

Economic assistance to the Eastern European States affected by the developments in the Balkans

Input by WHO:

1. On 02 September 2001, at their First Health Ministers Forum organized by the CoE and WHO Europe, by signing the Dubrovnik Pledge on Meeting the Needs of Vulnerable Populations in South eastern Europe, the Ministers of Health of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, FYMacedonia, Romania and Serbia and Montenegro endorsed seven areas/strategies of regional nature and common interest, namely (for more details on the political process and background see Annex 1):

- *increase citizens' access to appropriate, affordable and high-quality health care services;
- *intensify social cohesion by strengthening community mental health services;
- *increase the quality of and regional self-sufficiency in the provision of safe blood and blood products;
- *develop integrated emergency health care services that are offered free of charge to the user;
- *strengthen the surveillance and control of communicable diseases;
- *strengthen institutional capacity and intersectoral collaboration for access to affordable and safe food products; and
- *establish regional networks and systems for the collection and exchange of social and health information.

2. Seven regional projects developed. To date, four of the projects attracted interest of the SP partners and over 4 million Euros mobilised for their implementation as follows (for greater detail see Annex 2 and attached table of financial pledges and progress in Annex 5):

* SEE MNH Project (leading country BIH) : total of Euros 869,500 pledged and secured by: Greece (500,000 + 38,500 for MDA pledged in May 2003), Italy (109,000), WHO Europe (112,000), Slovenia (50,000) and Sweden (60,000)

* SEE CDS Project (leading country ALB): total of Euros 338,000 pledged and secured by France (270,000) and WHO Europe (68,000 through the BCAs); In May 2003 Greece pledge additional 150,000 to this project which are to be available upon signing a decision following the model of the MNH project

* SEE FSN Project (leading country Serbia&Montenegro): total of Euros 300,000 pledged and secured by Italy (109,000), WHO Europe (PHI on FNAPs) and Greece (150,000); the Greek funds will be transferred directly to the countries upon signing a decision following the model of the

* Reconstruction and modernization of Anrija Stampar School of Public Health (Croatia) : 2,8 million euros loan to CRO from the CEB (Council of Europe Development Bank)

3. The main partners and donors are (presented in alphabetical order)
France, Greece, Italy, Slovenia, Sweden, WHO Europe (for more details see Annex 3)

* France: 270,000 euros for SEE CDS project

* Greece: 990,000 euros for the SEE MNH, FSN, CDS projects in implementation and for a new one on MNH information system

- * Italy: 218,000 euros for SEE MNH and FSN projects
- * Slovenia: 50,000 euros for SEE MNH project
- * Sweden: 60,000 euros for SEE MNH project

4. Components One of each of the three regional projects are in implementation in good progress (for more details see Annex 5).

5. To be able to implements the three regional projects in their entirety, as planned and approved by the Ministers of Health, the following additional funds will be needed (for more details see Annex 4):

*	SEE Mental Health project	Euros 1,400,000
*	SEE Food Safety Project	Euros 1,100,000
*	SEE Communicable Diseases Project	Euros 650,000
*	SEE MNH Information Project	Euros 350,000