

East meets West – in Montreaux Survey, surveillance and health promotion in Eastern Europe

Aserbaidshjan, Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Former GDR, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine

Public Health scientists from all these countries have until today submitted manuscripts for review and publication in SPM. This for very good reasons: the dynamic social, cultural and economic developments that are taking place in Eastern Europe today are among the most challenging developments in Public Health on a global scale.

Public health's task is to contribute to social change in a way that helps to improve the chances to good health for all and for those in deprived conditions in particular. Consequently, Public health research is needed in East and West to help better understand the links between societal conditions and health.

Over the last few years, Public health research in Eastern European countries has been emerging fast and SPM is dedicated to promoting knowledge transfer from East to West. Our unique Section Eastern Europe facilitates the distribution and discussions of public health knowledge between the two hemispheres. Within one year, SPM has received

33 scientific contributions (17 already published) covering a broad range of substantive and methodological issues. The first year of our new section has been encouraging indeed. So, no surprise that we continue our efforts to make the enormous wealth of public health knowledge in Eastern Europe available to the scientific community on a global scale.

*As announced in the previous issue of SPM, we are now, with the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), organizing a special workshop on **Survey, surveillance and health promotion in Eastern Europe.***

This events is part of the 14th Annual conference of the European Public Health Association.

In November 2006, some 3000 Public Health experts will meet in Montreux, Switzerland to present their research, exchange their ideas and discuss the key public health issues and challenges in Europe.

See you in Montreux !

Thomas Abel and Alfredo Morabia

Address for correspondence

Prof. Dr. Thomas Abel
Department of Social and Preventive
Medicine
Division of Social and Behavioural Health
Research
Niesenweg 6
CH-3012 Bern
e-mail: abel@ispm.unibe.ch