

**Fulbright Academy Alumni Conference**  
**SMALL PLACES CAN CHANGE THE WORLD**  
**March 24-27, 2009, Skopje, Macedonia**

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**MY HUMPHREY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM  
YEAR EXPERIENCE AND IMPACT STORY**

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Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow 1993/94



# My Professional Background

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- Graduated in 1973, Medical Faculty-Skopje
- Specialization in social medicine in 1981, MF-Sk
- Postgraduate studies in social medicine in Sarajevo, B&H, 1983-1985
- Ph.D., MF-Sk in 1993
- Postdoctoral studies in PH (Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program) at Emory University School of Public Health in Atlanta, GA, USA, in 1993-1994
- Full-time Professor of Social Medicine at Skopje University Medical Faculty since 2003



# My General Feelings and Impressions

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- Humphrey Year for me is the most memorable turning point and milestone in my personal life and professional growth, success and career;
- The Humphrey Program broadened my views and strengthened my self-confidence, sense of academic freedom and commitment to follow and protect the democratic principles and values for human rights and social justice, cross-cultural communication, tolerance and cooperation, academic excellence and dedication to the public health ideals of promoting health and preventing diseases.



# Humphrey Poetry

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- The spirit of Hubert Humphrey and the Humphrey Program inspired me a lot and my feelings and views about the personality of Hubert Humphrey and the mission of the Humphrey Program I expressed in my poems:
- "Trace in Eternity" and
- "Humphrey Commitment"



# Trace in Eternity

Hundreds of apostles are spreading your ideas,  
Undertaking a vow to continue your mission.  
Brightness of your thoughts is lighting our way;  
Echo of your words is encouraging our actions.  
Rectitude and human rights were sign posts in your life;  
Treasury of values was beautifying your personality.

Honesty of your soul is clearer than sunlight;  
Unique and the most noble is the beauty of your spirit.  
Magnificent sunrise which gives light and life;  
Problems you recognized only as challenges.  
Humanity is base of your kingdom of democracy.  
Real and eternal is worldwide glory of your name.  
Enriching your spirit by generous love for people,  
You created indelible traces of your existence in eternity. . . .

*Doncho Metodi Donev*



# Humphrey Commitment

Hubert H. Humphrey Program has a noble mission,  
to support prosperity and world democratic transition,  
Humphrey family now counts more than 2000 alumni,  
they are spread worldwide like bright stars on the sky,  
We have been chosen as unique and exceptional,  
we have been prepared to become universal,  
We have leadership spirit and strong self-confidence,  
against assailants we are empowered for self-defense,  
We are committed to keep the Humphrey spirit alive,  
all disasters and battles in the life to survive,  
We are committed to increase our responsibility,  
topflight experts enhanced our professional ability,  
We are committed in better future to have faith,  
in our beginnings and capacity to be great,  
We are committed to cultivate unploughed fields,  
by use of our creativity, knowledge and skills,  
We are committed to look many years ahead,  
to improve quality of the human life on our planet,  
We are committed for social justice to have a sense,  
each one of us is obliged to make a difference,  
We are committed to work for improving the public  
health,  
for protecting the environment as a natural wealth,  
We are committed to make the right decision,  
to see the possibilities for progress by our vision,  
We are committed to induce common satisfaction,  
by translating dreams and ideals into action,

We are committed to foster the human rights movement,  
to stimulate global human opportunities improvement,  
We are committed to see the reality as an ocean of  
diversity,  
at all levels to create bridges of understanding and unity,  
We are committed to be missionaries of the world peace,  
for the human development new hopes to release,  
We are committed to search for the best solution,  
to negotiate and tend to find conflict-resolution,  
We are committed to strengthen the human relations,  
to go beyond the boundaries of limitations,  
We are committed to see the world as a global village,  
each problem to recognize only as a challenge,  
We are committed to brake the bureaucratic barriers,  
by public work and devotion to ennoble our careers,  
We are committed to prevent corruption and crime,  
always when necessary to shift the paradigm,  
We are committed for our teachers to respect,  
positive values within the people to protect,  
We are committed to live like sisters and brothers,  
to maintain contacts, support and love each others,  
We are committed in our struggles to be resistant,  
our diplomas were signed by the USA president,  
We are committed the new world shaping to begin,  
we are committed to win.

*Doncho Metodi Donev*



# Macedonian American Alumni Association (MAAA)

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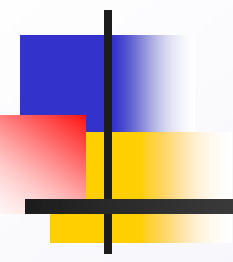
- In 1999 I took the initiative for establishing an alumni association in R. Macedonia
- The first constitutional meeting of MAAA, held in March 2000 and I was elected as the first president
- Alumni Newsletter “MAAA News”, four issues



# Activities of MAAA in the SEE Region

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- Beside a broad range of activities at the national level, in 2007 MAAA organized SEE Regional USA Academic Programs Alumni Conference – Strategies to Bring Balkans Closer to the EU, March 23-25, 2007, Skopje, R. Macedonia
- presentation: "PH-SEE Stability Pact Project 2000-2006: An Example for Fruitful Cooperation in South Eastern European Region"
- Draft-Declaration for alumni networking and cooperation in SEE Region



# Academic courses & Preprofessional Activities and Benefits

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- Academic courses I selected at the Emory University SPH influenced a lot my further activities and career
- Professional development activities (professional visits to more than 20 institutions in USA)
- Professional affiliations at the World Bank in Washington, D.C. (4 weeks), and at the UNICEF Headquarters, New York (2 weeks)
- As soon as I returned from USA to my country I have been involved, at the highest national level into variety of educational, research and other activities related to health care system reform and advancement of education in R. Macedonia.



# *My contribution to Public Health development at national level in RM*

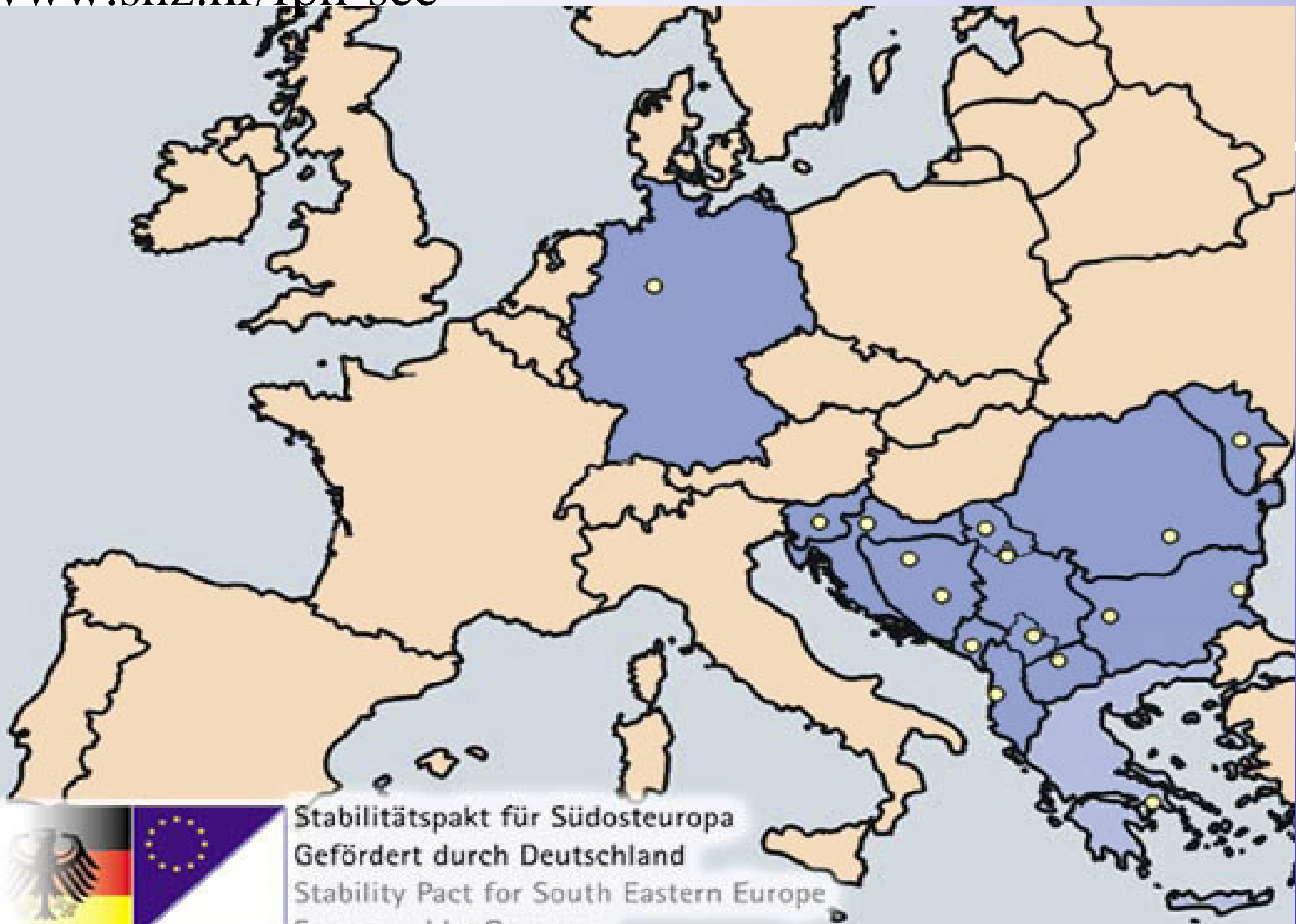
My pioneer role in the field of Social Medicine&Public Health in RM:

- The first Chair of Social Medicine (created in September 1994) at the MF-Skopje
- I initiated establishing the Institute for Social Medicine in 1997
- I initiated MPH education and establishment of a Center/School of PH within the Faculty of Medicine-Skopje, in Dec 2003
- External evaluation of the MPH Program by ASPHER in 2006 and the Centre/School of Public Health became a member of ASPHER
- It is expected, from 2009/2010, the Centre/ School of PH to organize a new PhD Study Program in Public Health



## *My contribution to the Public Health development at the SEE Regional and broader International level*

- Steering Committee Member of the Public Health Cooperation in SEE Stability Pact Project 2000-2009 ([www.snz.hr/ph-see](http://www.snz.hr/ph-see))
- Sharing for Action in SEE Project
- Balkan Forum for Cooperation in Public Health
- Bilateral Public Health Research projects



Stabilitätspakt für Südosteuropa  
Gefördert durch Deutschland  
Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe  
Sponsored by Germany



# Mission and Goals of the PH-SEE Stability Pact Project and MPH Programmes

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- **To raise capacity** of present and future public health professionals competent to assess health problems, to formulate objective strategies and to implement programs;
- **To facilitate teaching, research**, providing public health services and analysis/formulation of national health policy;
- **To prepare target-oriented** public health practitioners, researchers, policy analysts, managers and decision-makers;
- To provide **continuing education** for current and aspiring public health practitioners, researchers, policy analysts and managers of HC institutions;
- **To promote public health research** and health policy analysis;
- **To advocate and promote health-related issues** in public policy, planning and management of HC system

# Initial activities & Milestones for Public Health Development in SEE Region

- 2000, Nov 3-4, 2000 in Zagreb: 1<sup>st</sup> PH-SEE Coordination meeting;
- 2001, Dec 6-8, Skopje, Macedonia: SEE Conference on PH and Peace with strong support to the ongoing process for establishing of new schools of PH;
- 2002, Sept 28 - Oct 1, Zagreb: XXIV ASPHER Annual Conference and 75th Anniversary of ASSPH (Agreement on Collaboration of PH-SEE Consortium);
- 2003, Dec 5, MPH Program at the MF-Skopje started with 38 students;
- 2004, Aug 23-28, Belgrade, Serbia: Expert Summer Retreat: National PH Strategies in SEE and the EU Health Policy (the 1st PH-SEE Book promotion);
- 2005, Dec 16-17, Skopje, Macedonia: 1 MPH Students Conference in SEE: PH The New Perspective: Expectations and experiences in Studying PH in SEE;
- 2006, Nov 30 - Dec 2, Dresden, Germany: 1st Conference of the Deans of SPH & Directors of the Institutes of PH and PH associations in SEE;
- 2007, Oct 18th -20th, Bucharest: 2nd Conference of MPH Students in SEE;
- 2008, July 3-5, Zagreb, Croatia: MetaNET Workshop on CDs in SEE Region;
- 2009, Sep 17-19, Struga, Macedonia, Scientific Conference on Brucellosis.



# MAIN OUTCOMES OF THE STABILITY PACT PH-SEE PROJECT

1. **Renaissance & Revolution of PH** in the SEE Region from the year 2000;
2. Raising **awareness & capacity building** in PH & Health Mgmt in the SEE Region;
3. Facilitating **teaching&research in PH**&analysis/formulation of national hlth policies;
4. Preparing target-oriented **PH practitioners**, researchers, policy analysts & managers;
5. Existing **strong network** among PH institutions and professionals in the SEE Region;
6. Creating **national associations for PH** joined in **Regional SEE PH Association**;
7. **Curriculum development** for MPH postgraduate education;
8. **Establishing MPH Programs/ CPH/ SPH** in: Sk, Bg, Sf, Tir, Lj, Pr, Bch etc.;
9. **Publishing handbooks** for teachers, researchers and PH professionals:
  - Health Systems and Their Evidence Based Development (2004);
  - Determinants of Health in the Scope of New Public Health (2005);
  - Public Health Strategies in SEE Region (2005);
  - Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (2007);
  - Management in Public Health Practice (2008);
  - Methods and Tools in Public Health (to be published 2009), etc.

# The Fourth Book



***HEALTH PROMOTION AND DISEASE PREVENTION:***  
*A Handbook for Teachers, Researchers, Health Professionals and Decision Makers*

Editors: Donev, Doncho; Pavlekovic Gordana, Zaletel-Kragelj Lijana

Lage, Germany: Hans Jacobs, 2007

ISBN 3-89918-123-9

Book Review available at:  
[www.scienceboard.net/community/features.48.html](http://www.scienceboard.net/community/features.48.html)

# PERSPECTIVES OF PUBLIC HEALTH COOPERATION IN SEE REGION

- PH-SEE Stability Pact Project, 2000-2007 is already transformed into the Forum for Public Health in SEE Region consists of two main programmes: a) PH Training **MetaNET Project** and b) **PH Research Net**;
- Providing **additional sources of funds** (EU funds) to support further educational and research activities in SEE Region;
- **Networking** at national, regional SEE, European and global level to face the new challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century need interdisciplinary, multi-professional and participatory approaches addressing multiple causes at the socio-economic, environmental, and individual levels;
- PH professionals and policy decision-makers need **to join efforts** with researchers, institutional decision-makers, health and other professionals, civil society, and the private sector.



# Collaboration with WHO and ASPHER

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- As WHO National counterpart from R. Macedonia, from 2006, I contributed in preparing the European Strategy on Non-communicable Diseases (NCD) Prevention and Control and related activities in my country toward preparing National Strategy and Action Plan for NCD Prevention and Control;
- I am actively involved in the ASPHER Core Competencies in Public Health Education Project and in the activities of EUPHA (as a member of the International Scientific Committee) and WFPHA.



# In Conclusion

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- Lasting relationships with professionals and friends in USA
- My appreciation and gratitude to:
  - the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program, and
  - all related persons and stakeholders, especially to:
    - the Government of USA for providing support and continuous implementation of the Program into practice for the benefit of thousands Humphrey Fellows, their countries and the world;
- Celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program is expected to be held in the Summer 2009

# **Wishes for Further Alumni Cooperation in SEE Region and Broader**



**Sunny cooperation in 2009 and beyond**

**All goals of the MAAA and Fulbright Alumni Academy of  
Science and Technology, and of the University American College  
in Skopje to be completed successfully**

