

Dr. Maria Ruseva

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CURRICULUM VITAE

OF

DR. MARIA BORISOVA RUSEVA

DATE, PLACE AND COUNTRY OF BIRTH: 20 July 1950, Sofia, Bulgaria

MARITAL STATUS: Divorced, 2 children and 4 grandchildren

EDUCATION:

1964 – 1969 First English Language School, Sofia, Bulgaria
1969 – 1975 Faculty of Medicine, Medical University, Sofia, Bulgaria
♦ **Diploma of Medical Doctor**
1975 – 1979 National Institute of Gastroenterology and Nutrition, Academy of Medical Sciences, Sofia, Bulgaria
♦ **Diploma of Food Safety Officer**
♦ **Diploma of Nutritionist**

LANGUAGE KNOWLEDGE

- ♦ Bulgarian – mother tongue
- ♦ English – speak, read and write fluently
- ♦ Russian - speak, read and write (nearly) fluently

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

July 2012 – present, freelance international Public Health Expert

- ♦ Consultant to the Ministry of Health of Slovakia on the evaluation of the Public Health Services
- ♦ Elected as a Co-opted Member of the Executive Committee of the SEE Health Network since 2012
- ♦ Founding Member and Member of the Governance Board of the non-profit international NGO “International Health Partnerships Association” (IHPA) since 2014

February 2016 – April 2017 – acting Director of the SEE Health Network Secretariat

2010 - 2012 WHO Regional Office for Europe , Copenhagen, Denmark
Programme Manager, Public Health Services, Division of Health Systems and Public

Health

- ◆ Lead, set-up, organized, managed, monitored and evaluated the WHO Europe process to develop, have broadly consulted and have endorsed by the European Ministers of Health of the European vision for Public Health; in doing so, (i) established a WHO Europe Advisory Expert Group of senior and prominent internationally recognized Public Health experts; (ii) lead the process of developing the Europe of the definition, functions, boundaries and services of Public Health; lead the process of conceptualizing the inter-relation between Public Health and Health Systems as defined in the WHO Europe Tallinn Charter in 2008; (iii) as a result of the process several very important European documents were endorsed by the WHO Europe Regional Committee at its 60th, 61st and 62nd Sessions, amongst all the most important ones being “Strengthening Public Health Capacities and Services in Europe: A Framework for Action” (2011) and the “European Action Plan for Strengthening Public Health Services and Capacities” (2012) including the revised version of the 10 European Essential Public Health Operations (EPHO);
- ◆ Lead the process of Europe-wide studies to provide evidence and background information which informed the above-mentioned Euroeap Action Plan;
- ◆ Lead the process of development and produced tools and guidance to support the European Member States in their national efforts to evaluate their PHS and to develop and implement strategies, action plans, organizational models and legal frameworks including new public health laws for the PHS further upgrading, streamlining and strengthening particularly in the light and fight the NCD epidemic
- ◆ Continued to act as the SEEHN Secretariat (for more details visit the SEEHN website and SEEHN Secretariats blog at the following links:

<http://www.euro.who.int/en/what-we-do/health-topics/Health-systems/public-health-services>;

<http://www.euro.who.int/en/what-we-do/health-topics/Health-systems/public-health-services/south-eastern-europe-health-network-seehn> and

<http://seehnsec.blogspot.dk/>

2004 - 2010 WHO Regional Office for Europe , Copenhagen, Denmark

Regional Adviser for Public Health Services, Division of Country Health Systems

- ◆ Developed and regularly updated the health and health system situation analysis of selected SEE countries including assessment of their health needs to serve as basis for the continuous country collaboration: to that end acted as the Strategic Desk officer for Albania and Romania; prepared the framework for the country strategies and biennial collaborative agreements as well as the detailed biennial work plans on the countries’ public health services production and delivery
- ◆ Acted as the WHO Europe Project Manager of the WHO Multicountry Health Initiative “Health Development Action for SEE” and through the strategic and daily managerial work and oversight secured the achievement of all objectives of the Initiative; mobilized resources through various partners and donors for implementing projects in 10 technical areas that have been agreed by the 9 (today 10) countries that are members of the SEE Health Network; provided continuous monitoring and oversight of the implementation process to secure that the resources have been used and deliverables accomplished in a way that is fully acceptable to all parties concerned yet in the spirit of full transparency and accountability; represented WHO Europe in the meetings of the Stability Pact for SEE Social Cohesion Initiative in the period 2000-2008 that is currently

transformed into the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) under the SEE Regional Cooperation process; facilitated, managed, monitored and evaluated the work of the International Secretariat for SEE in follow-up to the SEE main political and legally-binding documents (such as the Dubrovnik, Skopje and Banja Luka Pledges, the SEE Memorandum of Understanding, and the SEE Host Agreement for the Seat of the SEEHN Secretariat);

- ◆ Provided policy and strategic advice and technical support to European countries to strengthen their national capacities in the identification of appropriate public health services arrangements relevant to the countries' needs and contexts; in that respect, identified models of good practice in public health services production and delivery and public health services reforms, developed relevant tools for wide dissemination, adoption and implementation; implemented a pilot project in the 9 countries of the SEE Health Network on implementation of the Essential Public Health Operations and services through piloting the WHO Europe web-based self-assessment Tool; based on the lessons learnt, further revised and upgraded the Self-assessment Tool and supported another 8 European countries to evaluate their public health services and to develop strategies, action plans and legal framework for their reforms;

2001 – 2004 WHO Regional Office for Europe , Copenhagen, Denmark

Short-term professional, Technical Officer, Strategic Country Support, Division for Country Support

- ◆ Responsible officer for the establishment, implementation and sustaining of the joint CoE/WHO Initiative “Health Development Action for South Eastern Europe” within the framework of the Social Cohesion Initiative of the Stability Pact for SEE, Working Table II, which lead to the creation of the South-eastern Europe Health Network (SEEHN): Within the above initiative, assisting the 8 SEE countries to build up sustainable regional collaboration, partnership and networks for boosting public health in the region and for providing access to health for the vulnerable populations
- ◆ In the above capacity performed the following specific tasks and activities:
 - ◆ To prioritise the activities and considerations in a flexible manner and on a step-by-step basis, and in particular to map all relevant information and provide evidence for the outstanding health problems of the SEE countries and the region as a whole which might require immediate, medium and long-term actions involving the Stability Pact mechanisms.
 - ◆ To represent the office in the Stability Pact structures (mainly in the working group for Social Cohesion)
 - ◆ To coordinate and manage the implementation the of the joint Council of Europe / WHO Regional office for Europe plan of actions for South East European countries, including organization of Health Ministers' Forum: Regional Health Development Action for South East Europe in the 21st Century
 - ◆ To take stock of all the work that has been done on this issue in EURO; to identify areas of EURO's work in countries where there might be useful synergies and complementarities with the SP process, to propose options for WHO EURO's role including the need for in-house technical, policy and coordination work as well as bilateral and multilateral work with MS, and to coordinate, manage, monitor and evaluate the implementation of a strategy and action plan for WHO Euro's operation within the framework of the Stability Pact
 - ◆ To explore potentials with SP administration, other relevant SP partners and selected EU Member States for promoting the “health agenda” under the SP

- ♦ process, including potentials for mobilizing additional available resources
- ♦ To prepare periodic reports to RD

- ♦ To act as a coordinator under DCS supervision with the mandate to approach external partners, to take freely appropriate decisions in organizing the tasks and activities, to discuss issues with division directors when needed, and to get relevant technical support from their staff, to discuss issues with EURO staff as appropriate, and to establish in-house coordination and consultation mechanisms when appropriate
- ♦ Strategic Desk Officer for Albania and Romania

1995 – March 2001, WHO Regional Office for Europe , Copenhagen, Denmark

Short-term Professional, NEHAP Programme, Environment and Health Policies Unit, Department of Environment and Health

- ♦ Responsible for running WHO NEHAP Programme in the countries in Central and Eastern Europe and the Newly Independent States in follow-up to the Helsinki Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health; Establishing contacts and close relations with the Ministries of Health and of Environment at the highest possible governmental level in CCEE/NIS to develop and implement their NEHAPs; responsible for running two Pilot Projects on NEHAP development (one in Bulgaria with UNK Know How support and one in Hungary and Latvia with DEPA support) and on NEHAP implementation (WHO/DEPA project for 5 countries); Assisting the European NEHAP Implementation Task Force;
- ♦ Assisting all 27 CEE/NIS in developing and implementing their NEHAPs; responsible for the development of NEHAPs in Albania, Bulgaria, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, The Czech Republic, Hungary, The Slovak Republic, Poland, Estonia, Lithuania, The Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan;
- ♦ Assisting the capacity-building activities and the collaboration of 4 sub-regional groups of countries (Baltic/Nordic, CAR, Vishegrad and Sofia) in different technical environmental health areas of common interest in support to the development and implementation of their NEHAPs;
- ♦ Establishing links and fostering the cooperation between CCEE countries, WHO/Euro and the European Commission to assist in actions relevant to their accession process to the EU; Establishing links and collaboration with other UN sister organizations, International Funding Institutions and donor countries to assist CCEE/NIS in fundraising for the development and implementation of their NEHAPs; Assisting CCEE/NIS in preparing the NEHAP implementation strategies;
- ♦ Assisting CCEE/NIS in preparing and implementing specific NEHAP implementation investment projects; Establishing network of NEHAP coordinators in CCEE/NIS and keeping close contacts and collaboration with them on all issues of mutual interest related to the development and implementation of NEHAPs;
- ♦ Performing periodical review and evaluation of the NEHAP development and implementation process in WHO EURO region

1990 – 1995 Ministry of Health, Sofia, Bulgaria

Director General, Health Promotion and State Sanitary Control Department

- ◆ Management and supervision of the Health Protection and State Sanitary Control Department at the Ministry of Health, Bulgaria; Management and supervision of the National Hygiene-Epidemiological Services (NHES) of the Ministry of Health comprising of five national centres (National Pharmaceuticals' Centre, National Centre of Communicable and Parasitic Diseases, National Centre of Hygiene, Medical Ecology and Nutrition, National Centre of Radiobiology and Radiological Protection and National Centre of Health Promotion) and 28 regional operational (field) institutions named Regional Hygiene Epidemiological Inspectorates (RHEI); Approval of the annual plans, reports, staffing, and the professional profiles of the 28 RHEI's.; Selection and approval of staff for the Health Protection and State Sanitary Control Department at the Ministry of Health; Proposing, organizing and running interviews for selection and recruitment of directors of RHEI's; Organization and supervision of the long and short-term post-graduate training of the personnel both in the Ministry of Health and the RHEI's.
- ◆ Development and enforcement of health legislation covering different areas of public health, such as prevention and control of communicable diseases, immunization, AIDS and sexually-transmitted diseases, environmental health, occupational health, food safety, nutrition, healthy lifestyles, health promotion, etc.
- ◆ Development, implementation and evaluation of policies, strategies, programmes and projects in public health, particularly in environmental health, occupational health, nutrition, surveillance and control of communicable diseases, AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, chronic non-communicable diseases, promotion of healthy life-styles, etc.
- ◆ Organization, management and supervision of the state sanitary control system and the enforcement of the health legislation at national level in the capacity of the First Deputy-Chief State Sanitary Inspector; Organization and carrying out remedying and preventive actions in emergency cases of food-borne diseases outbreaks, epidemics of communicable diseases, natural and man-made disasters and accidents.
- ◆ Deputy-chairperson of the Managerial Board of the National Health Protection Fund.
- ◆ Supervision of the national health promotion and education programmes; Implementation of public communication strategies; regular personal involvement in press-conferences, TV and radio interviews, shows, etc., regular provision of health information for the mass media; Coordination, co-operation and collaboration with the responsible governmental and non-governmental institutions at national level in different areas of public health
- ◆ Organization and supervision of all international activities of HES in the field of health protection. Collaboration with the UN organizations, such as WHO/EURO, FAO and UNICEF, and the International Funding Institutions (the World Bank), as well as with the respective departments and services of the ministries of health in some of the European countries; Chairperson of the national steering committee for developing and implementing the fifth component "Food Control and Nutrition Surveillance in Bulgaria" of the World Bank health project in Bulgaria.
- ◆ Member of different interministerial councils, committees and working groups, such as: Interministerial coordinating committee on prevention and elimination of iodine deficiencies and disorder; Interministerial coordinating committee on environmental protection; Interministerial coordinating committee on communicable diseases

1982 – 1990 Ministry of Health, Sofia, Bulgaria

Senior Expert, Chief, Food Control and Nutrition Unit, State Sanitary Control Department

- ◆ Deputy Chief State Sanitary Inspector in charge of food safety and nutrition, Management and supervision of the National Food Control Services comprising of one managerial unit at the ministry of health, National Scientific Institute of Gastroenterology and Nutrition and 28 Food Safety and Nutrition Departments at the Regional Hygiene Epidemiological Inspectorates; Development and enforcement of food legislation, regulations and standards; Development, management, implementation and evaluation of food monitoring programmes; Development, and implementation of Food and Nutrition Policy; Development and control on the implementation of nutrition intervention programmes; Surveillance and control of food-borne diseases; Development and control on the implementation of nutrition education programmes; Training of food inspectors and post-graduate training of medical doctors in food safety and nutrition.

1981 – 1982 Regional Hygiene Epidemiological Inspectorate, Sofia

Food Inspector, Chief, Food Control Unit

- ◆ Enforcement of food legislation and regulations at local level; Food inspection; Running of local food monitoring programme; Implementation of local nutrition intervention programmes; Surveillance and control of food-borne diseases at the local level; Running of education programmes on food safety and nutrition for specific target groups

1975 – 1981 Regional Hygiene Epidemiological Inspectorate, Targovishte, Bulgaria

Chief, Food Control and Nutrition Department

- ◆ Management of the Food and Nutrition Control Department at the Regional Hygiene Epidemiological Inspectorate in the town of Targovishte; Enforcement of food legislation and regulations at regional level; Running of food inspection programmes at regional level; Performing food inspections; Running of food monitoring programmes at regional level; Surveillance and control of food-borne diseases; Development, implementation, management, control and evaluation of regional nutrition intervention programmes; Development, implementation, management, control and evaluation of education programmes on food safety, food hygiene and nutrition at regional level

**MAJOR
ASSIGNMENTS**

2014 - 2015

- Founding member, IHPA
- Member, Governance Board, IHPA
- WHO Europe Temporary Adviser

2012

- ◆ Co-opted Member, Executive Committee, SEE Health Network

2010

- ◆ WHO Europe Representative in the Governance Board of the International Network of Health Promoting Hospitals and Health Services

2002

- ◆ WHO Europe Member of the Executive Committee of the SEEHN multicountry

project “Enhancing social cohesion through strengthening community-based health services for people with mental health problems”

- ◆ WHO Europe Member of the Steering Committee of the SEEHN multicountry project “Enhancing social cohesion through strengthening community-based health services for people with mental health problems”

2001

- ◆ WHO Europe Representative to the Stability Pact for SEE Social Cohesion Initiative

1994

- ◆ Rapporteur, Preparatory meeting for the Second Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, Hamburg, March 1994
- ◆ Rapporteur, Second Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, Helsinki, June 1994
- ◆ Environmental Health in Bulgaria, A Case Study, European Conference on Health Policies, Copenhagen, December 1994

1993

- ◆ Development and implementation of 5th component “Food Control and Nutrition Surveillance in Bulgaria” of the World Bank Health Project
- ◆ Surveillance and Control of Iodine Deficiencies and Disorders in Bulgaria, joint WHO/UNICEF project in Bulgaria
- ◆ Food and Nutrition Policy of the Republic of Bulgaria

1992

- ◆ Rehabilitation of Food Control Services in Bulgaria, FAO project
- ◆ Development of New Concept for the Reform of the Public Health Sector and the Hygiene Epidemiological Services in Bulgaria

1991

- ◆ Member of the British Nutrition Society

1990

- ◆ First Deputy Chief State Sanitary Inspector of the Republic of Bulgaria

1982

- ◆ Deputy Chief State Sanitary Inspector in charge of Food Safety Services
- ◆ Chairman, National Expert Commission on Food safety and Standardization

KEY DOCUMENTS¹

developed and published under my leadership, management, oversight and personal involvement in the period 2000-2012

Public Health

1. Strengthening public health capacity and services in Europe. A concept paper
2. Strengthening public health services across the European Region – a summary of background documents for the European Action Plan
3. Strengthening public health services and capacity: an action plan for Europe
4. A self-assessment tool for pilot implementation of the standards for health promotion in hospitals, WHO/Europe 2004
5. Developing a framework for public health law in Europe
6. European Action Plan for Strengthening Public Health Capacities and Services
7. Health promotion in hospitals: evidence and quality, WHO/Europe 2005
8. Health systems and public health services
9. Implementing health promotion in hospitals: manual and self-assessment forms, WHO/Europe 2006
10. Integrating health promotion into hospitals and health services, WHO/Europe 2007
11. Memorandum of Understanding for Collaboration between the World Health Organization, through its Regional Office for Europe and the International Network of Health Promoting Hospitals and Health Services, 2009-2012
12. Modern health care delivery systems, care coordination and the role of hospitals
13. Preliminary review of institutional models for delivering essential public health operations in Europe
14. Public health policy and legislation instruments and tools: an updated review and proposal for further research
15. Review of public health capacities and services in the European Region
16. Standards for health promotion in hospitals, WHO/Europe 2004
17. Standards for health promotion in hospitals: development of indicators for a self-assessment tool, WHO/Europe 2004

SEE Health Network

18. 11th meeting of the SEE Health Network, Sofia, 2005
19. 12th meeting of the SEE Health Network, Skopje, 2006
20. 13th meeting of the SEE Health Network, Sarajevo, 2006
21. 14th meeting of the SEE Health Network, Durres, 2006
22. 15th meeting of the SEE Health Network, Sofia, 2007
23. 16th meeting of the SEE Health Network, Sofia, 2007
24. 17th meeting of the SEE Health Network, Zagreb, 2007
25. 18th & 19th meetings of the SEE Health Network, Chisinau and Brussels, 2008
26. 22nd meeting of the SEE Health Network, Belgrade, 2009
27. 1st issue of the SEEHN Newsletter
28. 2nd issue of the SEEHN Newsletter
29. A decade of regional cooperation on public health in South-eastern Europe. A story of successful partnership
30. Approaching mental health care reform regionally: the mental health project for south-eastern Europe, WHO/Europe 2009
31. Blood services in south-eastern Europe: current status and challenges, WHO/Europe 2007
32. Briefing Note on the Regional Cooperation for Public Health SEEHN for the RC60, Moscow, Russian Federation, 13 September 2010
33. Current status and future strategies in safe blood for emergencies in South-eastern Europe
34. Dubrovnik Pledge (2001)
35. Evaluation of public health services in south-eastern Europe
36. Health and economic development in south-eastern Europe
37. Memorandum of Understanding (2009)

¹ This list represents only the documents that are officially published on WHO Europe Website; many more can be found on either the SEEHN Blogspot or are still drafts in the process of publication.

38. Noncommunicable diseases prevention and control in the South-eastern Europe Health Network. An analysis of intersectoral collaboration
39. Regional Health Development Center on Mental Health in South-eastern Europe Newsletter: issue 1
40. Reversing the Tobacco Epidemic
41. Strengthening food safety and nutrition policies and services in south-eastern Europe, WHO/Europe 2009
42. Strengthening national capacities for improving maternal and neonatal health in south-eastern Europe, 2007
43. Second health ministers' forum, 2005
44. Skopje Pledge (2005)

Countries' Public Health Services

45. Self-assessment of public health services in the Republic of Uzbekistan
46. Public Health in Estonia 2008: An analysis of public health operations, services and activities
47. Public health services in Kyrgyzstan