European Public Health Alliance

Technical Interim Implementation Report
01/01/2005 - 31/12/2005

“Building the Public Health Community across Europe”

Contract 2003304
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I. Background information

The project is designed to support the development of an integrated and inter-sectoral health strategy in the EU that is multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary, has strong buy-in and implementation from civil society and is closely linked to other EU policies with impact on health and environment.

It responds to Art 3.2.b, 3.2.d (ii, v) and 3.2.e of the Programme Decision on the importance of networking, consultation and coordination of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) at European level and Annex points 3.1 and 3.3 on health determinants. Furthermore, in relation to the 2003 Work plan, the project addresses the cross-cutting theme of health in the applicant countries Art. 2.1.2.3 (developing the health community) and coordinating policy initiatives on different health determinants Articles 2.4.1 through 2.4.10 with in-depth activities on Art 2.4.7.2 (an integrated approach to health and environment).

The European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) is a platform of more than 100 non-governmental organisations and not-for-profit organisations from 22 European countries, bringing together health professionals, patients, researchers, practitioners, advocates and disease specific groups. 31 EPHA organisations are international networks, with widespread national members. The geographic reach of EPHA and its member organisations is the EU, accession countries, several EFTA, SEE and NIS states. Since its establishment in 1993, EPHA has gained an extensive experience of bringing together the health community to increase effectiveness, develop consensus and share information and expertise.

General objectives

- To raise the profile and importance of public health in EU decision making and policies and to increase capacity and participation at EU level by civil society actors in health.
- To contribute to improved European governance by facilitating dialogue between the EU institutions and health civil society actors.

There are three distinct work packages (WPs) designed to link and coordinate policy initiatives and exchange best practices on health determinants and settings.

Specific objectives

WP1: To identify cross cutting themes common to several health determinants/risk factors; to develop and share (i.e., with grass-roots organisations) appropriate policy responses and models of good practice relevant to a variety of settings, such as schools, workplace etc.

WP2: To increase the Central and Eastern European (CEE) NGOs knowledge of the EU structures and health policies. To develop their capacity to participate in European health networks and projects as well as raising the profile at EU level of CEE health status and specific health challenges. Integration of CEE NGOs into European health networks. Development of national platforms of public health NGOs in accession countries.

WP3: To mobilise a critical mass of NGOs to participate in the Environment and Health process. To stimulate evidence based and effective policy analysis and proposals relevant to EU environmental responsibilities, such as pesticides, chemicals, air quality, noise pollution etc. To orchestrate NGO commitment in support of the
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Children’s Environment and Health Action Plan.

**Partner organisations:**
The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA), United Kingdom
UK Public Health Association (UKPHA), United Kingdom
Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME), Belgium
South Sefton PCT, United Kingdom
Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union (PGEU), Belgium
AIDES, France
Alcohol Concern, United Kingdom
The Royal Society for the Promotion of Health (RSPH), United Kingdom
The European Council for Classical Homeopathy (ECCH), United Kingdom
Faculty of Public Health, United Kingdom
Federation of European Cancer Societies, Belgium
The Netherlands International Centre for Renovation in Care and Welfare (NIZW), the Netherlands
Civic Alliance Latvia (CAL), Latvia.

II. Implementation during 2005

During 2005, implementation continued all three WPs and a number of key milestones and deliverables were met. The activities in WP1 were successfully implemented and major progress was achieved towards the specific and general objectives.

Activities foreseen under WP2 were accelerated. The Civic Alliance Latvia was brought into the project as the regional co-ordinator for the CEE countries of the new Member States. Two new members of staff were recruited at CAL to develop the activities for WP2: Agnese Knabe (full time) and Ilze Murniece (part time). Roxana Radulescu started as project manager in November 2005. After a slow start, the activities under this work package are now picking up momentum.

WP3 was almost entirely implemented in 2004, because of the political pressure of the WHO Budapest Conference on Health and Environment.

Wherever possible, EPHA has sought to provide added value and cost-effectiveness for the Commission’s grant. Additional financial support for the project was received in 2005 from ACTIS, IOGT-NTO (Swedish temperance organisation), West Midlands Local Government, Birmingham Women's Health NHS and the Dutch Ministry of Health via the Dutch institute for Care and Welfare.

Activities have been undertaken with project partners which have enabled delivery of the outputs, sometimes at no cost to the project and DG SANCO other than time of staff members allocated to the project.

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III. WP 1 - Facilitating information exchange and networking among NGOs working on specific health determinants

Lead Partner: EPHA
Partners involved: ROSPA, UKPHA, CPME, South Sefton PCT, PGEU, AIDES, Alcohol Concern, RSPH, ECCH, Faculty of Public Health UK, FECS; NIZW, CAL.

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Output indicators: Networking activities and meetings. Information activities and materials, website.

Description of the work
• issue tracking, monitor of EU legislation, background research to key health topic, identifying health policy impact and opportunities within other EU policies,
• drafting policy briefing notes, policy recommendations, position papers and briefs on key legislation issues
• networking activities to support cross-fertilisation of approaches between health NGOs, consulting with other stakeholders, managing consultations, systematic sharing of expertise
• attending meetings and conferences and prepare reports
• information dissemination via EPHA website and mailing list, Newsletter, publications.

Results to be achieved: Comprehensive framework of information and policy responses from health NGOs on the determinants of health, how they interact, may be mitigated or positive impacts magnified. Contribution towards inter-sectoral approach to health policy at EU level such as social policy, Lisbon agenda, housing, transport, trade.

DELIVERABLES:

1. Web-based information system

EPHA's interactive and user-friendly website www.epha.org provides a rich amount of updated information on health policies and health determinants at EU level. It is a useful information tool for advocacy for health at national and regional level, providing an overview of main policy developments and facilitates information exchange and networking among NGOs working on specific health determinants and the opportunity to establish contacts and set up partnerships. The website has grown in size and importance as a source of information for a wide number of health actors throughout the world. It has an excellent ranking in Google and is one of the sources of Google News in the health domain. During the year 2005, EPHA website received an average of 450,000 hits and 30,000 visits per month.

More than 2,000 articles on general EU health policy are available in the public part of the website. News feeds originating from the EPHA website are used in around 100 websites and intranets worldwide. A special section on the website is dedicated to WP2 and CEE activities. This is regularly updated and includes general news on health and NGO activities written by and for CEE NGOs. The statistics of our website show that we receive about 10% of total visits from visitors based in CEECs.

http://www.epha.org/r/97

More than 200 public comments on specific articles on the website have been answered in 2005, or forwarded to an organisation that can respond to the specific question.

2. Electronic Monthly Newsletters

EPHA’s monthly newsletter features European news from the European Commission, European Parliament, European Council, European Court of Justice and relevant agencies and also includes information on conferences and events in CEEs, and thematic articles with information from the World Health Organisation

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1 This figure does not include visitors whose origin is not clear from the referring IP or URL. We estimate that if we integrate this data, the percentage should be around 30% of total visits from CEEs.
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(WHO), Organisation for the Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and other EU projects funded by DG SANCO, DG Research and DG Employment. These are prepared and sent out to a mailing list of 1,500 NGOs, EU officials, Members of the European Parliament (MEPs), Permanent countries Representations with the EU etc. The Newsletter is sent to 2000 mailing addresses every month and there are free sign-up possibilities via the website http://www.epha.org/r/33

3. Public Health News Magazine

Although a bimonthly magazine was initially foreseen in the project proposal, in November 2004 EPHA signed an agreement with a publication produced by professional journalists – Public Health News Magazine. This is a high standard weekly publication in which EHA provides a monthly page of analysis provides of EU health policy issues. The result is greater readability of EU health policy news and profile of health issues with none of the production costs being borne by DG SANCO. During 2005, approximately 735 000 magazines were printed, 200 000 of which featured stories on EU health policy news.

Distribution is via their automated mailing system as well as via RSS news feeds directly from their website. A mailing list of 500 individuals (EU officials, MEPs, health networks and organisations) nominated by EPHA receive a weekly copy of the magazine.
http://www.publichealthnews.com/

Articles featured in 2005:

February 14:
1. President sets five-year vision
2. guidance on chemical attack published
3. New report highlights health inequalities in Roma communities

March 14:
1. Are we ready for the next flu pandemic?
2. Happy birthday EMEA
3. Diet, physical activity and health in the EU

April 25:
1. New EU health and consumer protection programme
2. Future EU research priorities
3. Wanted: young workers for Europe

May 23:
1. Better regulation doesn't mean no regulation
2. Europe wakes up to reality of climate change
3. Conference towards a smoke-free EU

June 27:
1. Reining in the lobbyists in Brussels
2. Tackling alcohol-related damage in Europe
3. From the science lab to the policy maker

August 22:
1. Huge communication challenge ahead
2. What has the EU ever done for you?
3. Treaty vote sends shockwaves through Brussels
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October 3:
1. EU to study paediatric medicines
2. WHO turns its attention to injury prevention
3. MEPs tone down approach to controversial “sunlight directive”

November 26:
1. Free movement of people, free movement of disease?
2. REACHing consensus on chemical safety

4. Briefing Notes

These documents, drafted by EPHA staff are made available for free download from the EPHA website. They are of particular benefit for EPHA members, NGOs, EU officials and MEPS and other, as they set out a clear overview of the issue, institutional history and the timing of policy development.

http://www.epha.org/r/86

a. Human rights and fundamental rights from an EU perspective (January 2005)
This document explores the differences between human rights and fundamental rights, and highlights the major international and EU legal instruments dealing with these rights.
http://www.epha.org/a/2096

b. Regulation, Self-regulation and Co-regulation (March 2005)
The document provides an overview of the changes in the nature of regulatory activity at the EU level, more specifically of the shift away from legally binding instruments (such as Regulations and Directives laid down by the EU institutions) to alternative regulatory methods, such as co-regulation and self-regulation by the social and economic actors concerned.
http://www.epha.org/a/1684

The note received 15 comments from website visitors, EPHA posted a note to all feed-back.
http://www.epha.org/a/980

d. Cohesion policy and Structural funds (July 2005)
This document provides an overview of the policies designed to reduce disparities across the Union and to promote greater, economic, social and territorial cohesion. It also explains the reform of cohesion policy envisaged for 2007-2013.
http://www.epha.org/a/1885

e. Influenza (August 2005)
The document outlines the current issues of concern regarding the danger of a pandemic influenza presenting Frequently Asked Questions on influenza and giving further explanations about the flu virus, pandemic flu and avian flu.
http://www.epha.org/a/1877
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The briefing note sets out the key framework and mechanisms proposed by the Commission and indicates some areas for improvement as the programme goes through the co-decision process in the European Parliament and in the Council. This was accompanied by a position paper and suggested amendments to the Programme.
http://www.epha.org/a/1913

5. Other key articles, position papers, overviews

EU Policy Overview: a glossary of terms
http://www.epha.org/a/2012

EU Policy Overview: the co-decision procedure
http://www.epha.org/a/2018

Article on the EU budget with an analysis of the consequences of the financial agreement on the Health programme (March 2005).
http://www.epha.org/a/1764?var_recherche=Newsletter+March+2005

Position paper on claims regulation
EPHA has followed the developments in the EP of the Commission's draft Regulation on nutrition and health claims made on foods and has co-written a position paper with Eurocare, EuroCoop, EHN and PGEU: “Destroying the myths and misunderstanding of the claims regulation – A further clarification by health and consumer groups”

Briefing on the European Commission Action Plan for Communication
http://www.epha.org/a/1983

6. Networking and information exchange meetings, supporting cross-fertilisation between networks

Regular open networking and information exchange meetings to increase understanding of EU health policy issues were organised or co-organised by EPHA and project partners in 2005.

EPHA co-organised this conference, which addressed key issues facing Europe’s children and young people in Europe, such as child focus local services, inequalities, early years, children's environment and health, child consumers, and health and young people of teenagers and young people. This was an associated event of the UK Presidency and hosted by the Committee of the Regions. The event was attended by 250 participants which include more than 70 youth delegates (15-25 years old). In particular, there were youth delegates from Russia, Latvia, Poland, Slovenia and Armenia. The Plenary event featured speakers from Poland and Hungary and six thematic workshops addressed issues facing the new Member States. EPHA facilitated access from people from CEE to the conference, ensured they had the space to express themselves and ensured that funding was
provided from UK regions to pay for travel and accommodation of the CEE youth delegates. The EPHA CEE Regional co-ordinator attended the conference and reported back to the CEE NGO contacts.

http://children.epha.org/

Workshop “The Right to health and the right access to health care” at the Social Platform Conference on Fundamental Rights (12 October 2005)

This interactive workshop explored the fundamental right to health and the right of access to healthcare and drew conclusions for a rights-based approach to EU social policies. The speakers outlined the legal background of treaties, courts and judgements and brought testimonies from marginalised communities about the difficulties experienced in trying to exercise the right to health and healthcare. A panel of health care professionals and health agencies outlined how the health system how they can support the right to health. The debate identified recommendations for the way that EU social policies can be constructed to ensure that all people in Europe enjoy the same rights to health. Although all European countries have universal healthcare systems and social welfare policies, significant health inequalities exist within countries and across the Union. There are strong links between socio-economic status, poverty and health. Groups that are socially excluded suffer poor health and have difficulty accessing health promotion and curative services.

http://www.epha.org/a/1845?var_recherche=Social+platform+right+to+health/

Working groups on specific health determinants; Policy co-ordination meetings

EPHA has set up five Working Groups with EPHA members in order to facilitate information and networking among NGOs working on specific health determinants and issues of interest: alcohol, food and nutrition, environment and health, pharmaceuticals, health care. For each working group a mailing list was set up which allows EPHA members from various EU Member States to share information, consult each other, set up partnerships and provide common policy responses. All EPHA members are also invited to the monthly Policy Co-ordination Meetings (PCM) that take place in Brussels and where the Secretariat briefs the members on latest policy developments, there is opportunity for networking and information exchange (8 meetings in 2005). Meetings are mostly attended by Brussels-based members, with participation also from organisations based in Paris, Amsterdam and London.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PCM</th>
<th>Key issues discussed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19 January</td>
<td>Services directive, Regulation on Health and Nutrition Claims made on Foods, Structural Funds, EC Public Health Programme, New Neighbourhood Instruments, EU Health Portal, European Centre for Disease Control.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 March</td>
<td>Services Directive, Food and Nutrition, Communicable diseases (with emphasis on influenza), Capacity building for Health NGOs in New EU Member States (SANCO supported project - WP2), Environment and Health, EU health Strategy, SG SANCO Work Plan for 2005, Patient mobility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 April</td>
<td>Update on Services Directive, Food and Nutrition, Communicable Diseases (Influenza), Financial Perspectives and new Health and Consumer Programme, Health and Consumer Intergroup, Green paper on demographic change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 May</td>
<td>Working time directive, Services directive, Paediatric medicines, Food and nutrition, Health and Consumer Intergroup, New EU Health and Consumer Programme</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Key issues discussed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13 July</td>
<td>Health and Consumer Intergroup, New EU Health and Consumer Programme, Health Council Key Priorities, EC Green Paper on Influenza,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 October</td>
<td>Health and Consumer Intergroup, EU Health and Consumer Programme, Avian Influenza, EC Green Paper on Mental Health, Open Health Forum, EFSA Stakeholders Platform</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Participation in the EU Health Policy Forum - EPHA and a number of EPHA members were involved in the drafting process of the recommendations on health services and the internal market (March), [http://www.epha.org/a/1828](http://www.epha.org/a/1828)

Participation in the European Platform on Diet, Physical Activity and Health plenary meetings and working groups [http://www.epha.org/r/80](http://www.epha.org/r/80)


Intergroup on Health and Consumers within the European Parliament
Coordinated efforts with a Bureau of European Union Consumers (BEUC) were held to create an Intergroup on Health and Consumers in the European Parliament. EPHA and BEUC are acting as the Secretariat of this Intergroup. During 2005, EPHA organised five Intergroup events, held in Strasbourg or Brussels: two meetings on the Health and Consumer Programme; Seventh Research Framework Programme (FP7); Green Paper on Mental Health and on advertising of unhealthy food to children. There was good participation from MEPs from Poland, Slovenia, Lithuania, Latvia, Slovakia, Hungary, Czech Republic and Estonia, with whom EPHA is strengthening its collaboration. Reports of the meetings were sent out to health NGOs, including those from CEECs. [http://intergroup.epha.org/](http://intergroup.epha.org/)

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7. Presentations

In 2005, about 20 presentations were made on public health issues to a range of audiences. Whenever a formal PowerPoint presentation is prepared, this is uploaded onto the EPHA website for public download. This enabled a much wider range of people to benefit from the material developed. There have been more than 400 unique visitors to some of the presentations on the website. The material provided – presentations, briefing notes etc – are heavily used by people looking for information about EU health policies and programmes. As an indicative statistic, in March 2005 3750 documents (PDF, DOC and PPT) were downloaded by website users from the EU, US, Canada, Japan, Australia, Switzerland and India.

- Presentation on lobbying, the role of NGOs and communication strategies [http://www.epha.org/a/1995]
- Introduction to EU and health [http://www.epha.org/a/1309]
- Presentation on health and the internal market [http://www.epha.org/a/1409]
- What does Europe mean to our health? [http://www.epha.org/a/879]
- Health and EU [http://www.epha.org/a/686]
- The role of the EU in health [http://www.epha.org/a/416]
- Training on advocacy skills for patient organisations with members in CEECs
- Presentation on using communication to reduce health inequalities, [http://www.epha.org/a/2030]
- Presentation to the participants of the 2005 Network Meeting organised by the European Network for Smoking Prevention (ENSP) (April 2005) on tobacco control policies in CEECs, [http://www.epha.org/a/1775]
- Presentations to a group of Slovenian NGOs on work and cooperation with other NGOs (September 2005) [http://www.epha.org/IMG/ppt/Presentation_EPHA_AH_20050923.ppt]
- Presentation about Lobbying, the role of NGOs and communication strategies at a Training Course on the European Internal Market and the Health Sector, which took place in Sofia, Bulgaria, from 26-30 October 2005. [http://www.epha.org/a/2054]

8. Awareness raising in media

On a number of issues including tobacco legislation, food and nutrition and the EU approach to health, EPHA has provided background material for the media and specific quotes. Following the publication of an article on Avian Flu on the Dow Jones news wire, a number of CEE media requested information. In particular, the Ukrainian daily newspaper Delo, contacted EPHA several times to find out information about EU chemicals legislation and food legislation and how this would affect the market in the Ukraine.

A few examples:
- European Voice: “Another health scare, another fine line to tread for the commission” (26/10/2005)
- El Pais: “Bruselas da prioridad a la información a pacientes en su política farmacéutica” (16/11/2005)
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- Parliament Magazine: “Consuming the right medicine” (3/12/2005)
- European Voice: “Weighing up options for a slimmer Union” (7/12/2005)
- EurActiv, EU News, Policy Positions & EU Actors online: “Council strict on 'low fat' and 'sugar-free' claims” (9/12/2005)
- European Community of Consumer Cooperatives: “Health and nutrition claims on food: EU Health Ministers support nutrient profiles for foods” (9/12/2005)

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IV. WP 2 – Building capacity of CEE NGOs to participate in EU level health activities

Lead Partner: EPHA
Partner involved: Civil Alliance Latvia (CAL), the Netherlands Institute for Care and Welfare (NIZW)

Description of work
Mapping exercise of health NGOs in CEE countries, analysis of the key areas of activity and support for the development of national platforms for public health. This will include training, capacity building, information services and networking support.

Results to be achieved
- Greater integration of CEE NGOs in European health networks and strengthened capacity of CEE NGOs
- Closer cooperation and collaboration among health actors at national level in CEE countries through functioning public health platforms.

Background information
In 2004, the situation for civil society organisations in the new Member States was particularly fluid. After the enlargement, there was a process of re-adjustment for NGOs and national authorities as a number of new consultation mechanisms were developed and certain international funding ended. There are a large number of health related NGOs in the new Member States but they tend to be small, under resourced and tightly focussed on a specific disease or issue. While in some countries, the movement of health NGOs is strong and collaborative, in others, cooperation has proved to be fragmentary and hampered by competition for resources and visibility.

Although many NGOs expressed the need for support and training in acquiring the basic skills to develop and run a public health platform, for EPHA it was difficult to single out one health NGO to provide leadership in the creation of national platforms for health. In addition, their capacity to act as official partners in an EU project was limited because of their lack of experience with administrative requirements. This led to a delay in the implementation of this WP 2 as EPHA sought other solutions.

By 2005, a workable mechanism emerged. The use of well-established civil society foundations as a neutral convenor of the health community enabled the creation of a national platform in Slovenia. Furthermore, the Civic Alliance Latvia was brought into the project as the regional co-ordinator for the CEE countries of the new
Member States. The Civic Alliance Latvia is part of an active CEE network of civil society platforms and has extensive experience in managing dialogue and consultation processes. Two new members of staff have now been recruited at Civic Alliance Latvia to develop the activities for WP2. Agnese Knabe and Ilze Murniece. The CEE team focuses on identifying health organisations in the CEE region, providing information and supporting networking between NGOs at national level. A call for proposals was launched in December 2005 to offer micro-grants for relevant activities on public health in CEECs. After a slow start, the activities under this work package are now picking up momentum

DELIVERABLES:

1. Stakeholders mapping in CEE

A mailing list of NGOs, ministries of health and health organisations in CEEs was developed and consolidated. The mailing list is regularly updated and includes over 1,300 addresses in the ten new EU member States, in Southern and Eastern Europe (SEE) and in the Newly Independent States (NIS). An on-line questionnaire was sent to the CEE NGOs mailing list in order to identify their areas of specialisation and activities. NGOs were invited to fill in the questionnaire and register on-line for the NGO database. This mailing list has been used as the main communication channel with our CEE contacts, members of the list have received specific information on activities in CEEs and EPHA’s newsletter.

2. Directory of Health NGOs

The results of the questionnaire were developed into an on-line directory of NGOs, with a clickable map entry page and multi-user function to post and update data. The directory supports networking by providing visibility of local NGOs to wider EU health networks and assists in partner search for the preparation of future project proposals. More than 180 organisations have registered from 14 CEECs and the Directory is widely used by website visitors. The directory had an average of 1100 visits and 29000 hits for the period March-December 2005. It was not online before March 2005.

http://ngo.epha.org

3. National platforms of public health NGOs

In terms of fostering the development of national platforms for public health, a lesson learned early in the project is that a health NGO is not necessarily the ideal local coordinator because they are often not perceived to have the neutrality and ability to organise a new platform that would meet the diverse needs and interests of other NGOs. Instead positive working relationships were developed with general civil society development foundations or organisations (Slovenia, Latvia, Poland, Hungary), whose ability to facilitate rather than compete with health NGOs in setting policy priorities has proved to be useful. Furthermore, it became clear that support would be needed on the basic principles of developing and running a public health platform. Following the Slovenian capacity building workshop, a new public Health platform was officially registered in February 2005 and is now up and running.

4. Capacity building seminars in CEE countries

An initial 2-day training workshop for NGOs and health organisations in Slovenia was held on 24-25 January 2005, in Ljubljana in collaboration with CNVOS, the Slovenian NGO Development Centre and EPHA Environment Network. The goal was to foster the development of a national platform of NGOs that will support networking at national level and provide greater integration of Slovenian structures into European networks and
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activities. Expert facilitators delivered training modules on the EU and concepts of public health. The content of the training was based on four modules: public health as a broad concept, the role and functioning of a public health platform, EU policies on health and media training for NGOs. There were also interactive exercises to develop a mission statement, membership criteria and a work plan for the new health platform. 50 people participated including representatives of the Ministry of Health and of the WHO. As a result a new platform was officially registered in February 2005 and is now up and running.

http://www.epha.org/a/1637

A seminar organised by EPHA on capacity building for NGOs in New Member States took place in Bratislava, Slovakia, from 24 to 27 November 2005. This seminar was organised with the Netherlands Institute for Welfare (NIZW, an EPHA member). Among the 26 participants, there were NGOs from Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland and Romania who shared experiences in networking and participation in decision-making processes at EU level. The event covered topics such as public-private partnerships, NGO definition from an EU perspective, EU public health policy, the EU directive on services, global developments and the role of NGOs.

http://www.epha.org/a/2054

5. Manual on public health platforms

A manual was prepared on how to establish and run a public health NGO platform, specifically targeted at CEECs. Issues covered include developing a mission statement, membership criteria and benefits, fundraising and sustainability issues (including EU funding opportunities). This was road-tested in Slovenia and fine-tuned before being translated into several CEE languages (Slovenian, Polish, Latvian, Hungarian, Czech, Estonian, Lithuanian) and disseminated through the CEE mailing list. The manual will be accompanied by a country specific annex with health statistics and information as the manual is used for capacity building seminars in each country. In 2005, the country specific Annex was prepared only for the Latvian manual.

http://www.epha.org/a/2082?var_recherche=+manual

EPHA ran a workshop on "The benefits of EU networking" during a training session for national NGOs organised on 19 March 2005 in Zadar, Croatia, by the National Foundation for Civil Society Development and the European Citizens Action Service (ECAS). More than 30 attendees from national NGOs were present during the workshop.

http://www.epha.org/IMG/ppt/zadar_20050319-2.ppt

6. Revision of training materials and roll-out of seminars to other CEE

A mission to Latvia was organised from 25-26 November 2004 to discuss with local NGOs how to support a new Latvian NGO health platform set up to address reproductive health. EPHA’s CEE Project Coordinator participated in the EPHA Environment Network capacity-building seminar in Sofia (Bulgaria) in December 2005.

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V. WP3 – Developing an effective platform of environment and health organisations

Leader: EPHA
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Description of work
- Awareness raising in the health community of environmental legislation and initiatives in partnership with project partners and in collaboration with EEN.
- Capacity building and networking to increase visibility of health issues within environment policy debate.

Results to be achieved
Active involvement in the EU Environment and Health process (SCALE) by health organisations, ongoing interest among health actors of environment policy and legislation.

DELIVERABLES:

A brand new guide to help non-governmental organisations and other health communicators become more active and effective in their relations with the media was launched in August 2005 by EPHA and EEN (EPHA Environment Network). This pocket-sized 98-page guide is a joint publication of World Health Communication Associates, the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA), EEN and The Media Wise Trust. The guide can be downloaded from EPHA public website and is available in 5 languages (English, French, German, Russian and Spanish). About 600 printed copies in English were distributed by EPHA and EEN to various NGOs across Europe. [http://www.epha.org/a/1868](http://www.epha.org/a/1868)

2. Overview of EU policy priorities in health and environment (also part of WP1)
An overview of EU policy priorities in health was prepared with an explanation of the key EU mechanisms (legislative and non-legislative). A short guide to the EU and health was drafted to explain the institutional landscape and policy development process. EPHA listed all ongoing and forthcoming EU legislation and initiatives on health with information about which officials or departments are responsible and timing for policy input. This has been regularly updated on a weekly or fortnightly basis. [http://www.epha.org/IMG/pdf/EU_work_programme_2005-06.pdf](http://www.epha.org/IMG/pdf/EU_work_programme_2005-06.pdf)

3. Publicising opportunities for input into EU policy-making
- Consultation on a future strategy for nanotechnology, article visited 870 times ([http://www.epha.org/a/1401](http://www.epha.org/a/1401))
- Input into the Commission's Communication for integrated product policy, article visited 565 times ([http://www.epha.org/a/1347](http://www.epha.org/a/1347))
- EU guide to green procurement, 564 visits, ([http://www.epha.org/a/1400](http://www.epha.org/a/1400))
- Commission consultation on air quality, 366 visits ([http://www.epha.org/a/1594](http://www.epha.org/a/1594))
- Regular information activities (newsflashes, briefing notes) on the links between chemicals and health (REACH) - [http://www.epha.org/r/30](http://www.epha.org/r/30)
- Joint activities with environment NGOs (press conference with Greenpeace on chemicals in house dust, publicising results of bio monitoring of MEPs, Health Ministers).
- Information meetings with MEPs at the European Parliament, research and dissemination of scientific evidence on the links between chemicals and health.
“Building the public health community in Europe” project activities in 2005

4. Environment and health primer

The document is in the review stage and will be published in 2006.

N.B. Minutes and reports of the meetings and capacity building seminars mentioned above, copies of the media press articles any relevant information to the implementation of activities are available at EPHA secretariat. Please, do not hesitate to contact Roxana Radulescu at roxana@epha.org, tel. +32 2 233 38 73 for further information.
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