

# **SOCIETIES IN TRANSITION AND THE ROLE OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH**

## **THE PROFESSIONALISATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE: THE PRESENCE AND THE FUTURE**

**1<sup>st</sup> Conference of the  
Deans of the Schools of Public Health  
Directors of the Institutes of Public Health  
Representatives of the National Public Health Associations  
in South Eastern Europe**

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# LEGACY OF THE COMMUNIST ERA

- **Poor health status of the population**
- **Low quality of health services**
- **Lack of investments**
- **Lack of training programmes**
- **Uncontrolled risk factors**
- **No engagement with international scientific community**

# LEGACY OF THE COMMUNIST ERA

- **Highly formalized state-centered system**
- **Allocation of funds driven by inputs**
- **Health considered “unproductive sector”**
- **Poor macro-economic performance**
- **Corruption**
- **No social support system**

# EFFECTS OF TRANSITION

- **Further deterioration of health status**
- **Health inequalities**
- **Unemployment**
- **Drugs**
- **Trafficking of women and children**
- **Increased smoking, alcohol consumption, poor diet**
- **Increased road traffic accidents, violence**
- **Emigration of healthy population**

# EFFECTS OF TRANSITION

- **Decline in financial resources**
- **Political instability**
- **Radical reforms producing chaos and fear**
- **Abandon of good practices**
- **General rejection of state regulations**
- **Health reforms focused mainly on financing**
- **Wars, social conflicts**

# **GAINS OF PUBLIC HEALTH DURING TRANSITION**

- **New public health concept**
- **Training a core of public health specialists**
- **Establishing public health schools/ training programmes/ associations**
- **Opening to the scientific international community**
- **Development of public health networks**

# **GAINS OF PUBLIC HEALTH DURING TRANSITION**

- **Development of health information systems**
- **Introduction of health promotion programmes**
- **Development of programmes for vulnerable population groups**
- **Involvement of public health specialists in policy making and strategy development**

# **FUTURE CHALLENGES FOR PUBLIC HEALTH IN TRANSITION COUNTRIES**

- **Training of a critical mass of public health specialists**
- **Institutional development**
- **Training of other professionals on public health topics**
- **Linkage for strategic coalitions and inter-sectoral action**
- **Mobilize political will**

# **FUTURE CHALLENGES FOR PUBLIC HEALTH IN TRANSITION COUNTRIES**

- **Help with development of enabling legislation**
- **Defining roles and responsibilities for each stakeholder**
- **Strengthen community participation**
- **Bring the evidence for decision making**
- **Transfer of good examples from a country to another**