

## **The 1<sup>st</sup> Regional Southeastern Europe Conference on Safe Communities “Safe Children in Safe Communities”**

**June 22-25, 2009  
Novi Sad, Serbia**

### **Conclusions**

1. Representatives from: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Iran, Lithuania, Mauritius, Montenegro, Nigeria, Serbia, Slovakia, Sweden, and USA participated in the Conference.
2. The theme of the Conference “Safe Children in Safe Communities” was addressed from a multidisciplinary perspective.
3. Safety issues at personal, community, organizational, school, and worksite level, at home, in parks and public places, were identified as major problems in the Region of South Eastern Europe.
4. Injuries, both intentional and unintentional, were found to be major public health problems with economic, psychological, social, family and individual burden and consequences.
5. Psychological trauma and mental health as important safety issues would have to be considered in addition to physical injuries.
6. Human rights issues would have to be included in the Safety Promotion Movement.
7. The need to form a designated South Eastern Europe Safe Community Network (SEESCONET) and to affiliate it with the European Network and EU Institutions, particularly with WHO Collaborating Center on Community Safety Promotion at Karolinska Institute, and with other global Networks.
8. The Countries identified as possible members of the South Eastern Europe Safe Community Network (SEESCONET) are: Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Macedonia, Montenegro, Moldavia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine.
9. The office of the South Eastern Europe Safe Community Network (SEESCONET) will be affiliated with the National Center for Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion, Novi Sad, Serbia.
10. Much emphasis would have to be placed on the ways and means to address the problems of safety in the local communities and to educate the public how to develop and implement Safe Community Projects in all Member Countries of South Eastern

Europe Region. Provision should also be made to train experts in order to monitor and evaluate the projects and for report writing.

11. Evaluation of current/existing initiatives that have been implemented in the South Eastern Europe Region would have to be conducted.
12. Identification, needs assessments and financial supports for Safe Community Movement would have to be developed in all member countries.
13. To identify and define need for and support of Media & Media Campaign.
14. Formation of interest groups with common themes to allow for more in-depth discussions, sharing of experiences and recommendations, in the near future, were suggested as important steps in the field of Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion. This would tremendously help for advocacy and effective policy-making.
15. The production of a “Safe Community Booklet” as a guide for practitioners in this Region would help to initiate programmes at community levels and to standardize as far as possible the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects.
16. To conduct evaluation of Regional Conferences would provide valuable feedback for improvement in the organization of future events and conferences.
17. The host and organizer of Second Regional South Eastern Europe Conference on Safe Communities in 2010 will be Croatia.

**Mirjana Milankov, MD, PhD**

Chairlady, Conference Organizing Committee

Affiliate Safe Community Support Centre  
of WHO CC Community Safety Promotion  
National Center for Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion  
Novi Sad  
Serbia