

20 Propositions on "Agenda 21 and Health"

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1. Implementation of Agenda 21

- 1.1 Efforts to implement Agenda 21 have become a major factor of policy development worldwide
- 1.2 The implementation of Agenda 21 includes both theoretical concepts and practical activities which are now widely accepted
- 1.3 Increasingly, Agenda 21 is also being implemented on the local level ("Local Agenda 21")
- 1.4 Implementation of Agenda 21 constitutes an intersectoral task, requiring the involvement of high-ranking government representatives
- 1.5 Components such as indicators and evaluations become increasingly relevant for the implementation of Agenda 21

2. "Health" in the implementation of Agenda 21: Status quo

- 2.1 Health is an important topic in Agenda 21
- 2.2 Agenda 21 deploys the modern understanding of health determinants
- 2.3 Up to now, on all levels of implementation of Agenda 21, health as a topic has not received sufficient attention
- 2.4 Especially concerning "Local Agenda 21", the coverage of health and the involvement of public health professionals is often insufficient or absent
- 2.5 Options of cooperation between the "Healthy cities" program and Agenda 21 receive increasing attention

3. "Health" in the implementation of Agenda 21: potentials

- 3.1 "Health" can develop into a core area of the implementation of Agenda 21
- 3.2 The public health service can make important contributions to the implementation of Agenda 21, concerning both substantive and procedural aspects
- 3.3 The challenge is to find the right mixture of adapting the existing approaches and developing new approaches, as required
- 3.4 Concerning adaptations and new developments, there is a need to take the temporal, spatial and topical dimension of sustainability into account, and to accept a pluralistic value system

3.5 In order to maintain credibility, the impact of the health care/medical care system on sustainability requires special attention

4. Next steps

- 4.1 The implementation of Agenda 21 is an unfamiliar task, and a stepwise procedure seems advisable. An upcoming milestone is the next worldwide evaluation of the implementation of Agenda 21, i. e. the "Rio+10" conference in 2002
- 4.2 As a first step, the health sector can consolidate its interest in sustainability and implementation of Agenda 21
- 4.3 A second step is the identification of existing approaches of health protection and promotion which can be integrated into the implementation of Agenda 21
- 4.4 The third step implies a clarification which institutions and groups of the health sector will take responsibility for which tasks
- 4.5 The forth step will be the identification and implementation of appropriate cooperative projects