

S14

Public health focused model programme for organising primary care services

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Background: Health 2020 the new World Health Organization European health policy framework and strategy indicates as one of its four priority areas ‘the strengthening of people-centred health systems along with public health capacity’. The primary care system, in addition to traditional patient care services, should focus on health promotion, disease prevention and health restoration within the affected community, as well as on the effective rehabilitation of chronically ill individuals.

Method: The Swiss-Hungarian Cooperation Programme entitled ‘Public Health Focused Model Programme for Organising Primary Care Services...’ launched in 2012 is a pilot programme targeting the foundation of the Hungarian primary health care reform that encourages an improvement in the general health status of the population. The intervention area of the Programme is in the two most disadvantaged regions of Hungary, where four general practitioners’ (GPs’) clusters based on six practices were established that cover about 40 000 persons, 30% of whom are of Roma ethnicity. Community-oriented health services are delivered by new health professionals (public health professionals, community nurses, physiotherapists, dieticians, health psychologists) and health mediators who are recruited from the Roma population. The work of health professionals and health mediators is organized by the public health coordinator.

Results: The new services provided by the GPs’ clusters are organized into the following units within the cluster: (a) health promotion activities in different settings, (b) health status assessment, (c) lifestyle counselling, (d) medical risk assessment and (e) coordinated actions to improve mother and child health. As a result of health status assessment, risk conditions, as well as previously unknown diseases have been identified, and preventive (health promotion, lifestyle counselling) or curative interventions (with rehabilitation focus) were introduced.

Conclusions: The programme targets to develop a community-oriented primary care with public health focus to improve primary care services on a national level

