

Roundtable discussion summary

<p>Moving from policy to action: Success stories on taking the environment and health agenda forward</p>

Title of presentation:

“Establishment of a common education in environmental medicine for physicians in Europe”

Brief description of advocacy campaign or activity:

1993 start of education of environmental medicine on a German curriculum.

1993 getting awareness to a new founded German physician association of doctors for environmental medicine (Deutscher Berufsverband der Umweltmediziner, dbu)

2000 – 2002 environmental medicine training for physicians in Luxembourg based on the German curriculum including a tutorial to make it more practice orientated.

2003 founding the European Academy for Environmental Medicine (EUROPAEM) for a better international acting.

2004 contacting decision makers from WHO, German and European MPs as well as politicians from European Ministries for Environment and Health convincing them, the Budapest Declaration on Environment and Health should include the advise to stress on training of medical professionals.

Giving lectures on international congresses, meetings and workshops (London, Brussels, Luxembourg, Wroclaw, Vienna) to introduce an European education system in environmental medicine for physicians in three steps: students, postgraduate physicians, master degree.

2004 Preparing an application to the Leonardo da Vinci Project of the EU-Commission with the title: “Establishment of a common education in environmental medicine for physician on the job in Europe”. Partner countries are, Austria, Czech Republic, Poland. After passing the intermediate check we are now asked to give a full proposal to the EU-Commission.

Parallel, in cooperation with the University of Liege, we are organizing a training for physician based on the same system for Belgium.

Future (2007) will see a evaluated European curriculum of education environmental medicine for physician.

Future also shall see a high standard, multi centric study (several European universities) getting an “European Master of Environmental Medicine”

Description of deliverables / outputs:

Evaluation of a common education system in environmental medicine for physicians in Europe

Giving lectures in environmental medicine to physicians the awareness on environment and health will rise up. Doctors are a very good leverage to promote these subjects to patient.

This can be a good base to a far-reaching discussion on the REACH-Process.

Description of factors making the activity a success:

Founding organizations of similar minded professionals and so getting a better awareness.

Scientific work, publications, organizing and participating congresses and workshops on these subjects.

Contacting politicians and scientific institutions as well as insurance companies.

Environment and Health in Europe:
Advocacy and Capacity Building Training Programme

Initiating project granted by the EU-Commission.

Making partner countries interested in getting grants by the EU

Lessons learned:

One single person rarely does push big stone alone. Found organization.

Find the right target group to need it as a leverage.

When getting blocked out on national base, try to spread out your ideas international, This will be retro project activity to your own country

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