

CROATIA REPORT

by Selma Sogoric, national network coordinator

For this occasion I will mention just four most significant developments within the Croatian Healthy Cities Network during the last 12 months.

Firstly, Croatian Healthy Cities network membership significantly enlarged - nine counties applied for, and were granted full Network membership (Dubrovnik-Neretva, Istria, Varazdin, Krapina-Zagorje, Vukovar-Srijem, Promorsko-Goranska, Zagreb, Sisak-Moslavina, and Virovitica-Podravina).

Secondly, apart from regular annual activities (as are Health Fair, Motovun Summer School and Autumn Business Meeting) many thematic gatherings took place, too. Particular attention has been given to the work of following groups: Unemployment and Health (Network Business Meeting in Split, October 2004), Family and Health (Motovun, July 2004), Healthy Urban Planning (Motovun, July 2004 and July 2005), Elderly Quality of Life (Samobor, March 2004, Vinkovci, April 2005, Motovun, July 2005), The Media and Health (Motovun, July 2004 and July 2005), Social marketing (or how to promote the topic of health in political campaigns, Tuheljske Toplice, February 2005), Democracy Schools - Youth Councils (Labin, July 2004 and July 2005), and Quality Improvement in the Health Care System (Uvala Scott, May 2004, Motovun, July 2005). The results of their work have been presented in Motovun Gazettes, and Reports of the Croatian Healthy Cities Network (www.zdravi-gradovi.com.hr).

Thirdly, from March 2004 Croatian HC Network coordinates activities of the (counties and cities joint) project entitled "Creating Preconditions - Human and Organisational Infrastructure - for improving Elderly Care Services provision in Croatian Counties". Through the project counties are provided with assistance in order to develop comprehensive elderly care policy at the local level. County project teams got training in qualitative analytical approach in elderly health and social needs assessment (sampling, data collection, analysis and interpretation), evaluation of adequacy of existing services, and comparison of identified needs with existing services (unmet needs, lack of services, overlapping). Another part of activities of this same project is dedicated to bring improvements into already existing services for elderly. For that purpose a selected group of local and county trainers would be provided with basic knowledge and skills aimed at improving communication with and understanding of the elderly.

And fourth, our most recent activity is creation of a new Croatian Healthy Cities Network Journal - "The Epoch of Health". In April 2005 we issued (a 10.000 copies of) the first number of "The Epoch of Health" (committed to the issue of the Politics and Health). This number is bringing a numerous case studies presenting what can be (and was) done in (Croatian) cities and counties that have adequate political commitment. The second issue, published in July was devoted to the topic of Democracy and Health presenting achievements of the Democracy Schools – Youth Councils projects.

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