Report on Workshop D – Safe and Secure Everyday Life

_Moderator: Ms Gabriele Kötschau, CBSS, +/- 20 participants._

Summary
While the three topics covered, communicable diseases, accident prevention and racism, xenophobia and intolerance, would seem to have little in common, and in fact were discussed quite separately, the conclusions for each were remarkably similar.

1. identify priorities;
2. establish a surveillance or data gathering system;
3. develop pilot or demonstration actions;
4. maintain a network for dissemination of best practice and updated information.

**Diseases: Professor Karl Ekdahl, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control**

Four threats are identified at a European level: HIV/AIDS, anti-microbial resistance; tuberculosis; vaccine preventable diseases. Of these, anti-microbial resistance, primarily from overuse of antibiotics, is much less severe in the Baltic Sea Region than elsewhere in the EU, and vaccine preventable diseases are not widespread in the Region either. So priorities for the region should be HIV/AIDS and TB, both of which show very stark disparities between Eastern and Western Baltic region, or to put it another way between former Soviet regions and the former West (Poland is somewhat in an intermediate position). Recommendations are:

- expand EPI-North and ensure funding of non-EU contributors;
- develop a high level strategy for risk management (ECDC is focused on risk assessment; management is currently handled by Commission and national authorities in an ad hoc manner)
- model the regional dynamics of threats from extra-regional diseases
- improve sharing of work.

In addition Professor Ekdahl made a plea for a more programme-based financing system.

**Accident and Injury Prevention: Robert Ekmann, WHO Safe Community Network etc.**

Mr Ekmann underlined that while injuries from traffic and occupational accidents were still too high the priority should be on accidents in the home, especially concerning the elderly, and self-harm incidents. Many studies show the rapid returns available from effective prevention activity, especially community based. The discussion covered all these points but with less emphasis on self-harm. Key recommendations are:

- focus on injuries caused by accidents to the elderly and by self-harm;
- improve data collection to same level as already achieved with transport and occupational accidents so that causes can be studied statistically;
select and support development areas for pilot projects;
develop national and regional networks to spread best practice;

It was pointed out that while road transport accidents were on a long-term downward trend there was still much to be done in the newer Member States to enable them to become as safe as the older.

Fight against Racism, Xenophobia and Intolerance: Ms Johanna Suupää, Anti-racism Ombudsman for Finland

Ms Suupää explained the purpose of her Office, focused on racial and ethnic discrimination, able to receive individual complaints and now entering the area of human trafficking. She set her work in the context of the UN Convention on Ethnic and Racial Discrimination (CERD) and suggested that this together with EU Directives meant that there is no need for a specific Baltic standard on the topic.

Areas of concern affecting more than one country in the region include internet-based racial incitement, access of non-citizens to basic rights in the labour market, health and education, absence of a legal definition of racial discrimination (notwithstanding the definition provided by CERD), inadequate monitoring of racial incidents (although the Vienna Agency is now doing useful work so far as EU Member States are concerned) and finally, issues concerning the Roma communities.

Recommendations include:

- focus on internet-disseminated hate speech and incitement to violence;
- improve and systematize monitoring at national level;
- develop a regional clearing house for sharing information (doesn’t need to be a stand-alone institution)
- extend or unite bodies concerned with all types of discrimination (gender, age etc.)