

“Public Health Policies – Training Romanian staff at Regional level to develop Public Health Policies” (PHPRO)

PROJECT MANIFESTO

After the accession to the European Union, Romania defined 8 development regions, not as territorial and administrative units, but to foster local development and to access EU funds. In the meantime, a process of decentralization was initiated, its purpose being the empowerment of regional and local authorities for a future possible role as an administrative unit for these regions. Within the future scope of work for the Regional Development Authorities will be also encompassed also the development of public health policies. This is a rather new task for the Regional Development Authorities and this project fulfils the need to teach the Regional Development Authorities staff how to elaborate, implement and conduct public health policies.

In this regard the project intends to study the way the public health policies are developed, implemented and evaluated in Germany, Italy and Spain at regional level. For this reason three representative institutions (University of Perugia, Public Health Agency of Barcelona and BKK Bundesverband BV) became part of the consortium unfolding the project PHPRO. A process of gathering knowledge and collecting evidence will be performed during the first year of the project and two are going to be the learning processes:

- First by developing national reports (by the German, Italian and Spanish partners) by using an Assessment Instrument agreed upon
- Second by performing Study Visits in Germany, Italy and Spain.

The knowledge gained during the study visits will lead to the elaboration of a document - “Mechanisms for building and implementation of public health policies in Germany, Italy, and Spain at National, Regional and Local level” - which will constitute the base for elaboration of a second document, a sort of a training manual named - “Guideline for building and implementing public health policies at national, regional and local level”. The knowledge gained will then be transferred through a series of 8 Training Courses (one per each region) to Romanian public servants working in the RDA.

Furthermore the project aims at contributing to the harmonization of economic development policies with public health policies and include in all public policies a health dimension; ex. “Health in All Policies”. There are three areas of particular interest in this regard, all derived from the present organization of health services in Romania. First, because Romania had a long tradition of centralized decision in all areas of administration and the Ministry of Health will keep in the future for itself the strategic decision making, we are interested in the way national strategies / policies are linked and coordinated with regional and local decision making, and the way the system is structured to allow this intricate functionalities. Secondly because in Romania occupational health is structurally separated from the main public health system, we are interested in how public health policies can be adjusted to include or allow good functioning of

occupational health. Thirdly, there is an interest about the link between financing different levels of the health system (primary care, ambulatory care, hospitals, emergency services, pharmaceuticals) and policy making for these certain levels.

The courses will be followed by a dissemination seminar and international promotion activities. The outcome envisaged by the project is to develop a critical mass of well trained public health specialists and public servants able to elaborate adequate policies for the regional and local public health challenges in Romania.