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From: Lagle Suurorg [mailto:lagle.suurorg@lastehaigla.ee]

Sent: Friday, July 30, 2004 11:23 AM

To: SANCO REFLECTION HEALTH STRATEGY

Subject: refelection to EU Health Strategy

Dear David Byrne!

I am an pediatrician from Estonia and my experiences are in pediatrics and pediatrics cardiology, including prevention of noncommunicable disease from childhood. Please let me say some words about the document "Enabling Good Health for all" .

The document "Enabling Good Health for all" is very useful and in time. I'd like to express some thoughts concerning the New Strategy.

The fact that today's health care is 90% illness system is right for Estonia too. The knowledge in public health , disease prevention and health promotion have been in agenda from the year 1988 when Estonia joined with WHO independently.

After the getting independence these topics were still as important in health care agenda, but due to scarcity of resources (human and money) was always left behind the acute care. Therefore I was very much interested in these part of your document which discussed about prevention ,lifestyle induced illnesses and the policy on tobacco , obesity etc. Our study on children health risks on the population level were connected with WHO CINDI program and we have data and trends from year 1988.

Unfortunately the most of this trends are negative (especially smokong habit and obesity) . Also the unequality between counties was found.

Talking about prevention it is necessary to talk about health from childhood and act expeditiously. Although the mortality rate has been declined there is still about 15 % of children and adolescents with chronic diseases . The right management of the diseases and the prevention of secondary problems is utmost important. The Task Force on health promotion for children and adolescents was created within the WHO Health Promoting Hospitals Network and the common project with 13 European Hospitals was proposed to EC (the identification code of the proposal No 790636 (Adonis 2004/D/310366 , Main Partner and leader of the project "A Meyer Hospital-Florence, Italy)) . The future of this project is unknown in this time. In my opinion this project was planned as learning together and sharing best practice and at the same time improving the health care chronically ill children and adolescents in many countries.

I am very interested in collaboration between WHO and EU , especially in health promotion from childhood . Talking about noncommunicable disease (cardiovascular diseases, cancer etc) the adult population health have been stressed although evidence is that healthy / unhealthy lifestyle starts from childhood. Therefor , maybe somewhere in the document could be emphasized the strategy and policy on children health development.

I hope that I expressed myself distinctly

Sincerely

Lagle Suurorg PhD

Estonian Institute of Cardiology

Head of Dep for Children's Preventive Cardiology

Member of CINDI Council of Ministry of Social Affairs

Tallinn Children's Hospital

quality manager

Tervise 28

13419 Tallinn

ESTONIA

phone 372 6977303

fax 372 6977143

e-mail.lagle.suurorg@lastehaigla.ee

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