



# NEWS

from International Development Collaboration at STAKES  
May 2001

## Dear Reader,

this newsletter is a fresh collection of latest project news from the International Development Collaboration Unit at STAKES. We will publish our newsletter four times a year and send it to our experts, partners and other interested parties in order to let you know, where we are working on right now. Please see also our news at our web-site <http://www.stakes.fi/hedec/>

International Development Collaboration Unit at STAKES has introduced a new organisation as well. Dr *Ali Arsalo*, Director of the Unit, and new heads of geographically oriented groups form the core of the management. Ms *Hellevi Hatunen* is the Head of the group for countries in transition. Ms *Riitta-Maija Hämäläinen* is in charge of the group for developing countries and Mr *Timo Sorsa* of the group for supporting services. We are convinced that this new organisation will strengthen our vision of reliable and flexible quality expert organisation.

## Enjoy our newsletter!

### Contact information:

National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health STAKES/  
International Development Collaboration  
P.O.Box 220, FIN-00531 Helsinki, Finland  
(Siltasaarekatu 18 A)  
Tel +358-9-3967 2028  
Fax +358-9-773 2922  
[fdc@stakes.fi](mailto:fdc@stakes.fi)

## Boost to the Health Reform in Kursk, Russia

The first Bistro project implemented by STAKES started in Kursk in February 2001. The project is named "Boost to the Health Reform in Kursk – Based on Russian Expertise", and the local partner is the Science, Culture, Education, Public Health and Ecology Committee of the Council of the Russian Federation.

The idea of the project is to find new ways to promote launching of health system reforms in the Russian regions. In this small project, some key processes from two former Tacis health projects are introduced and initiated in one region.

The support will be provided mainly by three Russian experts: Dr Antonina Kralina from Kondopoga, Ms Anna Kalinina from Moscow and Dr Aleksandr Kolinko from Vologda. They all have participated in the two former Tacis projects as local experts.

The duration of the project is only six months and budget about EUR 90 000. The team leader of the project is Mr Mauno Lindroos from Finland and the only short term EU-expert is Mr David Conway from Great Britain.

During the next months several round table meetings and seminars will be organised in Kursk and the concluding conference in Moscow. The Steering Group of the project, chaired by Mr Anatoly Kostukovich from the Council,

has decided to invite representatives from all regions of Russia to the concluding conference.

Expected results of the project are:

- Clearer vision in health system reform of key authorities, and initiation of some reform processes in Kursk region,
- Empowered Russian expertise in promotion of health system reform at region level,
- New ways of promotion of health systems reform at region level are tested and introduced to the relevant bodies.

For more information  
Ms Marja Tuomi  
Project Manager  
tel. + 358 9 3967 2038  
e-mail: [marja.tuomi@stakes.fi](mailto:marja.tuomi@stakes.fi)

---

## **Support to the Health Sector Reform in Egypt**

STAKES participates in the implementation of the "Development of District and Governorate Level Health Plans in Menofia and Sohag Governorates in the Arab Republic of Egypt". This new project is financed by the World Bank and implemented during the year 2001.

The project forms an integral part of the Health Sector Reform approved in Egypt in 1998 by designing health sector master plans for the Governorates of Menofia and Sohag. The total population of the two governorates is about 6 million and the number of existing health facilities exceeds 2000.

The plans will address the key issues by reviewing the existing situation, identifying strengths and weaknesses, evaluating risks and constraints, developing realistic targets and preparing plans that will be implemented and result in measurable improvements.

As an integral part of the project, a knowledge transfer plan will be designed a series of training events will be organised at the district and governorate levels. Training courses will concentrate on health planning issues with a focus on decentralised planning.

STAKES is a member of a consortium lead by Helsinki Consulting Group.

For more information  
Ms Satu Zukale  
Project Manager  
tel. +358 9 3967 2034  
[satu.zukale@stakes.fi](mailto:satu.zukale@stakes.fi)

---

## **STAKES improves health and safety at work in Hungary**

International Development Collaboration at STAKES will implement a new twinning project in Hungary in collaboration with the German Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. The general aim of the twinning projects is to approximate EU compatible legislation and its implementation in future member states of the European Union. The twinning project will start in September 2001.

Approximation of legislation in health and safety has already been effected to great extent, the adequate institutions of their effective applications are in place and co-operation among them is regulated by Act on Labour Safety in Hungary. However, administrative capacities and co-ordination need to be developed further to improve effectiveness of enforcement of health and safety legislation.

The beneficiaries of the twinning project will be three independent inspection authorities supervised by three different ministries as follows:

- The National Labour Inspectorate (further on as NLI), the Ministry of Social and Family Affairs (MoSFA);

- The National Public Health and Medical Officer Service (further on as NPHMOS), the Ministry of Health (MoH);
- The National Mining Office further on as NMO), the Ministry of Economic Affairs (MoEA).

Co-operation between the three authorities involved in the inspection has become more institutionalised over the past few years. The National Occupational Safety and Health Policy has been finalised as a joint exercise and its implementation will also serve the enhancement of co-ordination. Uniform performance of enforcement functions requires the operation of inter-connectable information systems of the three authorities, access to a shared filing system on workplace characteristics, employer profiles and on main indicators of inspection activities allowing complex evaluation of the inspection findings and co-ordination of subsequent measures.

The five main tasks of the twinning programme are the following:

- Efficient professional co-ordination to ensure synergy amongst different activities
- Development of plan of health and safety information system for NLI, NPHMOS and NMO and creation of conditions of synchronised information base at the three inspection authorities
- Enhancement of co-operation between the three inspection authorities
- Development for Risk Assessment according to EU-Directive 89/391 appropriate methods and guidelines
- Development and dissemination of information materials for employers and employees on health and safety aspects of their economic activities

For more information  
 Ms Riitta-Maija Hämäläinen  
 Senior Expert  
 tel. +358 9 3967 2024  
[riitta-maija.hamalainen@stakes.fi](mailto:riitta-maija.hamalainen@stakes.fi)

---

## **STAKES leading another new Tacis project in Russia –Support to Partnership in Education, Health and Social Assistance**

The Tacis project started in autumn of 2000 has proceeded from Moscow to pilot regions.

Five pilot regions have been chosen to experiment new partnership models between public and NGO sectors for the development of integrated educational, health and social services to children with special needs. Children with special needs cover different client groups: children with deficiencies in development who are brought up in families, children in orphanage care, children in institutional care with a mental or physical handicap and children with or without disabilities in family-like extra-familial care.

In St.Petersburg the project aims at creating a regional model for an early assistance service to families with children with special needs.

In Oriol the purpose is to improve the medico-psycho-pedagogical assistance to children with special needs to provide their maximum integration into educational process and reduce the number of children placed in special institutions.

In Odintsovo the theme is social integration of disabled children. A small centre is established to provide medico-social and educational services.

In Hanty Mansiysk the emphasis is on the development of family-like care structures for orphans and disabled children living in extra-familial care. Also support services to families will be developed.

In Moscow the focus is on improving mechanisms of co-operation of regional state administrative structures and NGO educational institutions to improve the living conditions and services for children without parental care.

For more information  
Ms Hellevi Hatunen  
EU Project Director  
tel. +358 9 3967 2036  
[hellevi.hatunen@stakes.fi](mailto:hellevi.hatunen@stakes.fi)

---

## **STAKES participates in new Tacis health care project in North West Russia**

EU Tacis Programme launched a new project in the field of public health near cross-border areas of Finland in spring 2001. "Improving Public Health in North West Russia 2001–2003" is a two year project implemented by the consortium of EPOS Health Consultants (leading agency), STAKES, Netherlands School of Public Health and Institute for Health Sector Development.

The main object of the project is to improve health and related social services in Murmansk, Arkhangelsk and Kaliningrad regions (oblasts).

The aim of the project is to develop a comprehensive primary and preventive health care concept for the three participating regions. It will include action programs for long term prevention and health promotion and action plans to alleviate the most urgent epidemiological problems. Particular attention will be paid to the public health priorities identified by the Federal Ministry of Health and the Health Departments in each participating regions.

The project analyses relevant previous programs and projects in North West Russia and develops regular information exchange program and methodologies for dissemination. One aim is to

promote regional networking between Russia and northern borders of European Union.

For more information  
Mr Eero Pikkujämsä  
Senior Expert  
tel. +358 9 3967 2640  
[eero.pikkujamsa@stakes.fi](mailto:eero.pikkujamsa@stakes.fi)

---

## **St. Petersburg School of Public Health on the move**

St. Petersburg School of Public Health was established in 1998 within the Medical Academy for Postgraduate Studies. It was supported by the Swedish East Europe Committee. Later also the ministries of social affairs and health of Finland and Norway joined into the supporting group. Since the beginning of 2000 the support from Finland is financed by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and co-ordinated by STAKES.

St. Petersburg School of Public Health gives public health training to physicians and health administrators who come from North West Russia. It gives education in disease prevention and health promotion, the items which earlier have not been paid much attention to in Russian health care.

In May 2001 St. Petersburg School of Public Health organises a two-weeks-course on health promotion. The lecturers from Finland are professor Arja Rimpelä, dr. Pauliina Aarva and Member of Parliament Ilkka Taipale.

To get more information, please contact:  
Ms Outi Karvonen  
Project Manager  
tel. +358 9 3967 2046  
e-mail: [outi.karvonen@stakes.fi](mailto:outi.karvonen@stakes.fi)

---

## **Sexual Health Education introduced in schools of St. Petersburg and Petrozavodsk**

The project "Reduction of infectious diseases and their consequences in St. Petersburg and North West Russia", financed by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, implements a sexual health education program at schools in Frunzenskij district, St. Petersburg and two pilot schools in Petrozavodsk.

The most important part of the program is education of teachers. It aims to provide teachers with all the needed elements to be able to give sexual health education to schoolchildren. The program is prepared in collaboration with the Russian specialists and adapted to the Russian society. The local organisations and specialists are involved in education of teachers.

The main partners in St. Petersburg are the Institute of Sociology, Dermatovenerological Dispensary and St. Petersburg Pasteur Institute. In Petrozavodsk the project collaborates with the Karelian Pedagogical State University, Family Planning Centre, Dermatovenerological Dispensary, AIDS Centre and Ministry of Education.



*Participants of the seminar in Petrozavodsk: Finnish and Russian experts, teachers from St. Petersburg and Petrozavodsk.*

This spring the project has organised two seminars in collaboration with the Finnish and Russian specialists. The

seminars were held in Petrozavodsk and Zelenogorsk, and teachers from both St. Petersburg and Petrozavodsk participated in them.

To get more information, please contact:  
Ms Outi Karvonen  
Project Manager  
tel. +358 9 39672046  
e-mail: [outi.karvonen@stakes.fi](mailto:outi.karvonen@stakes.fi)

---

## **Health Sector moves towards Sector Wide Approach (SWAp)**

Mozambique covers about 70% of its health budget by donor support. The Government of Mozambique aims to turn the donor support to "one basket model" where the donations are given to same basket and distributed according to the Health Sector Strategic Plan to provinces and health facilities.

In the future, the role of the Ministry would change more towards policy and strategic development and regulator. Provinces would be more responsible for implementation of health plans and strategies.

SWAp is used to explain the relationship between donors and government in development assistance. This means that funding for the health sector would be based on a single policy and expenditure plan developed by the government. The control of the funding would be placed under the government procedures, accounting and financial management. The SWAp process has been developed in many Sub-Saharan countries mainly in education, agriculture and health sectors.

The process to gain the momentum to move to SWAp takes time of the government and the donors. In Mozambique, several parts of the process are already ready-like vision statement of the government in relation to health, statement of intent to move to SWAp,

Code of Conduct towards SWAp by different partners and different pooling arrangements between some donors as well as strategic plan and medium term expenditure plan, which are on their way to be agreed and accepted.

Also education sector is in the process of SWAp in Mozambique. Agriculture has moved to run SWAp and has most of the experiences so far.

For more information  
Ms Riitta-Maija Hämäläinen  
Senior Expert  
tel. +358 9 3967 2024  
[riitta-maija.hamalainen@stakes.fi](mailto:riitta-maija.hamalainen@stakes.fi)

---

## **Quality Improvement of Collaboration and Performance of NGOs through capacity building**

The Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs is financing an analysis and planning phase of a pilot project on NGO quality performance and collaboration improvement through capacity building in Tanzania year 2001. This will be carried out as a joint activity by Tanzanian partner CEDHA (Centre for Educational Development in Health) and Finnish partners STAKES, Helsinki Deaconess Institute and KEPA (Service Centre for Development Cooperation). Also KEPA field office in Tanzania, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland and the Embassy of Finland in Dar es Salaam will take part in the project. In addition other relevant Tanzanian institutions and organisations will be encouraged to participate.

Prior to the analysis and planning phase, several initial activities have taken place as a part of the Finnish-Tanzanian development co-operation including a fact finding and planning mission to Tanzania in spring 2000 lead by STAKES and Helsinki Deaconess Institute.

The purpose of the analysis and planning phase is to develop an implementation strategy model for NGO quality performance and collaboration improvement through capacity building in developing countries, such as Tanzania. The approach is participatory and reflective to the of NGOs and other actors in development.

For more information  
Ms Heli Pimenoff  
Senior Expert  
tel. +358 9 3967 2040  
[heli.pimenoff@stakes.fi](mailto:heli.pimenoff@stakes.fi)

---

## **Jelgava city in Latvia develops integrated social and health care services**

The project "Support to the Development of Integrated Social and Health Care Services in Jelgava city, Latvia" aims at creating a social political strategy for the city, where social and health care administrations were unified in 1997. Now support is needed to analyse the consequences of the unification and its potentials for the municipal planning system, service delivery system, budgeting and management.

A partnership relationship is created between Jelgava and Kotka, a Finnish city that merged its social and health care systems already in 1976. The role of STAKES is to co-ordinate the collaboration.

A seminar on strategy work is arranged on June 4–5, 2001 in Jelgava.

For more information  
Ms Hellevi Hatunen  
Senior Expert  
tel. +358 9 3967 2036  
[hellevi.hatunen@stakes.fi](mailto:hellevi.hatunen@stakes.fi)