



**Karolinska
Institutet**

"A European Network for Public Health Nutrition; Networking, Monitoring, Intervention and Training"

**FINAL TECHNICAL REPORT COVERING THE PERIOD 1/10/2004 TO 01/10/2006
AGREEMENT NUMBER – 2003320**

ON THE BEHALF OF THE STEERING GROUP AND THE FULL WORKING GROUP:

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Outline of the final technical report of the project “A European Network for Public Health Nutrition; Networking, Monitoring, Intervention and Training”

Agreement number – 2003320

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Executive summary

Through the rear view mirror, the project period can be seen as highly successful. The project has led to a number of developments within Europe and the results have been widely disseminated. The project is building on previous experiences from several Commission funded projects, including the European Master Programme in public health nutrition, Monitoring of public health nutrition, The European report on Nutrition and Health, The Eurodiet project, Breastfeeding promotion in Europe, Pro Children. This project was funded from the beginning of 2005 until October 2006, and included participants and thereby knowledge and skills from all the above mentioned projects. As results from this project, several new developments have seen the light of day and the steering committee is looking forward with confidence that the project has been highly meaningful and rewarding.

Networking

The network has acted as a source of advice to the Commission, and national authorities. The tasks have included important issues such as preparing for the I World Congress on Public Health Nutrition¹, consulting on the WHO European Region report on overweight and obesity in preparation for the Ministerial meeting in November 2006, participating in the discussions regarding the New Nutrition Science Project and preparing for the new Global Association for public health nutrition. The network has commented on the Green paper: "Promoting healthy diets and physical activity: a European dimension for the prevention of overweight, obesity and chronic disease", COM (2005) 637 final. Comments includes recommendations provided by each task force². Ties with the IUNS (International Union for Nutrition Societies) have been strengthened through a joint summer school 2006 and through the joint preparatory work for the Global Association for public health nutrition.

Breastfeeding promotion

The breastfeeding task force has been successful in getting support for the practice guidelines for breastfeeding in Europe from numerous European professional organizations, IGOs and NGOs and the document was officially launched at a

¹ See supporting documents from the network in Annex 4.

² See Green paper response from network in Annex 4.

scientific meeting at the I World Congress on Public Health Nutrition in Barcelona in September 2006³.

Fruit and vegetable promotion

The fruit and vegetable task force has organized several symposia, in Amsterdam 2005, Durban 2005 and in Boston 2006, and participated with several presentations in the Barcelona conference 2006. Furthermore, a proposal for dissemination of the Pro Children tools for interventions as well as for measurement of fruit and vegetable intake is under preparation – with inclusion of several new member states, for the next call from DG SANCO.

Training in public health nutrition

The training task force has applied for funding from two sources within the European Commission; a thematic network from SOCRATES and a vocational training network from LEONARDO. The latter proposal was granted, and funding for the JOBNUT project was received from 1st of October 2006. The JOBNUT project is designed to investigate the labor market for public health nutritionists and to formulate competencies needed for public health nutritionists in Europe⁴. Two summer schools have been run, one in Southampton and one in Vienna⁵. A new Course Document has been produced, including assessment templates and learning outcomes. A significant contribution was also provided by the network to a third summer school in San Sebastian in July 2006, in collaboration with IUNS and WHO. The student network, Vermilion, has been further established and is meeting on a regular basis, in connection with the summer schools.

Monitoring and physical activity promotion

The monitoring task force has to a great extent collaborated with the physical activity intervention task force in order to create a momentum in Europe for monitoring of physical activity as well as for providing expertise on physical activity promotion on a broader level. The monitoring task force has succeeded in securing funds from DG SANCO for a Centre of Excellence for Monitoring for the upcoming years. Links with the HEPA network have been strengthened.

Network representation

The network represents partners from 17 EU member states and 2 EFTA countries; Norway and Iceland. Thus the geographic coverage is almost 70% of the EU area. The north of Europe and the Scandinavian countries are well represented in the network, with Sweden, Finland, Norway, UK, Germany, Ireland, Iceland, The Netherlands and France. The Mediterranean dimension is well represented by Spain, Greece, Italy and Portugal with Malta as new partner university. Suzanne Piscopo joined the training meeting in Southampton and student and teacher exchange programs are organized between the network countries and Malta. Eastern Europe is

³ See supporting documents from breastfeeding in Annex 4

⁴ See JOBNUT project and TAN application in Annex 4, supporting documents from training

⁵ See posters and schedules from the summerschools in Annex 4, supporting documents from training

represented by the Czech Republic, Poland, Estonia and with Slovenia; University of Primorska, as a new partner university for teacher exchange.

Full report

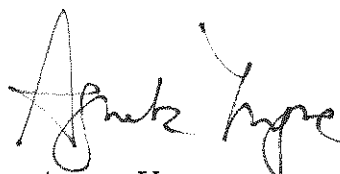
The reports from the different task forces are enclosed, with several annexes⁶. The full extended document represents the full report from this exciting experience of leading the network forward.

Vision for the future

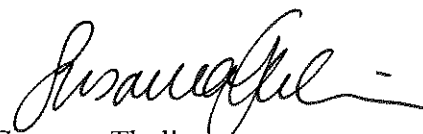
The new Global Association for public health nutrition will provide an interesting collaborative platform for the network as well as for network members. The initiative "*The New Nutrition Science project*", which anticipates strengthening of issues of ecology, ethics and environmental issues into nutrition science, will be another arena for the development of public health nutrition as such⁷. We can now identify ways forward which include networking in the *training area* as the most important focus for the future, where networking needs to work as a sounding board for best practice, evidence-based science with constant feedback to training universities from European and International collaboration. The networking is particularly important in order to provide a quality assurance and regular updating backbone, for a European Workforce in public health nutrition.

Stockholm in December 2006

On behalf of the Steering group and the project group within
the European Network for Public Health Nutrition,



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Project Co-ordinator



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International Liaison Officer

⁶ See technical reports from the taskforces in Annex 2

⁷ See the New Nutrition Science developments in Annex 4, supporting documents from the network

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