WP-Task force „Road Safety“: Proposal for a memorandum

„Role of the Public Health Sector in Road Transport Injury Prevention“

Rupert Kisser
Institut „Sicher Leben“, Austria
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Objectives and Restrictions

Objectives:

● Define problem areas, summarize existing policies, draft recommendations for contributions of the public health sector on national and community level

Restrictions:

● No resources to work on more detailed project level
Injury background

- About 42,000 killed each year in the EU-15
- Approx. 1.300.000 road transport accidents with personal harm each year (EU-15)
- Every third European get injured at least once in his life in a road transport accident
- Killer Nr. 1 in age group 14-25
- Direct health cost about €160 billion
- etc.
Main areas of action

- Transport policy and planning
- Legislation and enforcement
- Urban and regional planning
- Road construction and guiding
- Vehicle safety and telematics
- Education, training and licencing
- Public Health
Policy Background

- DG Tren: European traffic policy till 2010 (2001)
- DG Sanco: Public Health programme
Draft problem statement

- Focus on motor vehicle crashes, no comprehensive road injury register on national and community level
- Lack of knowledge on external causes and injury consequences (compared to Euro-Injury Database)
- Poor registration of causes (e.g. inappropriate speed) for research and development of prevention strategies
- Need for better indicators to control the outcome of interventions
- Weak role of the public health sector
Fields of action for the public health sector

- Injury Surveillance
- Research
- Prevention and control
- Evaluation
- Health Policy
- Services
- Advocacy
Some possible public health contributions on national level

- Comprehensive road transport injury monitoring
- Using population based risk and its development for advocacy and evaluation
- Inventory and standardisation of good national practices (support to regions and communities)
- Inclusion in health promotion programmes
- Inclusion in delivery contracts with universities
- Improvement of health services for the licencing
Some possible public health contributions on community level

- Improvement of road transport injury monitoring (e.g. by Euro-IDB)
- Using population based risk and its development for advocacy and evaluation (e.g. risk for disability)
- Inventory and standardisation of good national policies and programmes (support to member states)
- Inclusion in health promotion programme
- Inclusion of public health recommendations in traffic safety policy papers
- Comparison and analysis of national indicators (benchmarking)
Proposed time frame

- **Start:** April WP meeting 2004
- **Draft concept:** July 2004, drafting committee
- **Comments:** August, entire task force
- **Draft report:** September, drafting committee
- **Comments:** October, entire task force
- **Revised report:** December WP meeting 2004
Contact

rupert.kisser@sicherleben.at
epedrid@med.uoa.gr
bfm@si-folkesundhed.dk