

CompHP

DEVELOPING COMPETENCIES AND
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS FOR HEALTH
PROMOTION CAPACITY BUILDING IN EUROPE

DEVELOPING CONSENSUS ON COMPETENCIES AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS
FOR HEALTH PROMOTION CAPACITY BUILDING IN EUROPE (COMPHP) - NEWSLETTER JUNE 2010

WELCOME TO THE COMPHP PROJECT!

CompHP is a project focusing on developing competencies and professionals standards for health promotion capacity building in Europe. This is the first project newsletter which will give you information on the project and an update on the work we have achieved in the first year.

The project is funded by the European Agency for Health and Consumers (EAHC) – Project number 20081209.



<http://www.ec.europa.eu/eahc>

The project commenced on the 1st September 2009 and it will run until the 31st August 2012.

COMPHP AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The CompHP Project aims to develop competency-based standards and an accreditation system for health promotion practice, education and training that will positively impact on workforce capacity to deliver public health improvement in Europe.

The objectives of the project are:

1. To identify, agree and publish core competencies for health promotion practice, education and training in Europe.
2. To develop and publish competency-based professional standards for health promotion practice.
3. To promote quality assurance through the development of a Europe-wide accreditation system.
4. To map competencies and standards in academic courses across Europe and link to accreditation for academic settings.
5. To pilot competencies, standards and accreditation with practitioners in a range of settings across Europe.
6. To engage in consultation with key stakeholders and disseminate information on the project outcomes throughout the 27 member states and all candidate countries.

The work of CompHP will create a new dimension in European health promotion by establishing the means and methods by which agreed core competencies and quality standards can be implemented across Europe to stimulate innovation and best practice. The development of a Europe-wide system of competency-based standards in health promotion will provide a basis for building a competent and effective health promotion workforce capable of putting into action the key priorities identified in recent European health strategies.

BACKGROUND TO COMPHP

The project builds on European and international developments concerning health promotion core competencies and standards, including research on health promotion practice and training in Europe and studies by the International Union for Health Promotion and Education/European Region (IUHPE/EURO) on the feasibility of implementing a comprehensive and flexible system for workforce development and quality assurance in health promotion across Europe.

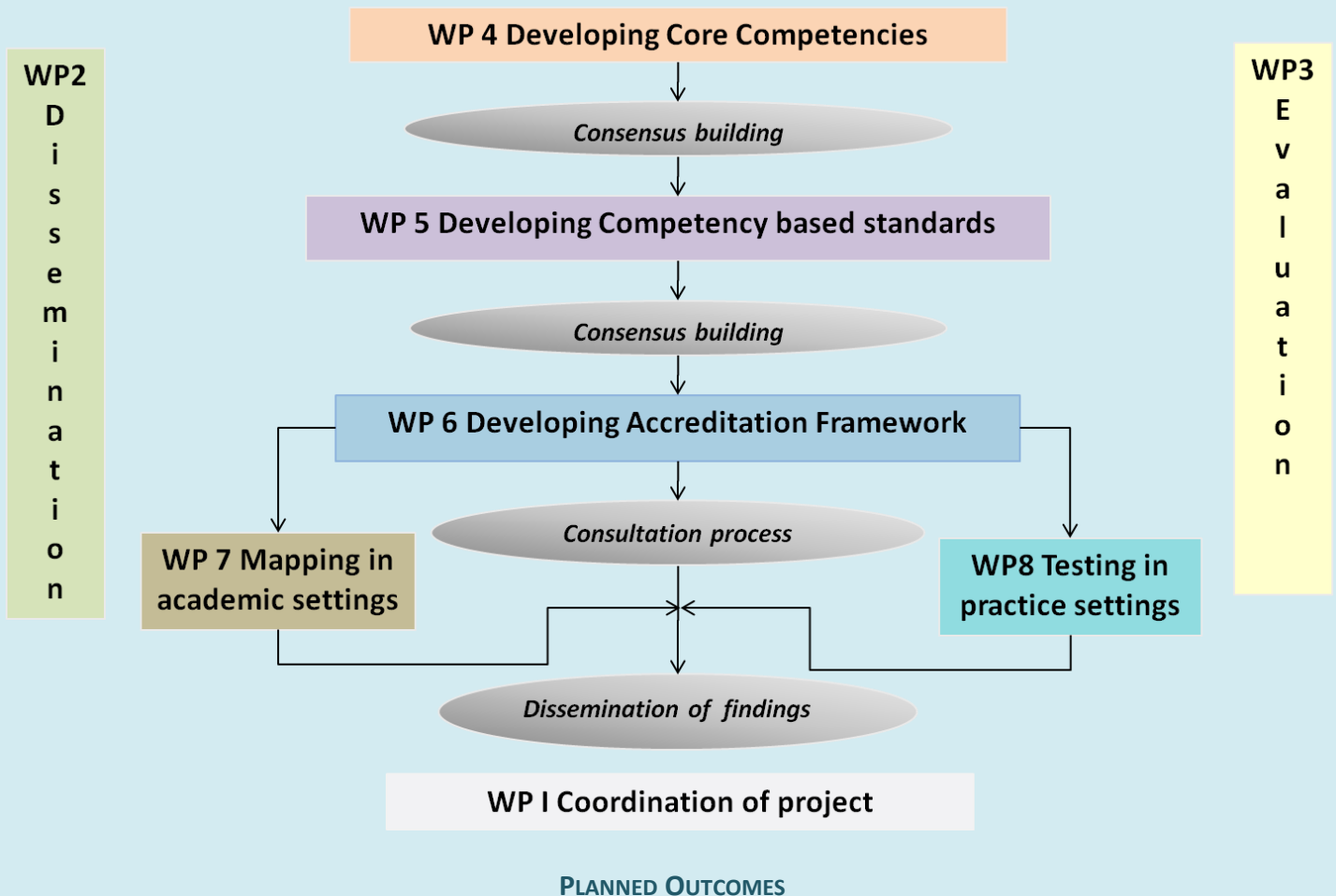
Drivers for the development of CompHP include:

- quality assurance issues for practice, education and training identified within all health fields
- freedom of employment policies highlighting the need for agreed standards to facilitate employment across the EU
- the workforce capacity required for promoting health as identified in European Union (EU) health strategies.

HOW THE COMPHP PROJECT WORKS

The project is structured into eight units of work called 'workpackages'. Three core workpackages, which run for the whole three years focus on the coordination and management (Work package 1) dissemination (Work package 2) and evaluation (Work package 3) of the project.

The remaining workpackages focus on specific aspects of developing and testing the core competencies, professional standards and accreditation framework.



PLANNED OUTCOMES

- * A shared understanding of, and consensus on, the core competencies required for health promotion practice, education and training in Europe.
- * Competency-based standards that will inform capacity building for professional practice in health promotion across Europe.
- * A template for a pan-European accreditation system to accredit individuals and education and training providers using agreed criteria.
- * Enhanced education and training programmes in health promotion across Europe based on a shared understanding of the core competencies and standards that need to be incorporated into academic core curricula.
- * The promotion of workforce development and best practice in health promotion through engaging practitioners and professional bodies in the development of quality standards and accreditation systems.
- * Greater cooperation and coordination in health promotion practice, education and training across Europe, promoted by an active project consultation and dissemination process, leading to improved quality of practice based on agreed competencies and standards.

WHO WE ARE

The CompHP project is being led by Professor Margaret Barry, IUHPE Vice President for Capacity Building, Education and Training (2007-2010)

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There is a total of 22 partners, of whom 11 are actively involved in the project workpackages while the remaining 11 contribute to the project as collaborating partners. Together we represent 10 EU member states and two candidate countries.

Contact details are available at: <http://www.iuhpe.org/index.html?page=614&lang=en>

Global and European

International Union for Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE) -
Dr. Claire Blanchard - cblanchard@iuhpe.org



Estonia

University of Tartu, Estonia -
Dr. Anu Kasmel - anu.kasmel@gmail.com



Finland

The Finnish Centre for Health Promotion -
Mr. Heikki Parviainen - heikki.parviainen@health.fi



Ireland

Health Promotion Research Center, National University of Ireland Galway -
Prof. Margaret Barry (Project leader) - margaret.barry@nuigalway.ie
Health Service Executive (HSE) - Mr. Brian Neeson - brian.neeson@hse.ie



Italy

University of Perugia - Dr. Giancarlo Pocetta - gianpoc@unipg.it
University of Cagliari - Prof. Paolo Contu - contumail@gmail.com



Spain

University Rey Juan Carlos - Prof. Carmen Gallardo - carmen.gallardo@urjc.es



The Czech Republic

National Institute for Public Health - Dr. Hana Janatova - janatova@szu.cz



The Netherlands

The Netherlands Institute for Health Promotion -
Mr. Gerard van der Sanden - gvanderzanden@nigz.nl



United Kingdom

Royal Society for Public Health - Prof. Richard Parish - richardparish28@aol.com



HOW WE WORK

A key element of the project is that we take a consensus building approach and aim to work in collaboration with health promotion practitioners, policymakers and education providers across Europe. Existing health promotion and related networks across Europe, notably IUHPE EURO, are pivotal to the success of the project. While our formal remit is in relation to EU member states and candidate countries we aspire to having all countries in Europe engaged in the project through a comprehensive consultation process.

The project is supported by an International Expert Advisory Group comprising leading health promotion experts on the development of competencies, standards and accreditation internationally. This group will provide advice and feedback on the work of the project and also help us maintain active links to similar work on project and standards at a global level.

INFORMATION SHARING AND CONSULTATION

As part of ongoing work on sharing information, a series of formal presentations will be made at the 20th World Conference of the International Union for Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE) on Health Promotion Health, Equity and Sustainable Development 11th - 15th July 2010. A symposium focusing on the project developments in its first year will be presented on Tuesday July 13th, 2010 at 11.00 am. A series of focus groups is also planned at the conference (over lunchtime from Monday to Wednesday) to get feedback and explore ideas regarding the development of CompHP.

We want to share information with and get feedback from as many colleagues as possible so if you are planning to hold a conference, meeting or workshop please think about including a session on the project. We can provide up to date information on the project if you let us know in advance. Please contact Claire Blanchard cblanchard@iuhpe.org or Barbara Battel Kirk bbkconsultancy@eircom.net.

INFORMATION SHARING AND CONSULTATION (CONTINUED)

We will be conducting surveys, focus groups, workshops and online consultation on the development of professional standards and an accreditation system for health promotion over the next two years. We invite you to join the project database so that we can include you in this ongoing consultation <http://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=dEplZUZ3MIB6YVVPdnFtRU5qN3dBMOE6MA> to give us your details online.

The project will culminate in a conference where we will share the learning from the project and present the handbooks and reports on the agreed core competencies, professional standards and accreditation framework which will inform capacity building for professional practice in health promotion across Europe.

WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED TO DATE

- * Management, communication and evaluation systems agreed and in operation
- * A dedicated project website available in
 - English - <http://www.iuhpe.org/index.html?page=614&lang=en>
 - French - <http://www.iuhpe.org/index.html?mode=&n=&page=614&lang=fr>
 - Spanish - <http://www.iuhpe.org/index.html?mode=&n=&page=614&lang=sp>
- * A database of key project stakeholders across Europe – this is a live database which is updated regularly – if you want to add your name please complete the online form at - <http://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=dEplZUZ3MIB6YVVPdnFtRU5qN3dBMOE6MA>
- * An extensive review of the international literature (published and unpublished) on competencies in health promotion and their development
- * A Delphi survey with health promotion experts across Europe on developing consensus for core competencies in final stages of completion
- * A draft accreditation framework completed based on a comparison of systems in operation in Europe
- * A review of the international literature on professional standards is currently underway.

We have also held two successful project meetings. The inaugural project meeting was held in September 2009 in the EAHC Headquarters in Luxembourg and was attended by all project partners. In May 2010, the first meeting of the Workpackage Leaders took place in Cagliari, Italy.



CompHP project partners during the meeting that took place in Cagliari, Italy in May 2010

Four more project meetings are scheduled for the project and these meetings will be augmented by regular telephone and online contact between partners.

Please keep in contact!

Please keep in contact with the progress of the **CompHP** Project on our website where you can also find the online form for you to send us your contact details.

Please contact the Project Coordinator – Barbara Battel-Kirk bbkconsultancy@eircom.net if you want any additional information on the project.