



Eastern Europe Nurses' Centre of Excellence for Tobacco Control

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
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1. After summer ended, we welcomed the first fall month, September, by the Centre of Excellence project's face-to-face meeting in Prague. It took place on September 7-8, 2015 in Sheraton hotel. Prof. Linda Sarna and Dr. Stella Bialous along with Dr. Marjorie Wells arrived for nearly a week-long project visit. The nurse leaders from Slovakia, Slovenia, Romania and the Czech Republic with the advisory board members from Slovakia, Slovenia and the Czech Republic were able to participate. We received regrets from our Hungarian partners who could not come.

The two day meeting was very productive and helpful to all project partners mainly thanks to in person discussions about all the project activities. A special focus was directed at the upcoming launch of the e-learning education activity on the second day of the meeting.

The visiting US team then continued on Wednesday, Sept. 9, to visit Bratislava. During the visit, the team met with the director of the National Institute of

Cardiovascular Diseases Ing. Mongi Msolly, MBA and the Deputy of nursing PhD. Olga Sekaninova, Mgr. Iveta Lazorova, RN, the president of Slovak Chamber of Nurses and Midwives, the director of Centre for Treatment of Drug Addiction Lubomir Okruhlica, MD, PhD, and also a representative from the Slovak Medical University, School of nursing PhD. Viera Terekova, PhD. The meeting was very successful and hopefully strengthened the team's support and collaboration for our Slovakian project partners: the nurse leader Mgr. Gabriel Balint, RN and the advisory board Dusan Selko, MD.

The visiting team then continued their way to Budapest where we met on Friday morning (September 11) with the nurse leader Erzsébet Vecsernyés, RN, BSc. and the advisory board member Marta Fényes, MD. They were later joined by Zsuzsa Csélko, MD, Ildikó Horváth, MD, and Erika Pataki. After discussing the Centre of Excellence project with Erzsébet Vecsernyés and Marta Fényes, the visiting team was then provided with a very nice overview of the current situation in Hungary.



Dr. Stella Bialous on the first day of the meeting, Prague, September 7, 2015



Coffee time for the Czech team before going to the dinner with COE partners on Sept. 7



2. Our projects has been featured in some Slovak media:

<http://mediweb.hnonline.sk/spravy/aktualne/sestry-pomozu-fajciarom-pri-odvykani-od-tabaku>

<http://mediweb.hnonline.sk/content/konferencia-ako-pomoc-pacientom-s-odvykanim-fajcit>

3. WHO European Region Member States commit to denormalizing tobacco, Copenhagen and Vilnius, 17 September 2015 Ministers of health

from the 53 Member States of the WHO European Region signed up to a roadmap that will make it possible for coming generations to make tobacco a thing of the past. More here: <http://www.euro.who.int/en/media-centre/sections/press-releases/2015/09/who-european-region-member-states-commit-to-denormalizing-tobacco>

4. Two Czech nurse leaders from the Society for Treatment of Tobacco Dependence were invited to present at a national nursing conference in High Tatras, Slovakia on September 25-26, 2015 with 200 participants. Katerina Mala, RN presented about “Nine-year experience with education of nurses

in the Czech Republic” and Vladislava Felbrova, Bc., RN presented on “The role of the nurse in intensive treatment of tobacco dependence.” Lack of interest in tobacco control topic was reported by the two nurses.

Photo: Conference in High Tatras, Slovakia



Presenters: Katka Mala (left), Vladka Felbrova (right)

5. The five Czech nurses who attended the ICCN 2015 in Vancouver this past July succeeded to sent a report about the conference to the nurses' journal Florence (peer reviewed, <http://www.florence.cz/>). The contribution was published in September's

issue. Link (in Czech) here: <http://www.florence.cz/odborne-clanky/archiv-florence/2015/9/projekt-sestry-pomahaji-prestat-kourit-slavil-uspech-na-mezinarodni-konferenci-v-kanade/>

6. The Czech team has held two focus groups (FG): the first FG was for current smokers (8 current smokers + 1 ex-smoker nurse came along with her friend and co-worker who is still a smoker) on October 1. The second FG was for past-smokers (8 nurses) on October 5, 2015. The two FGs took place in Prague. Both groups of nurses were wonderful and openly shared their experience, opinions and ideas. (Please note, for confidentiality reasons, no photo was taken.)
7. Slovakia's nurse leader, Gabriel Balint, MS, RN has held one successful focus group with 10 nurses-current smokers at the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases in Bratislava on October 12, 2015.
8. All COE partnering countries worked very hard for the past two months on the e-learning activity!! The preparation for the launch included: 1) completing translation and adaptation of the 2 e-learning modules + scripts and 2) recording the webcasts. All countries should have this completed by October 30. At the same time, the ISNCC staff has been preparing a website for the e-learning. Now, the process of survey testing will start - this is the last step before the official web launch. WE THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR ALL YOUR WORK!

9. Let us introduce to you our partners from Romania:

Ecaterina Gulie, RN, MS, PhD (doctoral student), President of RNA who is the COE Nurse leader



And the Advisory board **Teodora Ciolompea, MD**, Master in Health Promotion, M.D. specialist in prevention and treatment on drug abuse, training in drug abuse research through NIDA (USA)

