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Pro-Health 65+ Health promotion and prevention of risk – actions for seniors

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Institutions of health promotion for the elderly in ten
selected European Countries.

Literature overview

Related to Work Package 6: Steps 6.2.A and 6.2.B

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ABSTRACT

Background: As European societies are ageing rapidly, health promotion for the elderly (HP4E) is becoming an increasingly relevant issue. Collection, analysis and exchange of good practices require a systematic analysis of various institutional arrangements covering institutions of all sectors and in various configurations. This paper presents results of preliminary literature review on the subject providing background orientation and research tools for further data collection and analysis. It fulfils objectives of the steps A and B of the role 6.2 within the ProHealth65+ Project.

Methods: Systematic and narrative literature review methods were used. Systematic reviews were performed for English-language papers on HP4E in three institutional areas: (a) in general (for all sectors), specifically for (b) the enterprises sector (occupational medicine), and for the (c) voluntary sector (NGOs, NPOs). Search criteria included publications on 10 selected European countries only and published between 2000 and 2015. PubMed and the healthPROelderly database were searched. A narrative review of other available sources (including grey literature) served a supplementary role in data extraction process. Separate narrative literature review was performed in order to elaborate an institutional approach to health promotion (concerning discussions on definitions of activities and of health promoters) and to further elaborate data extraction criteria.

Results: Within PubMed systematic review for three areas (a, b, c), out of initial 918 potentially relevant sources 38 were finally selected. PubMed and hPe database search (55 interventions) led to the identification of 91 HP4E interventions in selected countries. The original SPOFER framework was used for the extraction of data on involved institutions and their functions for each intervention. A high degree of cross-sector cooperation was identified. Data provided on institutions involved in HP4E mostly required further inquiry on the character and role performed by given institution.

Conclusions: Performed literature review provided a limited picture of institutions involved in HP4E in ten selected countries. It enabled a pilot application and testing of the SPOFER framework for data extraction. The SPOFER framework enabled preliminary identification of areas of activities, roles of various institutions and significant gaps in current knowledge.

Keywords: health promotion, elderly, institutions, organizations, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal