

Makedonka VILAROVA
Snezhana PETROVA

INTERSECTORAL COLLABORATION FOR HEALTH IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Introduction

In accordance with the establishment of the objectives of the Law on Public Health regarding preservation and improvement of the population's health, and enabling implementation of basic functions and tasks of public health through organized measures and activities undertaken by state bodies, institutions, local self-government units and other legal and physical entities in cooperation with the health institutions, it is of particular importance to promote and strengthen the cross-sectoral cooperation in implementing the basic functions of public health while simultaneously promoting and strengthening cooperation between the competent ministries and the local self-government units, as well as between the public and private sector and the citizens in preserving and promotion of health of the population, adults and children.

The modern times in which we live are characterized by an increase of cross-dependency at a global, regional, national and local level and a growing complexity of interrelated factors that

Makedonka Vilarova holds a Ph.D. in education sciences and is a certified education and sport inspector, Municipality of Veles

Snezhana Petrova is specialist-epidemiologist, Centre for Public Health, Veles, President of Public Health Council, Municipality of Veles

influence the health and well-being of the population. The integration of many various sector that influence health (social and ecological determinants of health, health protection etc.) aims at providing a better environment for achieving health and well-being. Hence, this is an absolute challenge for every country.

An intersectoral approach to health is a new concept of health management that unites and expands previous definitions of cross-sectoral action and healthy public policy in more comprehensive and related definitions regarding responsibility of the entire population, inevitably including the education system.

Activities of the Municipality of Veles in the field of health for 2017

Health is a complex category, as well as a public good to which all sectors contribute, but also gain benefits, through their actions. Hence, it is understandable that one single document cannot perceive and encompass all aspects of health along with all determinants influencing it, nor can it describe and incorporate all relations, responsibilities and possibilities for a cross-sectoral cooperation and coordinated action toward improved health and well-being while simultaneously being in accordance with the National Health 2020 Strategy of the Republic of Macedonia at the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Macedonia.

Conducting health-related education through educational lectures for target groups in the area covered by the Centre for Public Health

Within the social medicine services in CPH health-related and educational activities are planned, programmed, performed and evaluated with the population, in accordance with the law.

In this sense, annual programmes and reports, occasional information and analysis for health-related and educational activities in certain periods are prepared, but also expert and methodological assistance is provided to health institutions in the area, activities are coordinated with multiple governmental and non-governmental organizations, lectures, platforms, seminars and other forms of health-related and promotional activities are held.

**ACTIVITY PROGRAMME OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF VELES IN THE FIELD OF
HEALTH FOR 2017 (Municipal Gazette of the Municipality of Veles 14/2016)**

I. Preventive health care	Deadline	Institution responsible	Own funds	Municipality of Veles	Other sources of donation	Total
Activities of the Council for Public Health		Municipality of Veles		100 000		100 000
Activities of the National Strategy for Preventive Health Care (Health 2020)		Municipality of Veles in cooperation with PHIs and NGOs	0	150 000	0	150 000
II. Promotion and education						
Production of promotional material, lectures, platforms, campaigns		Municipality of Veles CPH	0	150 000	0	150 000
Rehabilitation of children		Municipality of Veles	0	200 000	0	200 000
III. General measures for protection of the population against non-communicable diseases		Municipality of Veles	0		0	
Aerosol disinsection (three aircraft sprayings)		Municipality of Veles	0	1 500 000	0	1 500 000
Deratisation, disinsection and disinfection of public areas and public facilities under municipal governance		Municipality of Veles	0	500 000	0	500 000
IV. Cross-institutional cooperation		Municipality of Veles PHIs and NGOs	0	110 000	0	110 000

1.1. Educational institutions in the Municipality of Veles

In the Municipality of Veles, the educational process is realized in seven municipal primary schools, four municipal secondary schools, one municipal primary music school and one special primary school. Under the competence of the Municipality of Veles, besides the municipal primary, secondary schools and the music school, there is also one kindergarten with six facilities and a high school dorm.

The health condition of students is monitored and analyzed through the Public Health System so that it can improve through influence on the health risk factors, such as environment factors, cause of diseases, lifestyle and socio-economic factors. In this context, the basic functions of public health are realized through a group of basic activities in educational institutions that treat health determinants, protect children's and students' health and prevent diseases of significance to public health.

Prevention is of particular importance as an activity that prevents the onset of disease, reduces the consequences of the disease, and eliminates and eradicates of the disease. In that regard, health improvement (promotion) is realized as a process of planning and encouraging activities for improvement of the children's and students' health condition.

1.2. Dynamic of platforms and presentations for students by the Council for Public Health

The health-related educational activity at the Centre for Public Health level has a coordinated approach with the units of local self-government and is aimed at: pre-school and school institutions, healthcare institutions, enterprises, associations and public news outlets.

The educational activities are explicitly defined in the action plan on the following topics: prevention of acute and chronic non-communicable diseases (general public); nutrition and health -healthy school meals and health risks from improper nutrition (all primary and secondary schools); health benefits from regular physical activity (all primary school and preschool institutions); activities in the period of childhood, adolescence and early adulthood (separate lectures organized in every class of secondary school).

Topic/Subject	Students	Realization
"Social media and its effect on youth"	Final primary classes and secondary schools	March
"Sexual and reproductive health and sexually transmitted infections"	Final primary classes and secondary schools - 8 lectures	April
"Addiction diseases- alcoholism, smoking and psychotropic substances"	Final primary classes and secondary schools	September
"With proper nutrition and physical activity to a healthier life"	Final primary classes and secondary schools	October
AIDS	Final primary classes and secondary schools	December

School sport clubs – care for the students' health

Within the intersectoral cooperation of the local self-government in terms of collective cooperation and overall care for the health of students in municipal primary and secondary schools, there are seven school sports clubs in the primary municipal schools and four of the secondary municipal schools, as follows:

1. School sports club of the „Vasil Glavinov“ MPS -Veles
2. School sports club of the „Blazhe Koneski“ MPS -Veles
3. School sports club of the „Ss. Cyril and Methodius“ MPS
4. School sports club of the „Blagoj Kirkov“ MPS - Veles
5. School sports club of the „J.H.K Dzinot“ MPS - Veles
6. School sports club of the „Rajko Zhinzifov“ MPS - Orizari
7. School sports club of the „Stojan B. Buridan“ MPS - Ivankovci v.
8. School sports club of the „Kole Nedelkovski“VSS - Veles
9. School sports club of the „Kocho Racin Gymnasium“ MPS
10. School sports club of the „Dimitrija Chupovski“ VSS
11. School sports club of the „Jovche Teslichkov“ MSS - Veles

All municipal school sports clubs work according to a specific programme and implement activities for improving students' health and disease prevention. In cooperation with teachers, parents and local self-government, a number of different sports events, competitions, cross-country running, hiking, walks, swimming classes, cycling, fitness exercises and many other sports activities are organized.

Application of Balance Score Card for equal access to water and sanitation in Veles

A third example of intersectoral cooperation in the Municipality of Veles regarding public health and the care for children's and students' health, is the Workshop for equal access to water and sanitation on the topic: "Application of a Water Supply Card for Equal Access and Sanitation in the Republic of Macedonia" that was held on 20th-21 January 2016 in Veles. According to the research conducted by Dr. Snezhana Petrova, hygiene and health ecology specialist of the Centre for Public Health, the following results were provided:

- in the Municipality of Veles, 13 schools attended by 91.6-91.7% of the total number of students use safe drinking water from the city water supply system, while 7 schools attended by 2.4-2.6% of the total number of students use drinking water from local water supply

system that is bacteriologically contaminated - 16.1% in 2014 and 42.0% in 2009 due to discontinued disinfection of the drinking water.

- 5 schools attended by 456-466 students, i.e. 6.0-5.7% of the total number of students use tap or well water bacteriologically contaminated from 60.0 to 100.0% due to lack of drinking water disinfection (Figures 4 and 5).

Figure 4. Access to safe drinking water shown as % of the total number of students in the Municipality of Veles in 2014

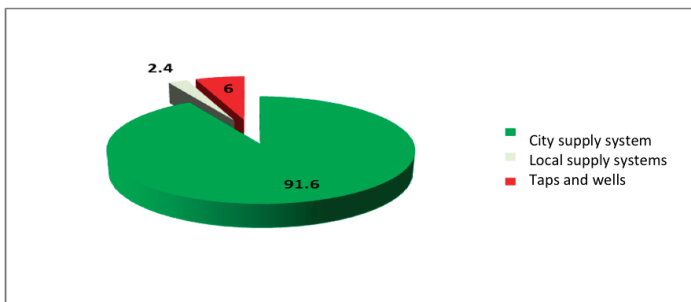
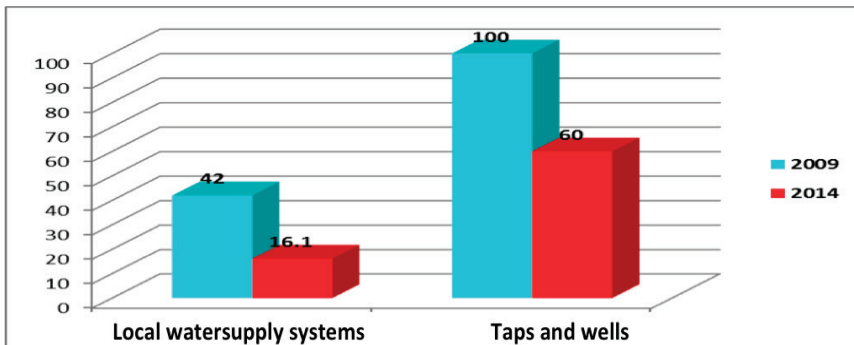
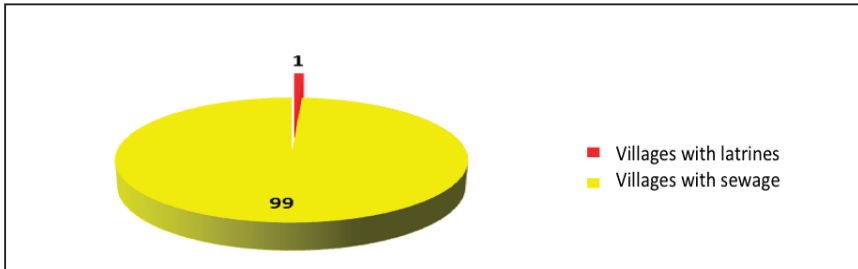


Figure 5. Bacteriologically contaminated samples of water (%) from schools in rural areas in 2009/2014



- The quality and safety of drinking water in schools connected to the local water supply system has improved in 2014 compared to 2009 as a result of initiatives and activities undertaken by the Municipality and by the local community in accordance with the draft measures proposed by the Centre for Public Health in Veles that is directly involved in this project through the Council for Public Health.

Figure 6. Access to sanitation shown as % of the total number of students in the Municipality of Veles in 2014



- In 24 school facilities attended by 7456-8161 students, i.e. 99.0-99.3% of the total number of students, liquid communal waste is disposed through the sewage system. In only one school (Slivnik v.) attended by 76-58, i.e. 1.0-0.7 % of the total number of students, liquid communal waste is disposed through a septic tank (Figure 6).

Improvement of services for users in educational institutions

There is continuous control over the access to safe drinking water and sanitation for users in educational facilities in cooperation with competent institutions.

- Interventions for maintaining the necessary level of sustainability of the quality of water supply and sanitation of facilities of the educational institutions, covered by block donations from the Ministry of Education and Science, are established and carried out.
- All educational institutions in the city and the larger schools in the villages have separate toilets for men and women, while some of the smaller local schools have shared toilets.

Apart from the high school dorm and the primary school in the Gorno Orizari village, other educational institutions lack adequate facilities for maintaining menstrual hygiene.

IV. LAPPD - Local Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities of the Municipality of Veles 2016-2020, May 2016

The fourth step for intersectoral collaboration and care for the public health in the Municipality of Veles is the elaboration and implementation of the Local Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities of the Municipality of Veles 2016-2020, which is a strategic document for strengthening the

process and deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities.

The fact that this is already the third local action plan emphasizes the meaning and care of the Municipality of Veles towards persons with disabilities so that they can feel as equal citizens actively involved in all spheres of social life.

The LAPPD 2016-2020 Document involves activities in the field of: Public awareness raising, Education and Culture Документот, Accessibility/ ramps and elevators, Support Services, Medical Services, Rehabilitation and sport, Employment, Creating Policies.

3. Area of priority – Education and culture (taken from LAPPD)

Goals	Strategies	Time frame	Institution responsible	Necessary resources
1. Improvement of conditions for inclusive education for children with special needs	1.1 Lobbying for implementing lawful cooperation between "Maca Ovcharova" SPS and MOS for mobile defectologists and speech therapists/speech in every primary and secondary school with professional experience that will be employed through SPS "Maca Ovcharova" in regular schools	2017-ongoing	Civil organizations SPS MPS MSS PFCK	Human resources Material resources (donations, international partners, municipal budget, own funds, Ministry of Education and Science, the business sector)
	1.3 Providing specialist computer equipment and didactic materials in every school	2019/2020	Municipality of Veles	
4. Increased inclusion of persons with disability in cultural events and manifestations at a local, national and international level	2.1 Initiating inclusive activities (theater shows, music concerts, art exhibitions, humanitarian actions etc.)	2016-2020	CSOs	
	2.2 Encouraging mutual cooperation and networking of organizations that work on improving living conditions for persons with disabilities at a local, regional and international level	2016-2018	Municipality of Veles	
	2.3 Organizing "Republic Music Gathering of Blind Musicians" and "Republic Quiz Competition for Blind Persons" manifestations	2016-2020		

The Local Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities of the Municipality of Veles 2016-2020, May 2016 (LAPPD) has the following CONTENT:

Team for preparation of the Local Action plan for Persons with Disabilities at the level of the Municipality of Veles 2016-2020 (LAPPD 2016-2020); General overview; Goals, objectives and basic principles of LAPPD 2016-2020; Process of creating LAPPD 2016-2020; Priority areas of action; Terminological aspects; Overview of the current situation; Analysis of the situation with the employment of persons with disabilities at the level of the Municipality of Veles according to the data of the Employment Agency of the Republic of Macedonia; Local Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities of the Municipality of Veles 2016-2020; Raising public awareness; Education and culture; Accessibility; Support Services; Medical Services, Rehabilitation and Sports; Employment; Creating policies.

The team for preparation of the Local Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities of the Municipality of Veles 2016-2020 consists of expert associates employed in the Municipality of Veles in coordination with a representative from the “Vigotski” Centre for Integral Rehabilitation.

Civil organizations, associations, institutions

The following civil organizations from the Municipality of Veles are also included and are active members in the realization of the organized activities related to the care of the population’s and the children’s health:

- Association of Persons with Cerebral Palsy – Veles
- “Mobility” Cross-municipal Association of Persons with Physical Disability - Veles Association of Parents for Care for a Healthy Generation
- Association of Blind Persons of the Municipality of Veles
- “HORLET” Association of Persons with Transplanted Organs and Tissues, Organ and Tissue Donors and Persons with Removed or Damaged Organs or Extremities “ - Veles
- “Vigotski” Centre for Integral Rehabilitation
- “Poraka” Centre for Support of persons with Intellectual Disability –Veles
- “POPI” NGO - Veles

The following institutions are included in intersectoral collaboration and realization of various activities related to common care of the public health of children and students in the Municipality of Veles:

- Centre for Public Health - Veles
- “Maca Ovcharova” SPS - Veles
- “Blazhe Koneski” MPS - Veles
- “Vasil Glavinov” MPS - Veles
- “Jovche Teslichkov” MSS - Veles
- “Kocho Racin” MSS - Veles
- Daycare Centre for Persons with Mental or Physical Disability – Veles
- Public Institution Cross- Municipal Centre for Social Work – Veles

Council of the Municipality of Veles

The Council of the Municipality of Veles is an active participant in the formation and work of the Council for Public Health of the Municipality of Veles. In accordance with the Law on Public Health and the Statute of the Municipality of Veles (Municipal Gazette of the Municipality of Veles no12/06, 03/09 and 18/10.) and adopted a Decision for establishing a Council for Public Health on 15.07.2013. The Council for Public Health was established on 24.10.2013 and is constituted of five members: one representative of the Centre for Public Health and for representatives of the Municipality. The Council for Public Health in the area of the Municipality of Veles works in accordance with the adopted Rules of Procedures and Annual Work Programme.

The Council for Public Health of the Municipality of Veles has the following scope of work: ensures consistent implementation of the regulations of the Law on Public Health; prepares and proposes programme measures for improvement of public health in the territory of the Municipality of Veles to the Municipal Council in accordance with the established conditions in certain areas; after examining the issues and policies in the field of public health, provides an opinion regarding the materials and proposals it discusses and proposes them to the Municipal Council for consideration and adoption; works continuously on the process of gathering and processing data on the conditions so to be able to identify measures to be adopted by the municipal bodies and other entities; participates in creating and adoption of the Strategy for Development of Public Health of the Municipality, the Programme of the Municipality etc.

Abstract

Association among all sectors and social stakeholders for a better communication, coordination and action for improvement of health and well-being of all and each individual in the community is a strategic goal of the work of the Local Self-Government. Shared efforts for constant investment in improvement of health and well-being are stressed as a requirement for social development with the main focus being the people as well as the key role of the local community and intersectoral cooperation at all levels.

The interest of the Local Self-Government in intersectoral cooperation and cross-municipal networking for public health is confirmed by the fact that the Municipality of Veles was a host of the “Together for Health for Everyone by 2020 – Strengthening Intersectoral Cooperation at a Local Level for Health and Well-being” workshop on 19-21 September 2016, organized by the Ministry of Health and supported by the World Health Organization.

Efforts toward better health of all citizens are manifested and realized by several self-government sectors in: health and social protection, environment, education, urbanism, crisis management, economy, business, civil sector etc.

Intersectoral cooperation for health and well-being at a local level is an effort that should serve as an incentive, but also as commitment to health for everyone, from all sectors of the Government, the local self-government and the entire society.

GOOD HEALTH – A COMMON GOOD!

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