTH

In this domain international public health through EUPHA WHPA emphasis is focused on the following activities:

- The formulation of appropriate research structures and quality implementation in practice with specific goals and activities for individual countries of the European Union, Southeast Europe and beyond;
- Definition of national structures and policies of public health in the countries of Southeast Europe and the European Union where the emphasis is placed on the development of national strategies and the internal relationships between different health care systems in European countries, also with emphasis on the identification of European mechanisms to enhance cooperation and exchange;
- Collection of basic data from which are made strategic plans and implement public health policy of the projects in the countries of Southeast Europe and the European Union, with application of best practice models;
- Simulations of already implemented and evaluated
research projects with quality scales in European Union and countries in transition;
- Assistance of public health experts from European Union whose practical experiences are approved and confirmed by the World Health Organization and at the national level by experts in public health in countries in transition,
- Assessment of the adequacy and validity of the application of these research projects in the field of public health in the structures of public health organizations, the civil sector in public health in countries in transition and spreading of these results by publication through local media and relevant publications which are available to health planners.

3. PUBLIC HEALTH ASPECTS OF MEDICAL INFORMATION AND THEIR INTERNATIONAL COMPARABILITY

EUPHA and WHPA, both scientific and professional associations are organized with in the broad frame work program of activities with detailed objectives and quality created information system and database in order to:
- Carry out effective preventive public health actions for mass communicable and noncommunicable diseases;
- Organizing the optimal public health system applicable for users of health care at different levels (visible structures, policies and results);
- Assess is the health care policy comparable with the European Union but also within services at the local level;
- Measure the results of the public health sector through the development of registries for specific diseases for their ongoing monitoring (malignant diseases, cardiovascular, etc.)
- Be able to create a policy of health based on evidence and facts, as Cochran cooperation in clinical medicine and relate it to those in the field of public health.

4. THE NEED FOR THE INTERNATIONAL NETWORKING OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTIONS AND HEALTH POLICY MAKERS

Public Health Research is dependent on the political, organizational, structural and financial factors, and they are all part of the application of public health in member countries of the European Union and more recently of the same concept in the Southeastern Europe (very often used model is the Danish one from 1980 which results and experiences are of so high quality and efficient that is used as a model in several countries of the European Union in its policies and development strategies to improve public health and health systems at local and national level). The literature often quotes the experience of public health and very respectable USA Center for Disease Control (CDC). This research Center and its experts were with their models of research in the field of public health example and role model to many countries in Europe to implement similar ones in their practice (1).

5. RESEARCH PROJECTS AND ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS WITHIN THE EUPHA AND WHPA

EUPHA, European Public Health Associations is a non-profit organization founded in 1992 and registered in the Netherlands (http://www.nivel.nl/eupha/). EUPHA objectives are to promote and direct the health research and training in Europe. Besides these their goal is to improve communication between researchers, practitioners and politicians in a field related to public health in Europe. President for 2002-03 was Professor Vivan van Casteren. The founders are the national health care organizations from 22 countries in Europe, and many major research groups were active in the early EU research programs. EUPHA publishes a journal, organize annual international conferences and supports the five sections that work in certain specialized research areas. Besides this it transfers knowledge and development policy onto public health units of the European Committee.

EPHA, European Public Health Alliance, is an association of over 60 volunteer organizations founded in 1994 (www.epoha.org/) and includes a volunteer assistance to research of many diseases, such as the European Link for heart disease, Santa for mental illness, European League for cancer, Evropka Program for the prevention of injuries and infectious diseases. President is Andrew Hayas. It publish every two-months a journal, electronic and personal possibility to exchange information, and provides the scientific and political support to the European Parliament for health. It is funded directly by member states and additionally from the European Committee (2, 3).

ASPHER, Association of Public Health Schools in the European region, it is a non-profit association registered in France (www.ensp.fr/aspher/). ASPHER is mainly independent organization in Europe with a commitment to streamline public health through training of health professionals and researchers. President for 2002-03 was Professor Roza Adany. Established in 1966 ASPHER has more than 60 organizations that are members of the EU and the World Health Organization. Their members are national and regional schools of public health and the faculty departments. This organization provides a formal system between colleagues made to improve the quality of health professionals training, in addition to the annual conferences held. It is financed by member organizations. Authorized by Open social institutions for the development of schools of public health in Central and Eastern Europe as well as to improve the communication relationship between health care professionals.

ENHPA, European community of health promotion agencies represents national health agencies of 21 European countries that are associated with their Ministries of Health (www.EuroHealthNet.org). Formed in 1996 to help promote health priorities of the European Committee. Technical Secretary is in the IUPE/EURO office in the Dutch institution for health promotion and disease prevention. ENHPA is a non-profit network and was founded by the European Committee and the action Ministries of Health. ENHPA recently took a major role in the development of European research on health disparities, and developing adminis-
trative support for national public health researchers, a common exchange policy and research development. We identified 45 clinical studies, in addition to many individual level, such as control of various treatments of patients rather than studies at a population level for the prevention of disease and the organization. It has the support of public health researchers, including research, such as standards of health informations and promitional projects of basic diseases. The national government in addition is supporting the national scientific research organizations and ministries. Annual Meetings of European public health associations have shown constant growth of public health care quality and collaboration between researchers across the Europe and were partly supported by EU funding.

The existing common infrastructure in addition offers a framework for development of public health and applicative research. EUPHA build such cooperation in order to find out how far it can be the exchange of interventions between countries as well as at the national and local level. In order to improve the health of people in Europe, it is necessary to move research from individual level to programs of disease prevention and control. Joint management and exploitation of knowledge—collaboration between researchers, citizens groups and national research management is the key to success in the development of health care in Europe.

6. PROMOTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Most European citizens are living longer and healthier than ever before. Differences in health care are increasing as well as the cost and quality of health services. Historically governments are not interested in the differences, but they are for reduction of the increasing costs of health care.

With the combination of the four categories of health and illness we get the model of modern public health:

- Individual treatment of disease;
- Collective treatment of disease;
- Collective management of health and
- Individual health management.

Public health debates and reforms of health systems are focused on the following issues:

- Access to health services;
- Coordination of care;
- Quality assurance;
- Patients’ rights;
- Ethical aspects of health care;
- Strengthening the coalition building;
- Community Capacity to cope with problems in the community;
- Capacity for Organizational Learning;
- Capacity for certain health organizations that address health problems;
- Quality of program planning;
- Sustainability of the program.

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