



ACTION-FOR-HEALTH

“Reducing health inequalities: Preparation for action plans and structural funds projects

Representing the Slovak partner in the project

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The project is funded by DG Sanco (2012-2014) in order to facilitate consortium partners to prepare action plans in their respective regions or towns for reducing health inequalities. These action plans should be oriented towards the priorities of the Structural Funds (SF), so as to enable the partners, once the project is completed, to apply for funding under the SF scheme. The action plans must broadly aim to improve the health and quality of life of citizens by tackling health inequalities by health promotion. The project coordinator is the Murska Sobota Public Health Institute, Slovenia and other countries involved are the UK and the Netherlands (evaluators), Estonia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Lithuania, Spain, Hungary and Slovakia. As the Slovak partner we have drafted an action plan which, broadly speaking, aims to encourage intersectoral partnership, improve behaviours for the general Trnava population and for vulnerable groups within supportive environments, and to support a clean and healthy physical environment. These aims will be discussed further during the EcCoWell conference, with the view to discussing with participants the role that health promotion approaches can play in reducing regional or city health inequalities.

Dr. Monica O’Mullane will present at the EcCoWell conference on behalf of the Slovak partner in ACTION-FOR-HEALTH. Monica previously was a member of the Healthy Cities Cork group (2008-2010) and remains interested in how such holistic approaches to improving population health in regions and cities can be implemented, such as part of the ACTION-FOR-HEALTH project. Monica recently edited a volume entitled *Integrating health impact assessment with the policy process* for Oxford University Press (2013) and will author a monograph in 2014 entitled *Health impact assessment of Irish public policy*, to be published by Manchester University Press. Monica is also Scientific Coordinator for the Slovak partner in an FP7 project *Transforming organisational culture for gender equality in research and innovation* (GENOVATE) (2013-2016).