
Response to the Rapid Assessment on Substance Use and Sexual Risk Behaviour

Slovakia

FINAL SUMMARY REPORT

2001/2002 ("Response")



**World Health Organization
MSD/MER**

Health Policy and Health Education Skills in the Military (Slovakia): Response to the Rapid Assessment on Substance Use and Sexual Risk Behaviour

Responsible Agency:

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*Gabriel Bianchi, Bratislava,
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Summary

In 1997 the research team at the Department of Social and Biological Communication, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava, was approached by Prof. Peter Aggleton and Dr. Gundo Weiler (UNAIDS/WHO) with an offer to apply for a SEX-RAR Project. After an initial meeting with these two representatives in Bratislava, and an Initial Consultation with a think-tank consisting of national experts on the issues of substance use and sexual health – which resulted in the decision to conduct the SEX-RAR in the military environment - a Project proposal was submitted to WHO/UNAIDS. The Assessment Project „A rapid situation assessment of substance use and sexual risk behaviour in Slovakia“ was approved in early 1999 and was conducted from April 1999 till february 2000. The Project consisted of:

- developing quantitative and qualitative research instruments (questionnaire, focus group discussions scenario, in-depth interviews scenatio)

The research involved 430 respondents+10 focus group discussions+20in-depth interviews, collecting relevant material for assesing context (structural and social and cultural); this included also using key-informants from the military environment, analysing, integrating and interpreting the research material, formulating recommendations and conducting a dissemination procedure consisting from a seminar for decision- and opinion-makers in the slovak Military. Based on the Final report, all findings and recommendations were published in a book that was distributed in the Military.

Due to organizational changes in the Slovak Military the introduction of the "Response" project was delayed. On the other hand, this delay period enabled a thorough process of analysing and accepting the main recommendations by the decision-makers. It resulted into an even more cooperative attitude of the Slovak Military towards the implementation of the main **recommendations** which were to:

- concentrate on the main problem which is alcohol (not the illegal substances), as well as
- address issues of intimacy, homosexuality and safer sex directly an openly in the military environment.

In Autumn 2001 a Project Proposal for the "**Response**" was submitted to the WHO and after approval it was implemented from Dec. 2001 till May/December 2002. The Project (**Health Policy and Health Education Skills in the Military**). The Project consisted of two tracks:

- a participatory process of a cooperative creation of a health strategy (for sexuality and substance use) for the Military by the Military. The Final Policy is at present under review by the General Staff of the Military and waiting for approval by the Minister of Defense.
- an educational programme – "producing" a group of 20 professional soldiers/trainers well trained in issues of prevention of alcohol use and unsafe sex + manual. This work was finished on time in May 2002. Additional activities were conducted in Autumn 2002 – a feedback meeting with the professional soldiers/trainers, a development a concept+content for further educational brochure on alcohol, substances and sex to be given to each commander in the Military, as well as a logo for a health promoting campaign to be implemented in 2003.

An unexpected surplus-value product was achieved: the Military produced themselves a programme on educating professionals in substance and sex health – a long term design 2003+ – and asked the implementing agency for cooperation, supervision and training. The remaining work – producing the educational brochure, the campaign products (posters, stickers, towels), and further assistance in educational work is planned for 2003.

INTRODUCTION

This report resumes the whole Project, including a special focus on activities undertaken since the 5th month of the Project (after Second Interim Report delivery).

Comprehensive tentative timetable:

Month	General policy	Pilot workshop/training
1 st month December 2001	Creating a summary of most important findings and recommendations to be distributed to responsible military health-professionals, identifying these professionals Contacting relevant NGOs and other experts for a broad cooperation – call for cooperation	Identifying needs Identifying participants
2 nd month	Developing a strategy for challenging current health policy in the Slovak Army, identifying key policy- and decision-makers, contacting them	Designing content, methods, and programme for the pilot training/workshop
3 rd month	Conducting a facilitated workshop with all key policy- and decision-makers and NGO representatives	Creating pilot manual
4 th month	Preparing of brochures	Conducting the training
5 th month	Distribution of summaries to military health-professionals	Evaluation of programme, methods and manual
6 th month	Approval of new policies by key decision-makers Distribution of brochures	Conducting a feed-back training with participants. This is necessary for supervision purposes, in order to test and to increase their training capacity Designing a revised version of the manual for training of multipliers This feedback training was realized in November 2002
Additional activities	Designing a logo for a promoting campaign	

Activities:

Activities in this Project were designed into two categories – General Policy and Pilot Workshop/Training. With the exception of the production of brochures, all planned activities were accomplished. Some activities were performed in addition to the Plan (logo), and some were performed in a modified version – due to change of conditions (Policy/Strategy document).

Since the delivery of Second Interim report following activities were undertaken:

- writing of the Health Policy Document and its reviews by military decision makers on various levels.
- production of additional educational materials to be added to the manual (on leadership, sexually transmitted infections, methodology of training)
- the feed-back training with participants from the first training of educators (November 26-28, Smolenice)
- spontaneous Action Planning of further training in health education and training of health education professionals for 2003 and 2004 of the General Staff of the Armed Forces – see attachment "Implementation of the WHO project...".

Educational materials:

Development of educational materials for the realization of the training of military professionals consists of two parts:

1. Manual for trainers of commanders. (Materials to cover issues of substance use, sexuality and other psycho-social skills: a manual for professionals-trainers was produced and delivered to all participants of the training in April. They are welcome to reproduce it and deliver to their trainees.) This manual was delivered to WHO as part of Second Interim Report; some additional pages (on leadership and methodology of training) were produced in response to the needs of trainees expressed during the training and are attached to this report.

2. Another educational material is going to be produced. In negotiations with military experts, the final target group – all commanders in the armed forces and **Topical Content of a brochure** was agreed on:

- **Health, care and prevention**
- **Substance use – legal and illegal**
- **Sexuality and sexual health**
- **Sexually transmitted infections**
- **Homosexuality and homophobia**
- **Gender, equal opportunities, power and abuse**
- **Risk and interactions**
- **Prevention**

The authors to write it (M. Popper, I. Luksik, G. Prelovska, P. Osusky, G. Bianchi) are identified and some parts are already written in draft.. This material should serve with more information on all relevant topics, being a compendium (approx. 40 pages) for all commanders in the armed forces and enable them to run informed lessons on the relevant topics. This material will be printed in 2000 copies (minimum) and given available to all commanders in the armed forces.

The two educational materials should match together - one training manual and one compendium.

Health Promotion campaign:

Moreover, to increase the synergy, we propose a sort of a promotion campaign for the military: this will include a logo of "healthy partnership" (which is already produced – see attachment) and other promoting materials (towels with the logo, stickers, posters) These products need to be produced. Remaining resources will be divided between the costs for producing the Brochure and the other materials.

Policy/Strategy document:

The approval of final version of the Health Policy Document is delayed due to fundamental changes in the Ministry of Defense and Army of the Slovak republic during 2002. The Army was transformed into a "new" identity, called Armed Forces. This substantial procedure included numerous changes in people/positions. Nevertheless, the Health Policy Document is finished and submitted to the General Staff of the Armed Forces, waiting for a second review by responsible military decision-makers. The approved version will then be submitted to the Minister of Defense – expected in February 2003.(The Health Policy Document is attached.)

Feed-back training (18 participants):

The training took place in November 26-28, 2002 in Smolenice. (Evaluation given by participants is attached). The agenda consisted of:

- evaluation of educational activities provided by participants in the period between the first training and the feed-back training (successes and barriers)
- sharing experience from training
- advanced training for alcohol use prevention in the military
- meeting an expert in STI treatment
- exercises on personal development of the participants (socratic dialogue variation on the topic of life and death)
- distribution of additional educational materials – each participant was given a book on Sexual education and a book on Homosexuality and Homophobia – partly a gift from the Foundation Minority Rights Group Slovakia)
- methodology of training
- action planning for 2003

Resume of Tasks (as defined in the Agreement of Performance of Work):

1. Official Policy – attached, currently under review in the General Staff of Armed Forces
2. Educational materials – with the exception of the brochure, all planned materials were produced, delivered to users and are being used by them already.
3. Training of military professionals: 21 professionals were trained in April 2002, since then they are performing training in their units. 18 of them participated in a feed-back training in November, confirming the usefulness of their newly-acquired skills and effectiveness of such multiplicative health education.
4. Evaluation of intervention is provided by the colonel Pavol Suško, Commander-in-chief of the Staff of Personal Management of the General Staff of the Armed Forces, Slovak Republic (attached). Evaluation by the performing agency – department of social and biological communication, Slovak academy of sciences, is attached as well.

Attachments:

- Evaluation of the Project by the General Staff of the Armed Forces, Slovak Republic

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_26752

