



Mental Health Project for south-eastern Europe

South-Eastern Europe Health Network

Content of a Presentation

- Political and mental health context
- Project achievements
- A model for long-term regional collaboration

Political context

- Economic crisis during the twilight years of communism late 1980s and in 1990s, a painful period of transition to market economy. Political crisis in the countries of former Yugoslavia led to wars which brought further economic collapse, poverty, loss and displacement .

Mental Health Context

- Due to cumulative impact of the stressors population suffered from severe stress depression, higher level of suicide rate, alcohol and substance abuse. Mental health has become important and visible component of public health.

International response

- Stability Pact for SEE was established
- WHO adopted a new strategy for work
- Health Development Action plan for Region in 2001 was launched

Mental Health Project

- In 2002 mental health project started its implementation.
- Project's goal was to firmly establish the community mental health services as the cornerstone of mental health reform in south-eastern Europe.

Project Components:

- Component One:
Mental Health Policy and Legislation
- Component Two :
Establishment of Community Mental Health Centers as the best practice model.
- Component Three :
Training of mental health professionals

Achievements

- Mental Health has become an undisputed priority on the agenda of health ministries
- The SEE ministries of health committed to reform their old psychiatric care, as overall health system reform.

Achievements

- New mental health policy and action plan are put in place .
- Legislation has been adopted or adjusted



Achievements

- Ten community mental health centers were established, and are available to approximately 1.000.000 people .
The Centers serve as the best practise model offering an alternative to hospitalization



Achievements

- Training of mental health professionals is the most important issue for sustainability of mental health reform
- Pool of experts were created (more than 70 international and national experts) and about 300 were trained during 2006-2008

Regional cooperation

- Regional cooperation is the most added value of the Project
- Project served as tool for peace building and reconciliation
- The Project is for the people and by the people
- Regional ownership sustainable

Regional programme

- Long-term commitments of the governments to support their mental health systems
- Regional Development Centre to be established to continue reform process in the SEE

Partners in 2002-2008



Neighbours & donors

WHO

SP/ICS

Partner Organizations

CEB

CE

SEE countries





Thank you

Project web site:
www.seemhp.ba

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