The International Union for Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE), in collaboration with many experts and organisations, is actively involved in promoting health in schools at the global level. The IUHPE advocates for a whole school approach to promote physical, mental, social and environmental health through its programme of activities.

**AIMS**

The programme aims to:

- highlight the unique potential of schools to promote both health and education outcomes, based on a solid body of evidence developed in the past;
- influence policies to be healthy public policies by showcasing good practice of culturally adapted, evidence-based, and highly participatory and empowering interventions;
- engage different sectors of government to share responsibility for promoting the health of the whole school community, to create supportive and sustainable infrastructures and to encourage action at the national, sub-national, regional and local levels;
- contribute to reducing unacceptable health inequities that exist in our world;
- address the issues that hinder more effective school health;
- create a dialogue between various sectors that act within the school setting (environment, urban planning, education, health, nutrition, etc.) and facilitate exchange of knowledge and expertise between various areas of research, practice and policy-making;
- build capacity and advance knowledge in low- and middle-income countries.

**WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP**

The IUHPE collaborates with numerous experts and organisations to develop and disseminate products and useful tools to:

- Share and transfer knowledge in support of whole and integrated approaches to promoting health in schools;
- Create a dialogue and space for sharing experiences and case studies around the promotion of health in schools as well as their translation and adaptation to various contexts;
- Facilitate exchange of experiences, reflections, lessons learnt and recommendations to advance the field through opportunities, meetings, conferences and other national, regional and international events;
- Advocate for the establishment of public policies based on sound and solid evidence of effectiveness;
- Strengthen and advocate for teacher training in health promotion.

**Our main partners**

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - CDC
The International School Health Network - ISHN
The Education Development Center - EDC
The Schools for Health in Europe network - SHE
The International Collaboration on Teacher Training / Education in Health Promotion & Health Education
The Institut National de Santé Publique du Québec (National Institute of Public Health of Quebec) - INSPQ
A 2009 document *Achieving Health Promoting Schools: Guidelines for Promoting Health in Schools* setting out the principles and guidelines of health promoting schools and their sustainable development. This document is available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Italian, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish and will soon be available in Japanese and Swedish.

A 2010 document *Promoting Health in Schools: from evidence to action* complementing the recommendations outlined in the above mentioned document. It is an advocacy document for the health and education sectors to undertake school health promotion activities based on the evidence of effectiveness. It provides succinct evidence-based arguments to support the need for school health promotion. Finally it advocates for a whole school (Health Promoting Schools) approach to strategically plan and implement school health initiatives. This document is available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish and will soon be available in Italian, Japanese, and Swedish.

A Special Edition of the IUHPE journal *Promotion & Education* (now *Global Health Promotion*) presenting a global portrait of the present status and future challenges for school health promotion. This publication is acknowledged as a key document in the international development of health promotion in schools.
In 2010 and 2011, the IUHPE, through a series of key events, contributed to shaping the field of promoting health in schools, as well as its progress through participatory work, with the aim to:

- **Explore development strategies** for promoting health in schools (Health Promoting Schools, Eco-schools, etc.);

- **Outline the current status** of the international situation and to create a space for exchange in order to learn from others’ experiences as well as promoting the establishment of constructive and practical thematic areas specific to the school setting;

- **Present detailed case studies** and to address how to best translate them to the field of promoting health in schools and how to adapt examples of good practice to different contexts;

- **Gather health and education officials** to facilitate the adaptation and development of health promoting initiatives in schools based on solid scientific evidence;

- **Discuss state of the art techniques and approaches** to strengthen teacher training;

- **Create a space for dialogue between different sectors and actors of society** to better disseminate lessons learnt, recommendations and what works in practice;

- **Build capacity for professionals of the school setting** in low- and middle-income countries.

**Key Events in 2010 & 2011**

- An International Symposium on *Health Promoting Schools: What strategies for development?* on the occasion of the National Prevention Days/Journées de la Prévention in Paris, France – April 8th - 9th 2010,

- An International Symposium on *Linking Health, Equity and Sustainability in Schools* in Geneva, Switzerland – July 10th - 11th 2010,


The IUHPE would like to acknowledge all experts, consultants and other actors who have contributed to this work as well as the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for its ongoing support.

This work was conducted with the support of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The content of documents and deliverables is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the CDC.