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Conference Abstract

City Health Networks in France

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Abstract

Introduction: Until the late 1990s, the principle of "territorial action", an integrated process at a territorial scale, was not very well developed in France. But the repeated failure of centrally-organised measures called for an integrated approach to health problems, with local territories as the units of action.

Aims: Based on this analysis, the "Ateliers Santé Ville" [City Health Networks][in French] initiative was created by a decree in the year 2000, aiming to reduce social and territorial health inequalities and to improve access to health care services, mainly in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

Results: City Health Networks bring together a wide range of public and private actors (the state, local authorities, communal centres for social welfare, associations, etc.) involved in providing health and social care through small-scale targeted projects. They are financed jointly by local authorities and by the state through the federal government, via "l'Acisé" [French social cohesion and social equality agency] [in French]. Furthermore, they can acquire additional funding from local community groups. At the end of 2012, 258 City Health Networks were active, and its numbers are increasing annually [1, p.11].

Conclusions: Today, City Health Networks are well integrated into the French health landscape. For most of the municipalities, health networks are a valued tool for improving local health policy. City Health Networks are easily adaptable to the territory of intervention with appropriate means, be it at the neighbourhood, communal or inter-communal level.

Keywords

network, health, Acisé, France

References

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