

# PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT “PUBLIC HEALTH TRAINING IN SOCIAL DISEASES” (PUBHEALTHSOD) OF THE LEONARDO DA VINCI PROGRAMME

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## SUMMARY

**Introduction:** Up to date demands toward public health system increase continuously due to the growth of population endangered by the social diseases: sexually transmitted diseases, viral hepatitis, food and water born diseases and these arisen from environmental reasons. In accordance with the principles and strategies of World Health Organization and European policy in the field of preventive measures in the dissemination of communicable diseases, strong needs to improve the skills and competencies of the professionals working in that field and to equip them with contemporary knowledge and system for health care management exist. **Aim:** The main aim of the project is creation of vocational learning and training programme in the field of social diseases for improving the competence and skills of professionals working in health and social care sectors. Specific aims are planned in the overall project life to ensure contribution of each project partner. **Materials and methods:** The structure of the curriculum is on modular principle. Each module comprises 1 – 3 units with duration 15 – 45 academic hours lectures and practical courses. The modules content is flexible, depending upon the degree of competence of the entrants. The project deliverables is evaluated on the basis of ECTS. The Project includes partners from Universities of Germany, Italy, Spain and Bulgaria. **Results:** The main result of the project is building up of an innovative curriculum – “Public Health Training in Social Diseases”. **Conclusion:** The programme answers the needs of the target groups (young specialists, college boys and girls, students, general practitioners, health-care managers) providing them with innovative teaching/training materials arranged in user-friendly information medium, thus improving their professional qualifications.

**Keywords:** project, social diseases

## INTRODUCTION

Up to date demands toward public health system increase continuously due to the growth of population endangered by the social diseases: sexually transmitted diseases, viral hepatitis, food and water born diseases and these arose from environmental reasons. A specific health care casus for Bulgaria is also the increased number of patients with tuberculosis. These problems are multiplied in Europe by the continuously migration of population from East European countries and minorities from different parts of the world (Gypsies, Arabs, Turks), as well as tremendous traffic of people crossing the borders each day, and tackling health treats. In accordance with the principles and strategies of World Health Organization and European policy in the field of preventive measures in the dissemination of communicable diseases, strong needs to improve the skills and

competencies of the professionals working in that field and to equip them with contemporary knowledge and system for health care management exist.

Identification of these needs has been done by Decision 2119/98/EC of the European Parliament and the Council for epidemiological surveillance and control of communicable diseases. It takes account of the need to integrate this objective into international endeavors to reduce these diseases and provides measures for prevention of situations which may develop at EU level. Thus, there is a necessity of defined at EU level teaching/training system, which to improve the abilities and skills of the specialists working in social diseases control and prevention.

The creation of a system for training in communicable diseases provides better practices and services in this area and will contribute to EU policy at the sectors dealing with health care, social care, etc. Summarizing these identified needs they are applied in the partner countries.

The introduction of the project achievements will be facilitated through development of an efficient project infrastructure (including supporting organizations). Establishment of a University/Hospital Structure (UHS) consoli-

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dates the programme with the end users and determines the optimal EU pathways for training.

## AIMS

The main aim of the project is creation of vocational learning/training programme in the field of social diseases for improving the competence and skills of professionals working in health and social care sectors.

Specific aims are planned in the overall project life to ensure contribution of each project partner:

- Analysis of vocational training needs in the project field performed by the partner countries.
- Counseling and assistance people to make a choice for the type of training.
- Design of innovative programme for vocational training in the field public health and social diseases, using ICT.
- Organization of the testing phase of the programme within the partnership including end users for establishment of the rationality of the training models and project products.
- Harmonization of prior learning of the entrants with the principles of European Credit Transfer System.
- Assessment of innovative programme by authorized experts and organizations.
- Dissemination measures for popularization of the whole programme and its outcomes during project and post project life.
- Initiatives for post-project life of the programme.

## RESULTS

The main result of the project is building up of an innovative curriculum – “Public Health Training in Social Diseases”. The structure of the curriculum is on modular principle. Each module comprises 1 – 3 units with duration 15 – 45 academic hours lectures and practical courses. The modules content is flexible, depending upon the degree of competence of the entrants. The project deliverables is evaluated on the basis of ECTS.

1. Establishment of project management structure:
  - National/Regional Vocational Units (NRVU)
  - Management Committee (MC)
  - Project Advising Board (PAB), (public and private clinics, local authorities),
  - University / College / Hospital Structure (UCHS)
  - Project Assessment Council (PAC), Project Dissemination Units (PDU)
  - European Training Consortium (ETC)
  - Arrangement of project timetable, ruling and coordination/dissemination activities.
2. Curriculum development actions:
  - creation of a common concept and modularization of the courses

- integration of the results from the analysis performed in respect to the state of art and needs of the targets into the concept
  - collaborative actions of MC, ETC, PAC for effective development of the teaching/training material
  - Dissemination activities.
3. Evaluation/Assessment:
    - elaboration of appropriate evaluation tools and performance of testing sessions.
    - analysis of the feed back of the target groups
    - correction and adjustment of the teaching/training material.
    - monitoring by the project ETC
    - performance of actions for evaluation of the programme
    - dissemination measures.
  4. **Production:** elaboration of project deliverables as electronic based material. Completion of the definite part of the programme as a prototype in accordance with the different levels of the beneficiaries. Internal modularization of the curriculum and preparation of short intensive courses on demand regarding different national requirements.
  5. **Dissemination:** it covers the whole project life and is performed in accordance with the project evolution plan. During this phase an active marketing is performed in order to find the optimal way for commercialization.

## CONCLUSIONS

### 1. Short term impact

The programme answers the needs of the *target groups* providing them with innovative teaching/training materials arranged in user-friendly information medium, thus improving their professional qualifications. It will introduce into the *public health sector* good practices in the field of communicable diseases using a topic/arena based approaches. A broader *sectorial policy* of the programme will be achieved applying wider context in the teaching /training material: Health Promotion and Health for All. The influence on *VET system* is outlined by bringing together the institutions/organizations with different background, which can enrich the project results and practices with new ideas and experience.

### 2. Long term impact

The innovative programme, approaches, content and ICT-based products are a very powerful basis for durable impact on targets and long term continuity. Building up of wide national/transnational consortium in the project area will enrich European public health sector and related branches with new view of social aspect of communicable of diseases concerning the society. The European VET system for health education will be transferred and widespread to the partner countries, thus ensuring harmonization process regarding the introductory.