



THE REGIONAL HEALTH DEVELOPMENT CENTER ON MENTAL HEALTH IN SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE

PROGRESS REPORT June 2010 - June 2012

Sarajevo, July 2012

1. Establishment of the Regional Health Development Center on Mental Health in South-eastern Europe (RHDCMNH)

The RHDCMNH was established formally in 2011 within the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina and is responsible to the same Ministry which appointed the Coordinator of the RHDCMNH provided the necessary office space for the staff as well as office equipment within the Ministry and opened a special bank account for the RHDCMNH.

2. Activities of the RHDCMNH (June 2010 - June 2012)

The first Action plan of work of the RHDCMNH 2010-2011 (Action Plan) was approved by the SEEHN at its 24th Meeting, November 2010.

At the invitation of The Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina each country, member of the SEEHN nominated a National Mental Health Coordinator (NMHC) for the future cooperation in mental health in the SEEHN and the establishment of the Network of the National Mental Health Coordinators from the SEE countries.

A Questionnaire for Rapid Mapping out of the Current Situation in the area of Mental Health in SEE Countries (Questionnaire) was developed. Taking into consideration that SEE Mental Health Project came to an end in December 2008,

the purpose of this rapid mapping out exercise was to update the current situation in the mental health field in SEE countries. The findings will serve as a basis for planning and designing the regional actions to be undertaken in the future as well as priorities in accordance with specific countries' needs.

Mr. Sredoje Novic, Minister of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, on 7th of June 2011 officially inaugurated the Regional Health Development Center on Mental Health in South-Eastern Europe in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Back to back with the Inauguration of the RHDC, the First workshop was held, which brought together high level representatives of the SEE countries, members of the SEEHN Executive Committee, as well as representatives of the WHO European Region, and other partners and experts.

The Project proposal "Strengthening the Capacity of the Mental Health Professionals and Capacities of the Users Associations" was developed and submitted (through the SEEHN Secretariat) to the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) as a potential donor. The SDC awarded the Project proposal. The Agreement was signed on 19th June 2012 and the Project implementation started on 1st July 2012.

In line with the Action Plan the Web site of the RHDC on Mental Health was established and the first issue of Newsletter of the RHDC was published.

Moreover, the Action Plan of the RHDC on Mental Health in SEE 2012-2013 was developed and proposed to the SEEHN. It was approved by SEEHN at its 26th Meeting held in Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 12th October 2011.

Two Regional Meeting of SEE Health Network Mental Health Counterparts meetings were organized respectively : in Belgrade, the Republic of Serbia from 22-23 March 2012 and in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, on 9th May 2012. The participants of this second meeting also had a possibility to attend and contribute to the Conference "Mental health for all: good policy, better practice and better outcomes" organized by the Mental Health Project in Bosnia and Herzegovina on 10-11 May 2012 financially supported by the SDC.

3. Planned activities for period 1st July 2012 - 30th June 2014

The implementation of the Project "Strengthening the Capacities of Mental Health Professionals and Users' Associations" of a duration of two years (1st July 2012 - 30th June 2014) started on 1st July 2012.

The second issue of Newsletter of the RHDCMNH will be developed and published by the end of 2012.

