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Healthy Ageing of Roma Communities: Endowers – Realities – Perspectives

European level Expert Symposium

Pécs, 27-29 October 2014



Programme of the Symposium

**The Symposium is sponsored by the
Hungarian State Secretariat for Social Affairs and Social Inclusion**



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Organizers of the Symposium

Chair of Migration Health, University of Pécs Medical School

World Health Organization – Regional Office for Europe

Venue of the Symposium

Headquarters of the Regional Committee in Pécs, Hungarian Academy of Sciences
(H-7624 Pécs, Jurisics Miklós Str. 44.)

Sponsor of the Symposium

Hungarian State Secretariat for Social Affairs and Social Inclusion

Collaborating partners

CHANCE Consortium



Buckinghamshire New University



Norwegian Centre for Minority Health
Research



Ormánság Health Center



Culturally Competent in Medical Education - C2ME Project



University of Greifswald



Open Society Institute





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Welcome

Motto: *"...the very values of an enlightened and civilized society demand that privilege be replaced by generalized entitlements – if not ultimately by world citizenship then by citizens' rights for all human beings of the world"*

Lord Ralf Dahrendorf

The historical roots of the University of Pécs are going back to its founder, King Louis the Great, in 1367 and now it is the largest higher educational institution in Hungary with more than 30,000 students at ten faculties (including more than 1000 foreign students at the Medical School alone). The Medical School is not only a site of students of health sciences but also a centre for health care education and research. The mission is to fill the gap between scientific research and everyday practice by training professionals prepared to cope with recently arising health challenges as well.

That's why as a new initiative, University of Pécs is taking the health of vulnerable people like ethnic minorities and migrants as a new, interdisciplinary field of health sciences with growing importance in both: training and research. Acknowledging its endowers and results EUPHA has awarded the University to host its biannual conference in 2010, and it was first time that it has addressed both: *Migrant and Ethnic Minority Health in Europe*.

In line with the realization of these endowers the Medical School participates in two broad consortia of European higher education institutions: CHANCE - MSc in Migrant Health: Addressing New Challenges in Europe (as coordinator) and C2ME – Culturally Competent in Medical Education (member - in charge of quality assurance).

As a result of successful cooperation with the Open Society Foundation, the Migrant and Ethnic Minority Health Programs' Team is operating the Roma Health Network website (www.romahealthnet.org) that is a web-based, virtual network, aiming to advance the health and human rights of marginalized persons by building the capacity of civil society leaders and organizations, furthermore the Program advocates for accountability and a strong civil society role in health policy and practice.

Although the rapidly increasing need for specially trained professionals capable of coping with these complex, multidisciplinary tasks – where health, human rights and intercultural aspects are equally represented – is more and more recognised, at present there is a significant shortage in formal higher education programmes, aiming to build the human resource capacity that is motivated and properly empowered with knowledge and skills to address the rapidly growing need. These aspects are already represented in both the regular and optional training programs of the University Medical School and we plan to train new type of professionals as well with a special focus on community level health assistance of Roma people.

Last but not least WHO European Office and University of Pécs has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding and within this we are offering the Editorial Office of WHO newsletter: Public Health Aspects of Migration in Europe – and naturally, thanks to this honouring cooperation, we are pleased to host and organize – in cooperation with WHO European Office - this symposium:

Healthy Ageing of Roma Communities: Endowers – Realities – Perspectives

On behalf of the Migrants and Ethnic Minorities Health Programs' Team of the University of Pécs Medical School, may I wish you a successful and inspiring event and a pleasant stay in Pécs.

Prof. Dr. István Szilárd

Chief Scientific Adviser
University of Pécs Medical School



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Foreword

The WHO European Region has a rapidly ageing population. As life expectancy increases, more people live past 65 years of age and into very old age. It is estimated that the proportion of people aged 65 and older will almost double between 2010 and 2050. However, these average figures mask important differences between and within countries in the Region. For example, the recently published (2014) *Roma Health Report* by the European Commission reveals that while the longevity rate – the proportion of people who can expect to reach the age of 75 and over – is 51% for the European Union (EU)-27 non-Roma population, and just 25.7% for the EU-27 Roma population.

The very high premature mortality and, consequently, the relatively low number of elderly people among both Roma women and men compared with non-Roma is due to the harsh socioeconomic and environmental circumstances in which many Roma live. Most are disproportionately poor in many countries. During their life-course, they face serious social problems related to high unemployment, low education, inadequate housing and wide-ranging discrimination. These interrelated circumstances create a vicious circle of social exclusion, which seriously affects their health as do persistent inequities between Roma and majority populations, including access to health care. Existing data, though limited, on life expectancy, infant and child mortality, maternal health, vaccination rates and prevalence of many chronic and infectious diseases reveal marked inequities between the Roma and the majority population, including (in some contexts) when Roma are compared to the poorest quintile of the majority population. The inability of health systems to provide equity across all functions continues to undermine efforts to improve the health of Roma and other populations experiencing social disadvantage.

Ensuring the rights and social integration of Roma is a priority in Europe as demonstrated by the international initiative Decade of Roma Inclusion, the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies, and the recent *Council recommendation on effective Roma integration measures in the member states*, adopted on 9 December 2013, which is the EU's first legal instrument addressing the needs of the Roma.

The WHO Regional Office for Europe joined the Decade of Roma Inclusion initiative in 2011. Through its Vulnerability and Health Programme, the Regional Office contributes to increasing awareness, political commitment and action relating to conditions that make people vulnerable to ill-health. The programme addresses in particular the needs of the Roma, migrants and other ethnic minorities, guided by the values and principles of the European policy framework for health and well-being (Health 2020).

“Creating supportive environments and resilient communities” for health and well-being for all ages is one of the priority areas of Health 2020 and is highlighted in the Regional Office's *Strategy and action plan for healthy ageing in Europe, 2012–2020*. Healthy ageing requires resilient communities, which are able to respond proactively to new and adverse situations and are better prepared to handle crises and hardships. Therefore, we are grateful to all distinguished experts from all over Europe who gathered in Pécs, Hungary to share their experience and to discuss the way forward to healthy ageing of Roma communities.

Dr Piroska Östlin

Vulnerability and Health Programme Manager
WHO Regional Office for Europe

Dr Manfred Huber

Coordinator, Ageing and Health
WHO Regional Office for Europe



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Agenda

27 October 2014

14:00-15:00 Registration

15:00-15:30 Welcoming Addresses

Bódis, József (*Rector of the University of Pécs*)

Miseta, Attila (*Dean of the University of Pécs Medical School*)

Langerné, Victor Katalin (*Deputy State Secretary - State Secretariat for Social Affairs and Social Inclusion*)

Östlin, Piroska (*WHO Europe - Vulnerability & Health Programme Manager*)

Páva, Zsolt (*Mayor of Pécs*)

Szilárd, István (*Chief Scientific Adviser at the University of Pécs Medical School*)

15:30-17: 45 Opening Plenary Session – Keynote speeches 1

Chair: Piroska Östlin – István Szilárd

Piroska Östlin (*WHO - Vulnerability & Health Programme Manager*): *Update on WHO activities for improving the health status of Roma in Europe*

Manfred Huber (*WHO - Coordinator of Healthy Ageing, Disability and Long-term Care Division*): *Age-friendly communities and healthy ageing in Europe*

Katalin Victor Langerné (*Deputy State Secretary - State Secretariat for Social Affairs and Social Inclusion*): *Health Care in the Social Inclusion Strategy – a Complex Approach*

Bernadette Kumar (*NAKMI - Norway*): *The role and activities of the Norwegian Centre for Minority Health Research*

János Sándor (*WHO Collaborating Centre at University of Debrecen*): *Roma Health Status Assessment - Experiences from Public Health Focused Model Programme for Organising Primary Care Services.*

David Ingleby (*University of Amsterdam*): *How should interventions for Roma be targeted?*

17:45 – 18:30 Movie presentation about Besence

18:30 Welcome reception (Headquarters of the Regional Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Science)



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28 October 2014

9:00-10:30 Plenary Session II – keynote speeches 2

Chair: Bernadette Kumar – David Ingleby

István Kiss (*University of Pécs Medical School*): *Overview of the health indicators of Roma population in Hungary*

Diana Gil Gonzales (*WHO Collaborating Centre at University of Alicante*): *Ageing and health equity: the Spanish Roma population.*

Márton Rövid (*Decade of Roma Inclusion Secretariat Foundation*): *Monitoring the impact of health policies on Roma*

Margaret Greenfields (*Buckinghamshire New University*): *Gypsy, Traveller and Roma health initiatives in the UK: the invisibility of older Roma within policy discourse and health practice*

Jeanine Suurmond (*University of Amsterdam – C2ME Project*): *The role of cultural competency in the health assistance of the diverse European population*

10:30-11:00 Coffee Break

11:00-12:30 Plenary Session III – Country reports*

Chair: Margaret Greenfields – István Kiss

Bulgaria - Momchil Baev (*AMALIPE Center for Interethnic Dialog and Tolerance*)

Croatia - TBC

FYR Macedonia - Elvis Memeti (*Unit for Implementation of the Strategy and Decade for Roma Inclusion*)

Poland - Maciek Dobras (*Instytut Medycyny Pracy Łódź*)

Romania - Catalina Dragan (*Asociatia pentru Dezvoltare si Incluziune Sociala*)

Serbia - Snezana Simic - Goran Sevo (*University of Belgrade and Institute of Gerontology*)

Slovakia - Zuzana Pálošová (*Platform for Supporting Health of Disadvantaged Groups*)

*The Hungarian and Spain country reports were covered by the keynote speeches.

12:30-13:30 Lunch Break



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13:30-15:00 Parallel Workshops

Workshop I

Roma integration strategies in EU Member States – Health components, employment, employability, vaccination;

Moderator: István Kiss (*University of Pécs Medical School*)

Rapporteur: Maciek Dobras (*Instytut Medycyny Pracy Łódź*)

Introductory presentations

Maciek Dobras (*Instytut Medycyny Pracy Łódź*): *How to make ends meet- integration strategies and challenges across the EU*

Maja Saitovic (*Open Society Foundations*): *Overview of the Roma Health Projects sponsored by the Open Society Foundations Public Health Program*

Zoltán Katz- Erika Marek- István Szilárd (*University of Pécs Medical School*): *The need for vaccination strategies*

Workshop II

Healthy Aging of Vulnerable Groups - its relevance for formulating policies to improve the situation of ageing Roma communities in Europe;

Moderator: Manfred Huber (*WHO - Coordinator of Healthy Ageing, Disability and Long-term Care Division*)

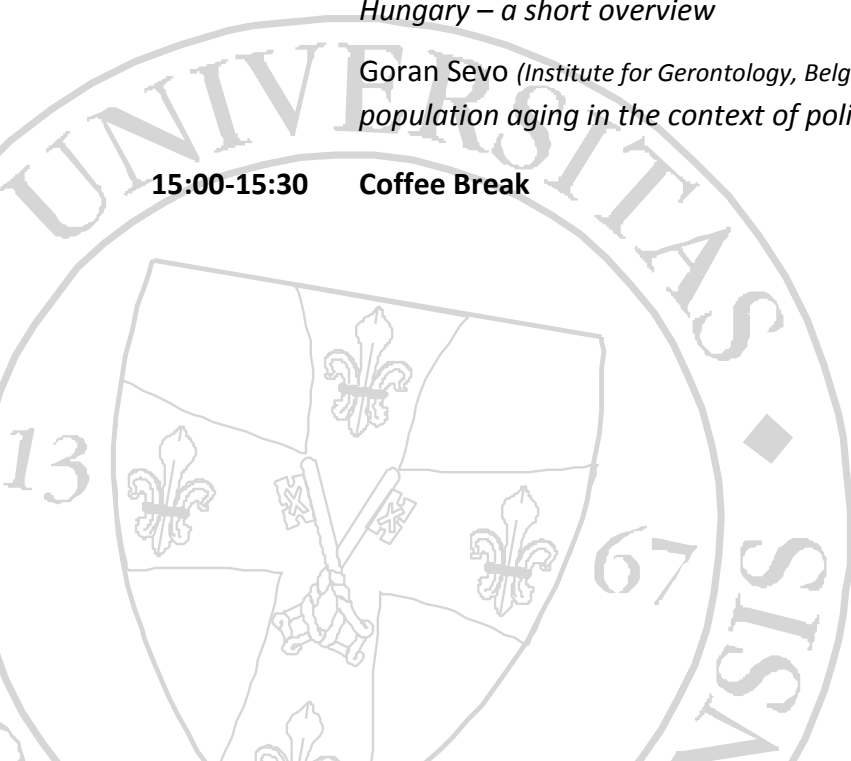
Rapporteur: Jackie McPeak (*Buckinghamshire New University*)

Introductory presentations

István Szilárd (*University of Pécs Medical School*): *Social determinants of health in Hungary – a short overview*

Goran Sevo (*Institute for Gerontology, Belgrade*): *Health care reform in Serbia: population aging in the context of political transition*

15:00-15:30 Coffee Break





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15:30-17:00 Parallel Workshops

Workshop III

Best Practices: Community based health promotion and continuing health care activities among Roma; culturally sensitive healthcare for ethnic minorities

Moderator: Margaret Greenfields (*Buckinghamshire New University*)

Rapporteur: Maja Saitovic (*Open Society Foundations*)

Introductory presentations

Árpád Baráth (*University of Pécs, Faculty of Sciences*): *A Multicultural Approach to Building Healthy Roma Communities'*

Erika Marek (*University of Pécs Medical School*): *Introduction of an adoptable health promotion program aiming to reduce health inequalities in a vulnerable population.*

Zsuzsanna Orsós - István Kiss (*University of Pécs Medical School*): *Health promotion among Roma adolescents in Hungary*

Workshop IV

Education – Higher Education: The tasks and challenges of the higher education system in Europe supporting the implementation of healthy ageing strategy of Roma in Europe. The role of cultural competence in the training of health professionals;

Moderator: Hans-Joachim Hannich (*University of Greifswald*)

Rapporteur: Jeanine Suurmond (*University of Amsterdam – C2ME Project*)

Introductory presentations

Hans-Joachim Hannich (*University of Greifswald*): *The role of community based medical education*

Jeanine Suurmond (*University of Amsterdam – C2ME Project*): *Being culturally competent in the medical education (C2ME project)*

István Szilárd (*University of Pécs Medical School*): *Minority health and diversity in the training programs of University of Pécs Medical School*



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17:00-18:00 Plenary Session IV

WS feedbacks to the plenary session

Chair: Harald Siem - Diana Gil Gonzales

WS moderators and rapporteurs: feedbacks

András Szabó - Szilvia Heim (*Ormánság Health Centre and University of Pécs Medical School*):
Introduction of the Ormánság Health Centre

Kia Golesorkhi (*University of Pécs, Faculty of Economy*): *The Phoenix Model: Capacity building empowerment and sustainability through participatory governance*

18:00- Drafting Team Session

Coordinator: Harald Siem (*NAKMI*)

Members: Manfred Huber, David Ingleby, István Kiss, Piroska Östlin, István Szilárd, EMMI representative tbc.

19:30 Reception (Somogyi Show Cellar, Hunyadi Str. 12.)

29 October 2014

8:15 -9:30 Travelling to the Ormánság Health Centre (located in Sellye)

9:30-10:00 Field visit at Sellye

10:00-11:30 Forum with representatives of local civil organizations, community leaders of the region - Moderator: Csaba Salamon (interpretation will be provided)

11:30-12:30 Lunch Break

12:30-13:00 Travelling to Besence – Organize in partnership with its self-governing body

13:00-14:00 József Ignác (Mayor of Besence) - Introduction of the Roma community, its activities and efforts (interpretation will be provided)

14:00-14:45 Travelling back to Pécs
University of Pécs Medical School, Dean's Conference Room
7624 Pécs, Szigeti Str. 12.

14:45-15:00 Coffee Break

15:00-17:00 Final Plenary Session – Finalization/ adoption of the Symposium Paper
Chair: Piroska Östlin – Harald Siem

17:00-17:30 Closing of the Symposium
Chair: Manfred Huber – István Szilárd



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Maps

