



SHE RESEARCH GROUP

Position paper

Venka Simovska and Goof Buijs

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Introduction

The SHE research group is a consortium of researchers and research institutions from a number of countries in Europe, linked with the Schools for Health in Europe network. Membership of the SHE network is possible as SHE coordinator or as a member of the SHE research group, see terms of reference SHE network version 1.2.

Currently the SHE research group consists of 23 participants from 17 SHE member countries (Annex 1).

The coordinator of the group is the Department of Education, Aarhus University in collaboration with CBO as a WHO Collaborating Centre for School Health Promotion. The coordinating team consists of Venka Simovska (Aarhus University) and Goof Buijs (CBO).

Objective

The main objective of the SHE research group is to support the development of school health promotion in Europe by stimulating, facilitating and coordinating conceptual, theoretical and empirical research.

Aims

The aims of the SHE research group are twofold:

- a) ***Facilitating and coordinating research and contributing to conceptual development as well as research-based evidence for***



the schools for health approach across Europe. This will be done in different ways, e.g. through joint research projects among several partners in the research group; through sharing ongoing research, that is, creating a research data base on schools for health approach. Furthermore, specific research projects and systematic reviews can be planned and conducted in partnership with SHE planning committee, or any of the national SHE coordinators interested in researching a particular topic.

- b) ***Research capacity building, stimulating research, and consultancy for the SHE members, in collaboration with the SHE planning committee.*** This will be done through research workshops, seminars, summer schools and consultancy for PhD students, researchers in SHE network and SHE coordinators. Furthermore, members of the research group can provide experts that can form a scientific committee for conferences and other events within the SHE network. These events could be at international, national or regional level, depending on the needs and priorities.

Research area and issues

The research group will develop a working plan for the period 2009-2012, combined with the SHE strategic plan 2008-2012.

The main overall research area is health education and health promotion in schools, with particular focus on the health-promoting schools approach. Additionally, the research will aim to link health topics (e.g. nutrition, physical exercise, alcohol, smoking etc) with the whole-school approach to health promotion, focus on health-determinants, holistic view of health and health inequalities.

Main principles underpinning the research agenda are the SHE core values (equity, sustainability, inclusion, empowerment and action competence, democracy) and SHE pillars (whole school approach to health, participation, school quality, evidence, schools and communities) which will be operationalised in specific research issues.



Examples of research issues that will be in focus of the research group, provisionally categorized in several groups, include:

1. State of the art

- Reviews of evidence of school health promotion
- Discourses of health promotion at school globally

2. Conceptual and theoretical development

- Models and approaches to school health promotion
- Healthy learning organizations and communities (including schools and local policies)
- Schools as part of community development
- Participatory approaches and their effectiveness in relation to different pupils (e.g. gender, background, socio-economic status, academic performance)
- Health inequalities and health promotion in schools
- Social inclusion, social capital and health promotion in schools
- Different models within the area of school development: links with the health promoting schools, e.g. efficient schools, good schools, sustainable schools etc.

3. Empirical research and evaluation

- Evaluation issues, indicators and evidence related to different health promotion approaches
- Health promotion in schools in different cultures and contexts
- Head teachers' competences and school management for health promotion
- Teachers' competences
- Wellbeing and health of school staff
- Health-promoting school pedagogy and learning outcomes (links between health and learning)
- Curriculum mapping

4. Policy development, implementation, evaluation

- Analysis of policy formation and development (national, regional or local level)
- Implementation of health promotion in schools (national, regional and local level)
- Effectiveness of health promotion in school policies: health and learning outcomes



Organisation

The research group operates through a core research group and specific teams.

The **core group** coordinates and facilitates the work of the research group, in collaboration with SHE secretariat and the SHE planning committee. The core group meets occasionally to discuss and share research-related issues and to plan joint applications. The core group gives inputs to the SHE planning committee and SHE assembly concerning conceptual development of SHE, as well research to support and generate evidence related to SHE.

The **specific teams** consisting of consortium partner institutions as well as external partners (e.g. from all SHE member states interested in the research project in question) will be established around specific research projects with a concrete research problem, design, team and budget. These projects would be coordinated by one or more partner institution from the research group. This would be specified in each particular project description.

The research group is operating in a non-hierarchical and non-exclusive way; it is open for interested research institutions to join the core consortium, or specific teams focusing on specific projects. Via membership of the SHE research group participants are linked as a member of the SHE network.

Funding and accountability

The work for the coordination of the core research group will be included in the annual SHE work plan, which depends on the fundraising that CBO will undertake.

Further fundraising will be done by the members of the research group consortium, depending on a specific research project or activity. For any such project or activity, there will be a project coordinator from the members of the research group.

Fundraising for specific research projects and activities can also be undertaken by any of the SHE national coordination institutions, in



collaboration with members of the research group and SHE planning committee.

The relations between the SHE Assembly, planning committee and the research group concerning fundraising and accountability will be specified and integrated in the SHE term of reference.

Contact

- *Goof Buijs*, SHE secretariat, CBO, WHO Collaborating Centre for School Health Promotion (g.buijs@cbo.nl)
- *Venka Simovska* (vs@dpu.dk), Department of Education, Aarhus University, Copenhagen, Denmark