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Cross-sectorial approach towards analysis of main institutions performing health promotion for the elderly in Europe. Methodology of the study and first results of pilot research

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ABSTRACT

The report ***Cross-sectorial approach towards analysis of main institutions performing health promotion for the elderly in Europe. Methodology of the study and first results of pilot research*** presents the methodology and first results of the research undertaken in a frame of Work Package no 6 (WP6), constituting the integral part of the PROHEALTH 65+ project. Work Package 6 focuses on knowledge accumulation on institutional arrangements in protecting health and health promotion activities targeted at the elderly in sequenced life stages in Europe. WP 6 is divided on different areas of institutional analysis focused on a state of the art description in the sphere of health promotion concerning elderly population. One may say it is far too late but actually it should not be regarded as a paradox anymore: aging should also aspire to better quality of life, consequently in better health conditions. In the context of above one of the projected fundamental goals is to define and indicate effective and adequate methods of promoting healthy lifestyle, addressed particularly to the group that often is “abandoned” or even excluded from activities related to health promotion. In this respect the interdisciplinary research is conducted with focus on at least four groups of analyses. The WP6 constitutes one part of them, included into the theoretical research component of the project, however with a great significance to the parallel, implementation stage.

WP6 studies and analyses concern the institutional dimension of the health promotion addressed to elderly population (HP4E) issue. The package research is based on a fundamental assumption regarding the cross-sectorial approach to the problem: in the sphere of HP4E there are different sectors and various institutions involved. Aiming at the coherent, complex and factual picture of institutional analysis in the sphere of health promotion it is also necessary to search for the cooperation paths and areas of common actions among sectorial institutions due to multi-sectorial engagement in health promotion programs.

For the research purposes at first the term institution had to be clarified, the proper literature search has been undertaken and realized and results shortly presented in report. This stage completion conditioned further steps and analyses. Also in this context (preliminary findings for the exact project research) the WP6 team, cooperating with experts in occupational medicine and work-safety issues, decided on the enterprise and workplace sector research specific regarding approach to the projected analyses. In this area the setting: workplace was recognized as constituting the main environment for study. The other institutions included to this sector are subject of research as related strongly to workplace and standards of safety.