



WHO/Europe - Prison Health

Newsletter August 2010



With this newsletter we would like to give you updated information about the WHO Regional Office for Europe and our activities on prison health. A new item in this Newsletter is 'In the spotlight...'. This time the African HIV in Prison Partnership Network is in our spotlight.

Please also look at our website www.euro.who.int/prisons for more information.

If you would like something to be included in our next newsletter next time or would like an initiative to be 'in the spotlight' in a future edition, please do not hesitate to let us know.

WHO National Counterpart meeting on Prison Health, 14-16 October 2010 - Copenhagen, Denmark

During 14-16 October 2010 the annual WHO meeting on Prison Health will take place in the premises of WHO Regional Office for Europe in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The aim of the meeting this year is to review the progress made over the past 15 years during which WHO Regional Office for Europe has put particular focus on prison health and to facilitate detailed information exchange between EURO, Member States and international partners. During the meeting particular attention will be given to the stewardship role for prison health, as more and more countries in our Region consider a transfer of the responsibility for prison health from the Ministry of Justice/Interior to the Ministry of Health.

The meeting will start in the morning of Thursday 14 October. In the evening, a social programme will be organized including a dinner in the centre of Copenhagen. On Friday 15 October the meeting will continue and will be closed in the afternoon with an informal reception celebrating our collaborative efforts over the past 15 years. On Saturday 16 October prison visits will be organized.

Please note that the WHO National Counterpart meeting on Prison Health is a closed meeting and can be attended on invitation only. It is however possible to attend the meeting as an observer, and if interested, you are very welcome to contact us for more information.

Developments WHO Regional Office for Europe

WHO Framework for the Assessment of Prison Health



Following up on the discussion during the network meeting 2009 in Madrid, a project plan for the development of a WHO framework for the assessment of prison health was developed and discussed by the Steering Group Members during their meeting in May in

Vienna. Main discussion points were around the focus of the assessment toolkit. Should it be at national or at prison level and should it be focused on the health problems of prisoners or on the health services provided to them or maybe on both? Final decisions have not been made yet and depend on what would be most helpful to our Member States. Therefore, the project will be further discussed during the meeting in October in Copenhagen. If you would like to let us know your views on this issue or be actively involved in the project, please let us know.

On 1 February 2010 Ms Zsuzsanna Jakab started as the new Regional Director of the WHO Regional Office for Europe. She implemented a new organizational structure as per 1 July 2010.

In the new organigram prison health is part of the Division of Non-Communicable Diseases and Health Promotion. Prison health is working closely with the health areas alcohol and drugs.

During 13-16 September 2010 the Regional Committee, consisting of representatives from the 53 Member States, will take place in Moscow, Russian Federation. During its sessions, the Member States will formulate regional policies, recommend and supervise WHO/Europe's activities and approve the budget. For more information about the Regional Committee 2010, please visit

www.euro.who.int/en/who-we-are/governance/regional-committee-for-europe

Checklists on women's health in prison

In 2009 the WHO/UNODC Declaration on Women's health in Prison was published. WHO/Europe and UNODC are following up on their Declaration by developing practical checklists and guidance notes. The checklists will be aimed at three levels; 1. Decision and policy makers, 2. Prison management, and 3. Prison health staff. The aim is to support Member States with practical means to assess their current situation regarding women prisoners' health and health care services provided to them. The checklists and guidance notes are expected to be published as work in progress within the next few months and will be presented and discussed during the WHO National Counterpart meeting on Prison Health in October in Copenhagen.

The checklists will be pilot tested in a few Member States before a final version will be published. If you would like to propose your country as a pilot country, please do not hesitate to contact us.





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In the spotlight...

In the spotlight is a new rubric in the Newsletter, in which an organization, initiative or member state gets the chance to inform the WHO network on prison health about their work.

This time, the African HIV in Prison Partnership Network (AHPPN) is in our spotlight.

AHPPN is a partnership initiative in the African region, with similar objectives as the European health in prison network.



African HIV in Prison Partnership Network (AHPPN) - Promoting collaborative, inclusive, and inter-sectoral cooperation and action

With almost two-thirds of all people infected with HIV living in sub-Saharan Africa, the African continent remains the world's most severely affected region with regard to HIV infections. The generally accepted principle that prisons and prisoners remain part of the broader community also means that the health threat of HIV within prisons, and the health threat outside of prisons, are inextricably linked and therefore demand coordinated action.

In consideration of this, and underpinned by the belief that "Good Prison Health is Good Public Health", the African HIV in Prisons Partnership Network (AHPPN) was formed in November 2009. Its aim is to support national Governments and other relevant stakeholders in their efforts to mount effective, human rights-based responses to HIV in prisons in Africa through advocacy and facilitation of international, national and multi-sectoral cooperation and action.

Focussing on areas such as HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis, mental health, injecting drug use and prison overcrowding, and by facilitating international cooperation and sharing of experiences, the AHPPN will provide and facilitate technical support to countries across Africa, thereby encouraging improved prison health services and overall prison management.

The Network's approach towards HIV and AIDS prevention, care, treatment and support strategies in prison settings in Africa is built on the belief that inclusivity will result in well articulated policies and programmes driven by Governments operating within the widely recognised international standards of human rights and medical ethics in their provision of health services for prisoners.

In order to support the Networks activities, an AHPPN website has been developed to facilitate information sharing and ideas generation. A key advantage of the website is the ability to connect individuals and organisations from across the Continent and globally and break the geographical divide while linking diverse people sharing a common interest.

One of the core mandates of the AHPPN is to serve as a forum to enhance capacity to address the broader corrections and prison reform challenges in Africa and support the work of both correctional services and national AIDS councils across the Continent. The Network also works to ensure that HIV prevention, care, treatment and support programmes in prisons are developed and implemented on the basis of qualitative data and evidence-based successful practices. In this regard the AHPPN is in the process of rolling out a comprehensive data collection tool to look into prisons and prison health in Africa. Once completed these data will be available on the AHPPN website.

A key achievement of the AHPPN to date has been the elaboration and adoption of an "African Declaration of Commitment for HIV and AIDS Prevention, Care, Treatment and Support in Prisons". Providing principled direction and support to the AHPPN and its membership the Declaration has now been adopted by representatives from 27 African countries. Developed in consideration of the social, cultural and economic context of Africa, the Declaration forms the foundation of the Network's activities. The Declaration, which is available in English and French on the AHPPN website, remains a fluid document leaving the opportunity for participants from other countries and events to subscribe to it.

In keeping with the inclusive nature of the Network, the AHPPN's continued development requires the involvement and support of all stakeholders regardless of location and focus within the field of HIV. To find out more on the Network please visit the AHPPN website at www.ahppn.com or email info@ahppn.com

Announcements of upcoming meetings and conferences

- 30 September - 2 October 2010: 5th Adriatic Drug Addiction Treatment Conference - Ohrid, Macedonia
- 14-16 October 2010: WHO National Counterpart meeting on Prison Health - Copenhagen, Denmark
- 24 - 29 October 2010: ICPA Conference 'Building Bridges' - Ghent, Belgium
- 6-10 November 2010: American Public Health Association 138th Annual Meeting & Exposition - Denver, USA

Contact WHO Regional Office for Europe, Prison Health:

In case you have any questions or suggestions regarding this newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact us:

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Please have a look at the new-style website of WHO/Europe: www.euro.who.int

All information about the work of WHO/Europe on Prison Health can be found at: www.euro.who.int/prisons

