



Hrvatska mreža "Zdravih gradova"

## Croatian Healthy Cities Network

D.Sc. Selma Šogorić, National Coordinator  
Croatian Healthy Cities Network

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### ***Report on the Activities of the Croatian Healthy Cities Network in 2011***

According to my estimate, the most significant achievement in 2011 has been the design of Network strategy. We know who we are, where we are going, and what we have to do to get there. That is the reflection of our maturity! We have done a research on the needs of Network members, the results of which have been integrated into the Development Strategy of the Croatian Healthy Cities Network 2012-2014, and the Agenda of the Presiding Committee. The agreed activities set about a new cycle of change aimed at upgrading the quality of Network activities to a higher degree of excellence. In the time of overwhelming lethargy and cynism, the Network has shown how much it knew, what it wanted and could do better.

#### *1. National Level*

##### ***a) Network and Support Centre Activities***

In 2011, there haven't been any major changes in the work of the Network support centre. The place of work remained the same ('Andrija Štampar' School of Public Health), and so did the cooperators – the administrative secretary, the journalist, the translator, support staff, consultants, book-keeping service, and web designers.

In 2011, ***two Reporting Assemblies of the Croatian Healthy Cities Network*** have been held. The first was held in Zagreb, on February 15, and the second in Rab, during the Network Business Meeting, on October 22. At the second Reporting Assembly, the Development Strategy of the Croatian Healthy Cities Network 2010-2014, and the Agenda of the Presiding Committee were presented, discussed, and adopted.

***b) Regular annual Network activities*** bring together and connect cities and counties which are Network members, facilitate the sharing of experiences, knowledge, ideas and activities, enhance cooperation and enable education and the giving (and the taking) of practical help and support to carry out activities on the local level.

Various regular Network activities have been carried out in 2011: there was Health Fair in Vinkovci in April; the Healthy Cities Day was celebrated on May 20; courses of the 18<sup>th</sup> Motovun Summer School of Health Improvement were held (June-July – Grožnjan, Motovun, Labin, Poreč), and the 16<sup>th</sup> Network Business Meeting organised in Rab in October.

**The 15<sup>th</sup> Health Fair** was held in Vinkovci, April 15-17, on the premises of 'Lenije' Sports and Recreation Centre and the Faculty of Agriculture, once again under the auspices of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare of the Republic of Croatia. The Fair was organised by the City of Vinkovci, Vukovar-Srijem County and the Croatian Healthy Cities Network; this year's partners were Istria County and the Cities of Poreč and Labin. The Fair was traditionally organised in two parts – the one, comprising the fair segment, and the other, educational segment. In the fair part, which proved to be the most interesting for visitors, over 200 exhibitors were presented. In the educational part, two forums, four round tables, 29 workshops, and four professional conferences (evaluated by referral chambers) were held. Also, seven films were shown, there have been a continental tourism fair, bicyclism and biking gear fair, dance performance, sporting events, and a lot more. Various topics were presented targeting different age and professional groups: from oral health in children and pregnant women, the crisis of growing up, single-parent families, searching for work, volunteering, health in forestry, rescue service and emergency organisation, to increasing energetic efficiency, forest management, sanitary control in tourism, and astronomy. Furthermore, the 15<sup>th</sup> Health Fair was very well coordinated and led by our 'first urban planner lady' Mandica Sanković M.S., and attracted a large number of visitors.

**May 20**, the Healthy Cities Day, was celebrated for the 9<sup>th</sup> time through various activities: promotion in the media, press conferences, cultural activities, music, theatre, or art workshops, blood pressure measurement and blood and sugar taking for public, themed meetings of the City Councils or Youth City Councils, promotion of City Health Plans, and reception at the Mayor's office for outstanding volunteers.

As part of **the 18<sup>th</sup> Motovun Summer School of Health Improvement**, which took place from 23 June to 9 July in Grožnjan, Motovun, Poreč, and Labin, 9 workshops and courses were held for over 350 participants from Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Hungary, Norway, and Italy.

The first course of the Motovun Summer School of Health Improvement was held from May 23 to 26 in Grožnjan. It was a Media and Health course entitled 'Public and Private Health Care'. The course was organised jointly by 'Andrija Štampar' School of Public Health, Croatian Journalists' Association – department of journalists covering medicine and health care and the 'Difrakcija' Association. It was led by Mario Harapin, M.D., from Croatian Radio, Ognjen Brborović, M.D., and Tea Vukušić-Rukavina, D.Sc. from 'Andrija Štampar' School of Public Health. This year's course addressed the relation between public and private health care; given the fact that there were some one hundred participants, it was the best-attended course so far. Mixing private and public health care is the topic which came in the limelight due to the press reports on funds being transferred from public into private sector. The course brought together representatives of all parties involved in spending health funds; key people in the system gave presentations, and the participants discussed the future of public and private systems, their stability and sustainability. All parties mostly advocated the same thesis, that public funds should not be channelled into private health providers; however, a model of funding should be put in place for the state to be able to ensure quality and accessible health care, providing additional quality through private sector. Major political parties were invited to participate in the course and present their health programs. Only

four parties accepted the invitation – SDP /Social Democratic Party/, IDS /Democratic Assembly of Istria/, HSS /Croatian Peasant Party/, and Hrvatski Laburisti /Croatian Labour Party/. After having discussed their pre-election health programs, the participants engaged in team work workshop, which was planned in accordance with the topic addressed by the course. The last day of the course was dedicated to basic communication with the media in health: the lecture was followed by a workshop held by Amra Odošić, public relations consultant in health sector.

From July 1 to July 3 the 3rd Motovun Children's Film Camp was held, the participants of which were primary students from Čakovec, Zaprešić, Gunja, Zagreb, and several schools from Istria. Several children's films were shown with the topic of public health. The following films were shown: 'Baka Muholovka' / Granny Fly-Trap/ Čakovec School of Animated Film, cartoon; 'Gunna', Otok Primary School, Zagreb, documentary; 'Ljubitelji Kave' /Coffee Lovers/ Antun and Stjepan Radić Primary School, Gunja and MMC Creative Ideas Studio Gunja-SKIG, reportage; 'Prvakinje' /Champions/, Marija Jurić Zagorka Primary School, Zagreb, ZAG Film Group, documentary; 'Moja Prabaka' /My Great-grandma/, CTK Zaprešić, documentary; and 'Sjaj Rudeške Zvijezde' /Rudeš Star Shine/, Rudeš Primary School, Zagreb, 'Hodači po žici' / Tight Rope Walkers/ Video Group, documentary. The course director was Duško Popović, journalist of the Croatian Healthy Cities Network.

Within the 'Health and Health Policy' block, four programs were held – three workshops and a round table. The program was directed and led by Selma Šogorić D.Sc. and Aleksandar Džakula D.sc of 'Andrija Štampar' School of Public Health of Medical School, University of Zagreb, and Sonja Grozić Živolić, head of County Administrative Department for Health and Social Welfare, Istria County.

On July 4, the following workshop was held in Motovun: Pro-active Approach to Decreasing Inequality in Health – Research on the Need of Single-Parent Families. There were around twenty participants from Poreč, Labin, Pula, Rijeka, Zagreb, Metković, and Virovitica, who represent local self-government, members of city project teams, heads of counselling centres, family centres, and welfare centres, who addressed the topic of identifying single-family needs. First, the participants were introduced and the introductory presentation was given on concepts and research on inequalities in health related to social point of reference of health. Project teams from Poreč and Rijeka presented gathered indicators which define the amount, the importance, and the dynamics of the problem on local level, as well as the existing resources and programs used to address the needs of this vulnerable group. The key issue to be addressed by the workshop and the discussion which followed the introductory presentation was 'Which sources of information can we use (locally) to identify a single-parent family as soon as possible?', and how can the needs be identified. Consequently, the participants were divided into three professional groups which have different information – local self-government, counselling centres, and welfare centres. The final discussion was closed with the agreement that participating cities would gather the existing demographic indicators (trends in the last three censuses – family structure, divorce rate, social and economic indicators, and educational status of single-parent families, employment/unemployment of parents) and send baby bonus forms, kindergarten and school enrolment forms (school health care and school), and the form/description (identity protection guaranteed if necessary) of the assessment by the Social Welfare Centre.

A round table entitled 'Volunteers working with socially vulnerable groups – new possibilities to support organisers and volunteers' was held in Motovun, on July 5. The event gathered around fifty representatives of institutions, social organisations and associations from Istria County. To introduce

the round table, a suggestion made by the Initiative for Volunteering Centre of Istria was presented, as well as the experiences of Zagreb Volunteering Centre, and experiences gathered through examples of local good practice: 'Buzet Retirement Home' and 'Pula Home for Children and Young Adults'. A legal framework for volunteering with vulnerable groups was presented, as well as gains for users of volunteering in social welfare. Next, there was a discussion moderated by Danijela Ustić (Family Centre of Istria County), Initiative for Volunteering Centre of Istria, in which guidelines for work with volunteers in public institutions were adopted.

A workshop entitled 'Health Plans and Health Care Plans – Development and Implementation (where are we now?)' was held in Motovun, from July 5 to 6. The workshop gathered around thirty representatives of county self-government and county Institutes of Public Health of Istria, Primorje and Gorani, Krapina and Zagorje, Zagreb, Požega and Slavonija, Virovitica and Podravina, Dubrovnik and Neretva, and the City of Zagreb. As a means of introduction, consultations with the teams were carried out, and Plans analysed individually. In order for the teams to get to know each other and establish communication, the workshop started at 15.00 with an exercise carried out in small groups. The aim of the exercise was for the groups to show how able they were to recognise and incorporate effectively the existing health resources into Health Plan devising and implementation. The exercise served as an introduction to the presentation of examples of good practice – Health Plan of Istria County. The Plan of Istria County incorporates all achievements (developed by the Healthy County Project) of the County Health Plan into mandatory Plans (health improvement, disease prevention, and health care) provided by Health Care Act. The Plan comprises all obligations (regulated by yet another pieces of legislation) of county government level, and provides clear insight into interrelationship between the institutions it founded and the projects (healthy county) being carried out; furthermore, it enumerates health care measures (both those which are being carried out and the ones which should be strengthened) and funding resources (varied sources, ex, Croatian Health Insurance Institute, government and county budget). The plan provides an excellent basis for health planning (setting development goals, staff and equipment development goals, quality improvement goals), and is a great help to directors, medical profession, Health Council and county politics. After the presentation, county teams shared their experiences in Health Plan creation and implementation. Furthermore, the roles of Health Council, county health team, administrative department of health and social welfare and health providers were analysed in the process of creation and implementation of health plans. On the second day, consultations on the development of health plans continued, and it was agreed that the Network members could access the Plans through web pages.

A workshop entitled 'Healthy Urban Planning' was held in Poreč, on July 6. The participants were representatives of Poreč, Labin, Vinkovci, Pazin, Pula, Metković, and Zagreb. Healthy urban planning is being carefully tackled by European Healthy Cities and the World Health Organisation. It provides a perfect possibility to care for health of community members, which can be realised by bringing together environment protection, careful spacial planning, removing architectural barriers, protecting green areas, using non-allergenic plants, organising user and environment-friendly transport, enabling physical activity and other interventions to support health of all age groups of a urban community. The goal of counselling in Poreč was to bring together professionals of various expertise and roles – physicians, urban planners, representatives of public utilities, politicians and expert teams of local and county government. Poreč presentations and discussions facilitated the sharing of positive experiences of urban planning among Croatian cities and the transferring of the knowledge from medical and other sciences, which can contribute to urban planning with major influence on health. The participants were presented the strategy of Poreč adopted to protect green coastal regions; furthermore, the concept of planning children's playgrounds was presented, which

has positive effect on healthy growth of youngsters in immediate neighbourhood, as well as the model of efficient, fast, and structured implementation of urban planning documents adopted by an excellent example of Vinkovci, which ensures complete efficiency of municipal government, reduces the stress of staff working on this responsible task and citizens in the role of investors, and increases the responsibility in contractors, designers, control staff, and all other participants involved in the construction business.

Within the Health System Program, a workshop entitled 'Intelligence in Health and Strategic Decision Making' was held from July 6 to 8. There were over 60 participants – representatives of health providers, Ministry of Health, Medical and Pharmaceutical Chambers, Croatian Institute of Health Insurance, and computer companies providing products and applications tailored for health system. The goal of the workshop was to explain, discuss and present the complete picture of future computerised health system (e-health!) in Croatia, and to answer the following questions: What should health workers know about the computerisation of health system?; What do computer experts have to tell them?; What should providers and their founders do?; How to make responsible decisions in computerised system? Experiences from the world and Croatia were presented in various forms, as well as problems and challenges encountered in computerisation implementation. For the first time, on behalf of the Ministry of Health, Dražen Jurković, M.Sc., presented the project of e-appointments. The first coordination of representatives of county institutes of public health was held as a special part of the program. The representatives are in charge of computerisation of public health. The workshop was organised jointly by the Croatian Association of Public Health, the School of Public Health, and the Croatian Medical Chamber. All the topics and issues addressed in the workshop will be published in September issue of Croatian Medical Gazette, and in 'Medix', a specialised medical magazine.

The last course of this year's Motovun Summer School was the 14<sup>th</sup> School of Democracy. It was traditionally held in 'Mate Blažina' Secondary School in Labin, from July 7 to 9. Besides the presentations of good practice (activities of city and county youth councils, students' councils), the results of environment awareness survey were presented (examples from Croatia, Norway, Hungary, and Italy), and two workshops held. One of the workshops was entitled 'Human rights and active citizens'; furthermore, a planned game entitled 'Local Self-Government' was organised, in which young people played the roles of city councillors and simulated an assembly of city council of an imagined city. The Norwegian guests presented research carried out by young people active in City Youth Council. Their areas of interest varied from family, school, crime rate, addiction, asocial behaviour of youth, to active inclusion in devising the development strategy of their own town. The course tutors were Čedomir Ružić of 'Mate Blažina' Secondary School, Labin, and Egil Oivind Ovesen from Sandnes, Norway. The course was held under the auspices of the Croatian Healthy Cities Network, Istria County, and Labin. Course participants were around sixty students and teachers from Labin, Rovinj, Rijeka, Nedelišće, Čakovec, and Sandnes (Norway).

***The 16<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting of the Croatian Healthy Cities Network*** was held in Rab (the Padova Hotel) from October 20 to 22. The central topic of the meeting was mental health. The goal was to present national mental health strategy, and the present situation related to its implementation. Furthermore, we wanted to gain insight into the experiences our members have related to mental health (what are they working on?), and define our future interest (what do we want to deal with?, which programs do we want to develop?). Also, local models of good practice (Rab, Primorje-Gorani, and elsewhere in Croatia) were presented – mental health promotion, institutional and non-institutional care of mentally-ill patients, and availability of mental health programs and service in local community. Next, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reporting Assembly of the Network was held, as well as the

meetings of (city) research group addressing the needs of single-parent families and county project teams (Health Plans).

In 2011, no new issues of the *Epoch of Health* have been published. However, *password-protected part of the Network web pages* has been put in place – Healthy City / County, available for *members only*. The users of the protected part of the web are divided into three levels: Presiding Committee, Counties, and Cities (research group – single-parent families). The documents are currently being uploaded, and passwords assigned.

### *c) Program Partnership*

For the first time, program partnership between the Croatian Healthy Cities Network and the counties was regulated by *a cooperation contract*. Each county was free to include details of individual consultations they needed in the contract.

*Joint workshops* were held during Vinkovci Health Fair in April (meeting between counties and the Croatian Emergency Medicine Institute, entitled 'Development and Implementation of New Emergency System in Croatia'); furthermore, they were organised in Zagreb in May (themed conference entitled 'Public Health Practice in Croatia Today' or how to improve cooperation between the Public Health Institute and local self-government); in Motovun in July (workshop entitled 'Health Plans and Health Care Plans – development and implementation – where are we now?'); on Rab in October, during the business meeting (themed discussion entitled 'Development and Monitored Implementation of Health Promotion Plans and Health Care Plans'); and lastly, in Marija Bistrica, at the end of October, as part of the counselling entitled 'Obligations and Activities of Counties in Health Care'.

*Additional training for members of county health teams and/or members of Health Council* was organised in two modules of post-graduate public health studies: module one entitled 'Health in Community – evaluation of health status and needs assessment', which lasted for 5 days (September 12-17); and module two entitled 'Public Health Interventions', which lasted for 3 days (October 17-19). In December, a new training cycle was held for the projects of Process Improvement in Health Care Provision (TQM) – 3-day workshop for members of county health teams.

*Individual visits and mentoring* were organised for the counties members of program partnership: Kapina-Zagorje, Istria, Primorje-Gorani, and Zagreb. *The final examination* for county teams who underwent 2<sup>nd</sup> set module training was held at 'Andrija Štampar' School of Public Health in Zagreb, December 9 and 10.

To briefly remind you, *the “Responsible Health Management and Administration” programme (Healthy Counties)* started in spring 2002, with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, the counties and the 'Andrija Štampar' School of Public Health as partners. Its goal was to help the bodies of local government and self-government in the process of decentralization of health and social welfare system. Given that the leading people of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare changed, and the decentralization was brought to a halt; in 2004 the project continued through program partnership, within the work of the Croatian Healthy Cities Network. During the process of education in the 1st phase of the programme, county teams devised County Health Profiles and Strategic Frameworks of County Health Plans. New Health Care Act, passed at the end of 2008, provides for one and three-year Health Plans as legal obligation of county administration.

Since 2005, activities of the 'Responsible Health Administration and Management' programme have been aimed at forming county topic sub-groups, centring around most frequently chosen priorities, such as early breast cancer detection, development of county comprehensive elderly care, looking into causes and effects of early drinking in young people, improving quality of work in health system, improving mental health, and cardiovascular health.

In March 2008, a new cycle of education modules was set off, starting education of counties in the 2nd phase of the programme. This set of education modules provides knowledge and skills from the fields of strategic planning and managing, change management and network management. Three county teams, made up of 15 people per county are educated at the same time. These people are representatives of political and administrative component (county/city government, county administrative departments), technical components (county Institute of Public Health, Centre for Social Welfare, health centre, hospital and others), and representatives of a community (non-governmental and social sector, the media). Along with the mentor team, professors from the 'Andrija Štampar' School of Public Health, Zagreb University Medical School, the participants are taught by trainers of ADIZES South Europe consulting company (experts in business, profit sector training). Along with national partners, School of Public Health, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, and counties, there is another institution which is a partner in implementation of this project: it is the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention from Atlanta, USA. The course is accredited by the Committee for Continuing Education of Medical Doctors of the Croatian Medical Chamber, as well as by the Committee for Continuing Medical Education of Zagreb University Medical School (first-category course with 14 ECTS).

#### *d) other Network activities*

In 2011, *the research on the needs of cities and counties, which are Network members*, was carried out, and the report thereon was presented during the business meeting on Rab, October 2011.

Activities of the group for Network strategy development resulted in development of Proposal for Strategic Network Documents, which was presented and adopted in business meeting on Rab.

Based on the results of the research carried out to assess the needs of Network members, and in accordance with strategic guidelines of Network development, the following document was devised: *Agenda of the Presiding Committee 2010-2014*. The agenda was also adopted in business meeting in Rab, October 2011.

*Cooperation with the Croatian Association of Cities* continued. Network activities were presented to the Association Presiding Committee in September 2011, and the Association secretary was our guest at Network business meeting. We started cooperation with *the Association of Counties*. The activities related to the Healthy Counties program were presented to the Presiding Committee of the Association in January 2011. Furthermore, further cooperation was agreed through joint themed counselling (Vinkovci Health Fair, April; counselling in Marija Bistrica, October). There has been on-going cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare; furthermore, the celebration of the World Health Day was an occasion to present Ivo Josipović, President of Croatia, conclusions of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Croatian Congress of Preventive Medicine and Health Improvement. There has also been an excellent cooperation with the *Public Health Department* of the Medical Association, which resulted in promotion of themed issue of the Acta Medica Croatica *magazine* in May 2011. The issue was entitled *PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE IN CROATIA TODAY*. After the promotion of the magazine, a joint discussion on the future (directions of development) was held.

Activities of the Croatian Healthy Cities were aimed at *strengthening social networks and social*

**support**, and promoting volunteering work (especially in the areas of family and health). With the same goal, **action research was carried out, entitled 'Assessing the Needs of Single-Parent Families in Croatian Healthy Cities'**. Once the needs are identified, efficient local programs will be developed and implemented to provide assistance and support to members of single-parent families. So far, four themed meetings/workshops have been held in Vinkovci (April), Zagreb (May), Motovun (July), and Rab (October); furthermore, project proposal was submitted for funding to Croatian Scientific Foundation and European Commission FP7.

We continued **cooperation with the bodies of government administration**, especially with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare – under whose auspices were organised both the 15<sup>th</sup> Health Fair and the 18<sup>th</sup> Motovun Summer School. Furthermore, we were granted funding (amounting to kuna 50.000,00) for themed meeting of Network cities and counties.

**New members.** In 2011, no new members joined the Network.

## **2. Local Level**

RAP was carried out by Labin (March 2011) and Vinkovci (June 2011); the City of Zagreb finalised the development of operative Health Plan for the 5<sup>th</sup> phase of the European Health Plan Project through a series of workshops held for broader project team.

## **3. International Level**

Activities of the Croatian Healthy Cities Network (visits, participation in meetings and conferences) continued excellent **cooperation with European Regional Office of the WHO**, and other national networks of healthy cities, especially Israeli and Norwegian ones.

In mid April 2011, the 3<sup>rd</sup> educational and coordination **meeting of coordinators of national healthy cities networks** was held in Oeiras, Portugal. Educational component of the workshops was tutored by Franklin Apfel M.D., with the following topic: 'How to communicate more efficiently with politicians?' Workshops with the goal to facilitate the sharing of experiences were organised for the participants to learn from each other, presenting and sharing experiences of good practice. This year, national coordinators presented examples (techniques and contents) of how they succeeded in bringing together politicians and local and national administration. Workshops dedicated to coordination are aimed at harmonising different interests of national networks related to relation with the WHO, preparing contents for business and technical conferences, and selecting topics for joint electronic magazine.

In May 2011, Selma Šogorić, D.Sc. attended the London meeting of work group entitled 'Goals and Measurement', which addressed **designing health strategy for all after 2020** (H2020), WHO, European Regional Office.

From June 15 to 18, a business and technical **conference of the European Healthy Cities Network** and National Networks of Healthy Cities of the European Regional Office of the WHO was held in Liege, Belgium. The content of this year's third business meeting of the 5<sup>th</sup> phase of the European Healthy Cities Project is best described by its heading: 'Management for health on the local level: people, citizens, and resources for health'. The conference subtitle, 'Initial consultation with local

self-government in the process of designing Health 2020 – new health policies of European Region of the WHO', explains why it was so unusually long (four full days). A sentence spoken at the closing of the Conference best describes everything that was going on in Liege: „**people in the focus of everything we do**". That mission brought together over 330 participants from 30 European countries, mostly city coordinators (64) and national network coordinators (20), as well as their political leaders. Seven plenary sessions were given – presentations, discussions, and round tables. The most interesting presentations were: the innovative one given by Ilona Kickbusch (research results of Management for Health in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century), Michael Marmot's presentation (Health 2020 – social health guidelines and differences in health; what can cities do), Evelyne de Leeuw's presentation (25 years of Ottawa Health Improvement Charter), and M.N.K. Boulosa's (How new media and social networks change the way we communicate and make decisions on health and well-being). Through 45 parallel workshops and presentations, around 120 case studies, researches and city models of good practice were presented. The following topics were addressed: justice in health (needs of vulnerable groups, health of migrants, asylum seekers and their families, health of the Roma population, quality of life of disabled children, elderly and incapable people, inequalities in health, strengthening communities' social capital), administration and management for health on local, regional, and national levels ( physical activity, diet, preventing alcohol and psychoactive substances abuse in young people), and healthy urban planning (transport, urban regeneration, availability, city green areas). Also, 14 educational workshops were held: from orientation workshops for new members and national networks, education for introducing the framework of fairness into health and planning for health, health resources management, basic healthy urban planning, to health literacy. Furthermore, meetings were held, gathering coordinators, academic researchers, and themed sub-networks (fairness in health, health literacy, healthy urban planning, and healthy ageing). In one word, there was so much to do that it became frustrating, because it was impossible to hear and see everything. However, a book of summaries and web pages of EU WHO provide information on everything we missed. One whole conference day was dedicated to consultation process with local self-government related to the design of new health policy of the European region of the WHO (abbreviation: H2020). Two researches were presented in plenary sessions: (Kichbusch – Governance, and Marmot – Social Determinants of Health). They constitute the basis for the development of new strategy and guidelines for activities of General Directorate for Health and Customer Protection of the European Commission, related to inequality in health and chronic diseases (C.Price). The activities of themed and connecting groups have been presented (T. Tsouros), and a series of workshops held aimed at gathering opinions (advice and instructions) from the lowest government level, related to new European strategy design and implementation.

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of the European training consortium of health schools, a symposium entitled '*Twenty Years of Building Capacities for Health Promotion*' was held in Zagreb, July 25 to 27, at the School of Public Health. Given the fact that a number of our coordinators participated in the development, and attended courses of the European training consortium, this proved to be an excellent opportunity for recapitulating achievements and getting together with old colleagues.

The last international activity in 2011 was may participation in the *meeting of the Advisory Committee* of the World Health Organisation, held for healthy cities in Manchester, UK, December 4 to 5. In the meeting, activities for 2012 were defined, the program of meeting of national network coordinators was prepared, which we are to host in March 2012 in Dubrovnik. Also, the agenda of the Business Meeting of the European Network to be held in Petersburg, Russia (June 1 to 16) was prepared, the level of development of H2020 strategy presented, the ways activities of themed sub-

networks were defined, along with their coordinators. Lastly, discussion on the evaluation of the achievements of the 5th phase of the project was initiated.

Report written by:

Assistant Professor Selma Šogorić D.Sc, National Coordinator  
of the Croatian Healthy Cities Network

with the seat at 'Andrija Štampar' School of Public Health

Medical School, Zagreb University

**Rockefellerova 4**

**10000 Zagreb**

**Tel: 01/ 45 90 132, fax: 01/46 84 213**

**mob: 098 387788**

**E-mail address [ssogoric@snz.hr](mailto:ssogoric@snz.hr)**

**Web page [www.zdravi-gradovi.com.hr](http://www.zdravi-gradovi.com.hr)**

## **Report on the implementation of the Program Partnership between Croatian Healthy Cities Network and Healthy Counties in 2011**

The program of support provided to counties through the Program Partnership was mostly aimed at providing support to the counties which are in the process of implementing statutory obligations (emergency health reorganisation, design of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Plans, and Health Care Plan design).

The following activities were carried out:

1. Education, themed and coordination meetings of the project leaders – five meetings (April Vinkovci, May Zagreb, July Motovun, October Rab, October Marija Bistrica);
2. Themed conferences, workshops, discussions, and consulting
  - a) Themed conference of counties and the Croatian Emergency Institute entitled 'Development and Implementation of New Emergency Medicine System in Croatia' (April Vinkovci),
  - b) Themed conference entitled 'Public Health Practice in Croatia Today', or how to improve cooperation between county Institutes of Public Health and local self-government (May Zagreb);
  - c) Workshop entitled 'Plans for Health and Health Care Plans – development and implementation' – where are we now?, two-day workshop and the sharing of experiences (July Motovun)
  - d) Themed discussion entitled 'Development and Implementation with Monitoring of the Health Promotion Plans and Health Care Plans' (October Rab)
  - e) Consulting entitled 'Obligations and Activities of the Counties in Health (October Marija Bistrica);
3. Additional education of health team members or member of the Health Council, designed in two modules of the Public Health post-graduate study
  - a) 5-day module 'Health in Community' (September Zagreb) and
  - b) 3-day module 'Public Health Interventions' (October, Zagreb);
4. Educational workshop on health improvement: 'Methodology on process improvement projects in health care provision – TQM projects' – 3-day workshop (December Zagreb);
5. Individual visits and mentoring work with counties in program partnership: Krapina-Zagorje, Istria, Primorje-Gorani, and Zagreb
  - a) Related to providing information and education to members of Health Council,
  - b) Related to the design of county health care plans (in accordance with Health Care Act) – continuing, according to the needs,
  - c) Related to process improvement projects (TQM teams)
6. Final examination for county teams which finished 2nd set module education (December Zagreb)