



News from SEEHN

SEEHN Ministerial Meeting under Macedonian Presidency Planned for November 2014

About SEEHN

The South-eastern European Health Network (SEEHN) is a governmental sub-regional cooperation established in 2001. SEEHN consists of ten countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, State of Israel, Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, and Republic of Serbia.

WHO, Regional Office for Europe is one of SEEHN's founders and has supported the SEEHN from its establishment.

For more information:
www.seehn.org

Contact:

The Seat of the Secretariat of SEEHN
50th Division number 6
1000 Skopje, Republic of Macedonia
Tel/fax +389 2 3125 310

Sanja Sazdovska

sanja.sazdovska@zdravstvo.gov.mk

Aleksandar Kacarski

aleksandar.kacarski@zdravstvo.gov.mk

The Republic of Macedonia is the head of the presidency for SEEHN in the term July-December 2014. A major cornerstone is on the agenda during the Presidency as a meeting with all the SEEHN Ministers is to be held mid November in Skopje. Thus, Mr Nikola Todorov, Minister of Health of the Republic of Macedonia, met with the Ambassadors of the SEEHN Member States in September in order to invite the Ministers to the November meeting, informing on and stressing the role of the SEEHN as a health diplomacy tool and inviting the ambassadors to take active part in its promotion.

Furthermore, the SEEHN President met with WHO Regional Director, Dr Zsuzsanna Jakab in September 2014 during the 64th Session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe. Mr. Todorov informed Dr. Jakab about the current developments, achievements and challenges of the SEEHN as these have to be reflected upon during the meeting in November and form the basis for ministerial decisions, thus providing a strong and timely political guidance for the future SEEHN developments.

Mr. Todorov also underlined the importance of the presence of WHO European

Regional Directors at the Ministerial meeting in order to ensure both WHO support and technical guidance to the SEEHN. This is very important, especially in terms of encouraging the SEEHN member states to be active in the implementation of Health 2020 and applying the Whole-of-Government approach to health reforms.

The Macedonian Presidency has focussed its action on three main topics, which are of immediate relevance to the SEEHN, and which will be the issues to discuss at the Ministerial meeting: 1) Crisis management and coordination aid, in the light of the recent flooding in the sub-region; 2) An education and training initiative aimed at the SEE area in order to become a region of free professional exchange and movement of health professionals. This will contribute to the networking in South East Europe and to the mobility of the human resources in health (HRH); and 3) Health reforms in the SEEHN member states, implementing the Health 2020 Policy framework, with a focus on applying the Whole-of-Government approach. The Macedonian Presidency of the SEEHN follows that of Romania, during which the main focus was the implementation of the SEE 2020 Strategy.

Launching of the SEEHN Official Website

The South-eastern European Health Network will launch its website officially during the Ministerial meeting and the adjacent 34th SEEHN Plenary Meeting to be held in November in Skopje in the Republic of Macedonia.

The development of the SEEHN website is part of the new SEEHN Communication

and Visibility Strategy that envisages improvement of existing and opening up new communication channels between the policy and decision makers, professionals and academia, the donor community and practitioners, as well as civil society and the general public. The communication efforts have so far yielded production of the first issue of the renewed SEEHN News-



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letter, a promotional video, the website with platforms for the public and an intranet. Other products are also in the pipeline to improve the visibility and recognisability of the Network beyond the scope of the health sector.

The SEEHN website – please refer to www.seehn.org - will provide all relevant information, starting from SEEHN's structure and organization to the areas of the SEEHN work, partnerships and on-going activities and initiatives. The SEEHN website will serve as an archive of numerous activities undertaken and implemented since the establishment of SEEHN as well as a regularly updated information source about the most recent and upcoming events.

Directly resulting from the long-lasting SEEHN cooperation processes, the website will thus contribute to and facilitate further development of partnerships and institution networks. This is a clear commitment assumed by SEEHN Member States and of immense importance for the implementation of its vision of improved public health and wellbeing of all, through whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches.



Scan the QR-kode to visit the SEEHN website: www.seehn.org

Romania organises Taiex Workshop on blood and donor safety

A workshop on increasing blood availability and providing the highest donor and patient safety in transfusion therapy in emergency circumstances was organized in Bucharest, Romania on 7–9 July 2014 by the Technical Assistance Information Exchange instrument of the European Commission (TAIEX). The workshop was organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, the Republic of Serbia on behalf of SEEHN and the Regional Health Development Centers (RHDCs) of SEEHN in Romania and Serbia.

The workshop promoted the implementation of the Acquis Communautaire according to the European Union' quality and safety standards for human blood and blood components. The quality and safety standards cover the collection, testing, processing, storage and distribution of human blood and blood components among the health authorities, blood centre specialists and hospital clinicians in Member States of the South-eastern Europe Health Network (SEEHN).

The event provided the continuation of a capacity-building action which started in 2005 as the SEE Blood Safety Project. The project is based on conclusions, recommendations and further developments in the field of blood availability according to best practice, the EC Directive 2002/98/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of 27 January 2003. The latter is setting standards of quality and safety for collecting, testing, processing, storing and distributing human blood and blood components and amending Directive 2001/83/EC.



Bucharest, Romania July 2014

The main outcome of the workshop was the recognition of the importance of immediate access to sufficient blood supply living up to the European Union' quality and safety standards for human blood and blood components in case of major catastrophic emergencies. In emergency incidents a close and structured cooperation should be established between the National Blood Transfusion Centers within the framework of the SEEHN and the EU Member States. At the same time, a continuous assessment of the local status should be carried out in order to identify strategic gaps for actions. The EC Rapid Alert Platform (RAP) is planned for introduction and implementation by the end of 2016 in the region.