



Executive summary

1. Background

The 8th meeting of the Steering Committee of HEPA Europe was convened to review progress in the implementation of the work programme 2007/2008 and to continue the development of the impact model for HEPA Europe. In addition, applications for membership received from November 2007 to February 2008 were assessed and decided on.

The meeting was attended by 7 members of the Steering Committee from 7 countries (see Annex). It was chaired by Brian Martin from the Swiss Federal Office of Sport (BASPO) and assisted and hosted by the WHO European Centre for Environment and Health, Rome office.

2. Evaluation of applications for membership

Two new applications received were discussed and accepted by the Steering Committee. The two applications pending from the last meeting were discussed further based on additional information provided by the applicants. Both these applications were accepted.

3. Update on recent international activities and developments

An update was given on the ongoing activities on the international level, including:

- activities of the WHO
- activities of the EU and
- other international activities

Participants also debriefed on past meetings and conferences attended and informed on forthcoming meetings and events.

4. Review of progress with regard to the work programme 2007 / 2008

Progress in the ongoing activities were discussed and next steps were decided, specifically on the inventory on physical activity promotion, on the work groups on "Review for national approaches to physical activity promotion", on exchange of experiences in physical activity and sports promotion in children and on a student exchange programme as well as on a number of publications which are being prepared.

5. Preparation of the annual conference and meeting (8-10 September 2008, Glasgow)

The annual conference and meeting will be hosted by SPARColl (Scottish Physical Activity Research Collaboration) in association with the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow. The preliminary programme of the two-day annual conference (8-9 September) was finalized. The draft programme of the 4th annual meeting of HEPA Europe, taking place on 10 September morning back to back with the conference, was developed.

6. Development of an impact model for HEPA Europe

At the 4th meeting of the Steering Committee (21 November 2006, Magglingen, Switzerland), the Steering Committee started the development of an implementation strategy based on an “impact model” for HEPA Europe. The work was continued at the meetings in Glasgow (September 2007) and Olomouc (November 2007). In these earlier work sessions, answers to the following questions had been developed: 1) Which are the main causes that prevent better health as a result of physical activity among all people in Europe?; 2) How can these causes be addressed/solved? 3) Do the current activities contribute to the solutions identified earlier? and 4) What effect do the current activities have on the identified causes? At the current meeting, the work was continued, specifically addressing the following question:

- Why will changing the identified causes solve the problem of lack of physical activity in Europe? Are there additional causes to be taken into account or, if possible, to be addressed?

The work will be continued and finalized at the next meetings.

7. Other business and next meetings of the Steering Committee

A working group with 4 members of the Steering Committee was formed to re-assess the organizational arrangements of the Steering Committee.

It was decided to publish a call for expressions of interest to host the 5th annual conference and meeting of HEPA Europe in 2009.

The next meeting of the Steering Committee will take place on 25 to 26 June, venue to be decided.

Annex: List of participants

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