THE PEP Follow up on a Toolbox for Policy Makers

Telč, Czech Republic – 25-27 June 2007

SCOPE AND PURPOSE

Introduction

Following an ad-hoc session to discuss follow-up activities of the project “Transport related health impacts and their costs and benefits with particular focus on children” (Geneva, 13 April 2005), participants in the meeting agreed to develop a Toolbox for policy makers to help problem solving in transport, health and the environment.

In particular, the aim of the Toolbox is to maximize the positive health, environmental and societal effects of transport and to reduce the negative effects. Specific objectives are:

(a) to raise awareness of the links between transport, environment and health and to help identify obstacles to linking transport to environment and health policy;
(b) to demonstrate that negative impacts can be reduced and positive effects enhanced by changing policies and their implementation;
(c) to raise awareness of the possible side effects of specific policies;
(d) to present examples of recent practice and stimulate the development of case studies (e.g. of national or sub-national assessments used to generate evidence for action, or on evaluation of interventions) across the WHO/Europe–UNECE region through international consultation; and
(e) to bring together, under a coherent and user-friendly framework, the results of relevant initiatives undertaken in the region.

The contents of the Toolbox will be tailored to meet the information needs of three main target audiences in the field of transport, environment and health, which are a) senior politicians and decision makers; b) policymakers; and c) practitioners and experts.

The Toolbox is developed by a task force consisting of 12 WHO/Europe–UNECE Member States and one. It is co-chaired by Austria and the Netherlands, which also supports the coordination of the task force activities through the Dutch National Institute for Health and the Environment (RIVM).

The Toolbox will be launched at the 3dr High Level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health, to be convened in 2008.
Reason for meeting

The workshop is convened to serve 2 main purposes:

1. To respond to the recommendations made at THE PEP Workshop on Sustainable Urban Transport and Land Use Planning (18–20 October 2006, Tbilisi), to provide opportunities for capacity building for EECCA and SEA countries with a special focus on health impact assessment of urban transport.

2. To advance the development and pilot test first contents of the Toolbox together with the partners and to discuss the progress made and next steps of the Task Force.

The working language will be English only.

Proposed outcomes of the meeting

It is expected that by the end of the meeting agreement will have been reached on:

1) Further guidance regarding opportunities and challenges for health-impact assessment in EECCA and SEA countries;
2) the usability of the first contents of the Toolbox and possible adaptations needed;
3) the next steps of work of the Task Force and contributions that will be made by participants.