

Healthy Children Project Newsletter

Issue 01 - March 2011



Welcome

Welcome to the first issue of the Newsletter for the "Healthy Children" project, which is a project funded by the European Public Health Programme.

The Healthy Children project is a co-operation between partners from 6 European countries, being Denmark, UK, Norway, Spain, Italy and Croatia.

If you want to see the full partnerlist, you can find it on the project's website on www.healthy-children.eu

Introducing the Healthy Children Project

Inequality in health is an acknowledged challenge for our society and to reach the groups in our society who really need to know and understand how they can improve their health has proved difficult.

The Healthy Children project wants to show how local authorities, through a closer and more strategic collaboration with civil society organizations such as sport clubs, youth clubs and religious associations, can create a better health dialogue with people who really need it, in settings that are safe and familiar to them.

Within this scope, the Healthy Children project wants to:

- raise awareness and support local authorities' strategic cooperation with civil society organizations as a means to reach the public in a better way with health promoting activities.
- Increase civil society organizations' capacity to work with health promotion through skills development of so called "resource persons"

The Healthy Children project proposes a conceptual framework for strategic collaboration between local authorities and civil society organizations and a training program that focuses on the development of community-based knowledge, (inter)cultural understanding, coaching, communication- and empowerment skills and strategies for activities aimed at reaching the specific target groups of the project. The overall idea is to reach families with unhealthy lifestyles through activities with children and young people.

Working with local communities

The Healthy Children project is action research oriented and works as such very closely with 12 local communities around Europe; 2 in each participating country. The civil society organizations and the resource persons will be recruited within these local communities.



Healthy Children

Project facts

Total budget: 1.286.439 EUR
EU funding: 740.000 EUR
Project period: August 2010 to July 2013

The Healthy Children project works to decrease the number of unhealthy citizens in Europe. The project presents processes and capacity building activities, which assist local authorities to create a better co-operation with civil society organizations in socially difficult areas. The objective is to obtain a better health dialogue with people who really need it, in settings that are safe and familiar to them.

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Partners

- University College Lillebælt (lead partner)
- South Denmark European Office (Co-ordinator)
- Odense Municipality
- Vejle Municipality
- Oslo Municipality
- Oslo University College
- Coventry University
- Coventry City Council
- Regione Veneto / Regional Centre for Health Promotion
- Verona University
- The County of Karlovac
- Medical School of Karlovac
- The Municipal Institute of Social Affairs, Cáceres

The Healthy Children project is interesting for you if.....

- You are working in a local authority as a health professional, being involved in the planning and implementation of health promoting activities, focusing especially on health inequalities and promotion of health within socially difficult areas
- You are working in a local authority and are part of a team focusing on redeployment and social regeneration of local areas.
- You are working as a manager in a civil society organization and can see that your organisation could have a health preventive role to play towards children and young people
- You are working in a civil society organization as a practitioner and want to be able to communicate better with children and young people on how they take good care of themselves.

If you receive this newsletter and know any from the above mentioned groups that you think could be interested in the Healthy Children project, we would like you to forward the newsletter.

How far is the Healthy Children project?

The Healthy Children project started in August 2010, and we had the first partner meeting in the end of September. Since the partner meeting, all partners have been working to establish an evidence base, which will be used to prepare a training needs analysis and the above mentioned training programme for resource persons working in civil society organization.

The evidence base will focus on crucial parameters for the successful implementation of the project, at national and local level in the participating countries. Activities at the national level consist of a description of the legislative framework for health promotion and collaboration with civil society organizations together with a mapping of research resources and competencies. Activities on local level consists of a description of existing strategies at the municipal level concerning collaboration with civil society organisations, mapping of resources in local formal and informal social networks and mapping of local health challenges and resources, such as quantitative and qualitative health profiles, socio-demographic factors and risk factors.

In order to create the evidence base a template has been developed, based on the matrix in *Figure 1*.

If you want to see the full template, you are kindly invited to visit the Healthy Children website on www.healthy-children.eu. You will find the template under the section called; "timeline and outputs"

All participating regions have prepared local reports, and a common report is now being prepared, which will serve as input to the training needs analysis.

What is coming next?

The partners will meet in March 2011, where the evidence base will be used to wrap up an overview of the training needs within civil society organizations to carry out health promoting activities towards children and young people. Shortly after the partner meeting the training programme will be developed, so that the training of resource persons can start in September.

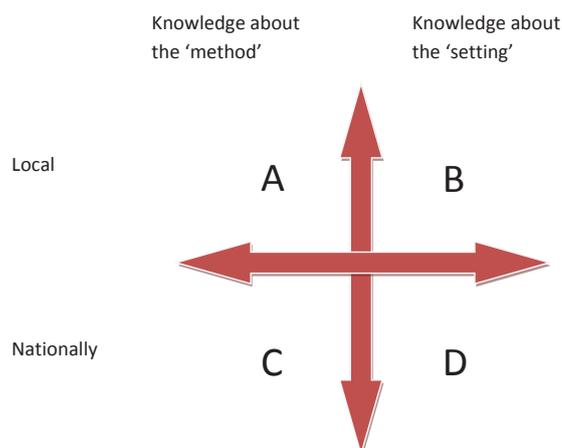


Figure 1

This publication arises from the project "Healthy Children" which has received funding from the European Union in the framework of the Health Programme.