



## WELCOME to the IUHPE<sup>1</sup> European Health Promotion Accreditation System

Building on the success of the CompHP Project (<http://www.iuhpe.org/index.php/en/comphp>) the **IUHPE<sup>1</sup> European Health Promotion Accreditation System** is currently in initial stages of implement. The goal of the Accreditation System is to promote quality assurance, competence and mobility in health promotion practice and education through a Europe-wide accreditation system, which is designed to be inclusive, flexible and sensitive to different contexts while maintaining robust and validated criteria.

The Accreditation System will offer professional recognition for health promotion practitioners and accreditation of health promotion courses which meet the specified competency-based criteria.

### The Accreditation System offers:

- ◆ Clear and agreed guidelines and quality standards for the health promotion knowledge, skills and values needed to practice effectively and ethically
- ◆ A basis for all aspects of quality assurance in health promotion practice, education and training
- ◆ Accountability to the public through the accreditation of health promotion practitioners
- ◆ Assurance that health promotion courses provide graduates with the required knowledge and skills for effective health promotion practice and that awards are validated based on agreed criteria
- ◆ Facilitation of movement of employment across roles, organisations, regions and countries through the use of recognised health promotion qualifications and accreditation
- ◆ Greater recognition and visibility of health promotion and the work done by health promotion practitioners
- ◆ A reference point for employers in recruitment and selection.

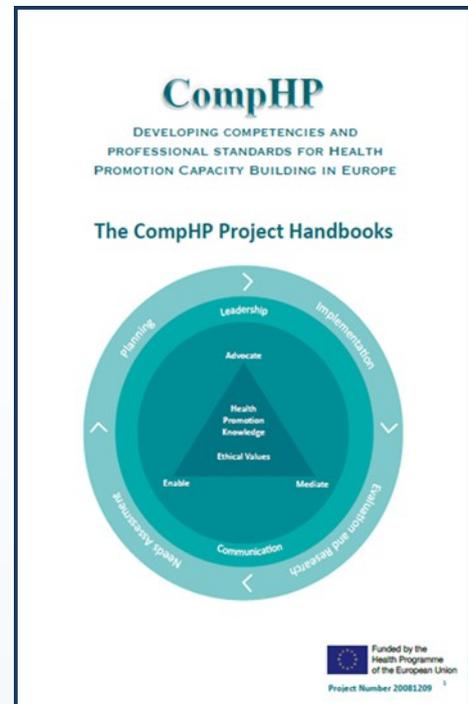
Practitioners registered within the Framework can use the professional title 'European Health Promotion Practitioner' (EuHP)

Accredited courses can be formally described as 'IUHPE EuHP Accredited'



## DEVELOPING AN ACCREDITATION SYSTEM FOR HEALTH PROMOTION IN EUROPE

The IUHPE European Health Promotion Accreditation System was developed in response to the need for a quality assurance system to unify and strengthen the diverse health promotion workforce in Europe. Until the inauguration of the IUHPE System, there had been no agreed Europe-wide accreditation mechanism to assure quality standards in reaching the health promotion goals identified in European Union health strategies or to support the recognition of professional qualifications as the basis for free movement and employment of health promotion practitioners across the European Member States.



[http://www.iuhpe.org/uploaded/CompHP/CompHP\\_Project\\_Handbooks.pdf](http://www.iuhpe.org/uploaded/CompHP/CompHP_Project_Handbooks.pdf)

### How the System evolved:

- ◆ **2004 - IUHPE EURO Sub-Committee** set up with the remit to examine the accreditation of health promotion training and education in Europe.
- ◆ **2008 - A feasibility study** found overall support for the development of a pan-European health promotion accreditation system<sup>2</sup>.
- ◆ **2009-2012 - The CompHP Project** developed Core Competencies, Professional Standards and a Pan-European Accreditation Framework which form the basis for the IUHPE System<sup>2</sup>.
- ◆ **2012 - IUHPE Competencies and Workforce Development Working Group (CWDG)** - established to further develop quality assurance systems for health promotion building on the findings of the CompHP Project, in the EU and ultimately at the global level.
- ◆ **2013 - CWDG** obtains funding from the EAHC to pilot the IUHPE European Accreditation System building on the work of the CompHP Project.

<sup>2</sup> See <http://www.iuhpe.org/index.php/en/comphp>



## HOW THE SYSTEM WORKS

The IUHPE European Health Promotion Accreditation System comprises a devolved model within which **National Accreditation Organisations** interact with a **European Accreditation Organisation** to ensure quality in health promotion practice, education and training in Europe.

The criteria for eligibility for practitioners and courses within the System build on the agreed CompHP Core Competencies and Professional Standards which have been endorsed at national and European levels.



## QUALITY PRINCIPLES UNDERPINNING THE SYSTEM

Quality concepts and principles are at the core of the System to ensure that it is:

- ◆ Relevant to the European context as it is based on wide-ranging consultation and testing and on agreed core competencies and professional standards.
- ◆ Flexible and sensitive to diverse health promotion, quality assurance systems and educational infrastructures across Europe while being robust and practical.
- ◆ Practical and feasible by making efficient and effective use of limited resources, for example, by using an online registration system.
- ◆ Robust as it underwent intensive consultation and is based on the CompHP Core Competencies and Professional Standards (6) which were developed through consensus building with key health promotion stakeholders across Europe and have been endorsed at national and European levels.
- ◆ Transparent and objective so that the requirements for accreditation and registration and how decisions and assessments are made are transparent, clear and understandable.



## PILOTING THE IUHPE EUROPEAN HEALTH PROMOTION ACCREDITATION SYSTEM

The Governance structures for the System were formally established at the inaugural meeting of the IUHPE European Health Promotion Accreditation Board and Assessment Committees in Paris in April 2013.

- ◆ A full piloting of all the System's processes is underway, which will include the testing of the application and assessment procedures in September and October 2013.
- ◆ **A website** ( <http://www.iuhpe.org/index.php/en/the-accreditation-system> ) is available that includes information on all aspects of the Accreditation System and links to relevant information. The application process for registration and accreditation within the System will also be available online.

### NEXT STEPS

- ◆ **All stages** in the piloting process will be evaluated and a full report, which will inform the future implementation, maintenance and expansion of the System, will be published early in 2014.
- ◆ **The first open call for applications** from practitioners and providers of health promotion education and training will be advertised in January 2014. Watch out for updates on the IUHPE website and in professional journals.
- ◆

**If you would like more information on the Accreditation System please email your contact details to:**

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