



# Developing Community Skills in Community Assessment, Mobilization and Communication

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# Healthy Cities in Croatia

FROM

Healthy Cities as a TOOL in improving health in the urban context


TO



Healthy Cities as the core network and change agent in developing national health policy and partnership for health





# Conditions imposed by the wider environment

- War, recession, and transition
  - Economic development as “the issue”
  - Centralized, autocratic, national state administration supported by passive (expectant), cautious (not risk taking) local administration
  - Absence of supportive Legislation (for civic society development)
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- Partitocracy (responsibility towards political parties not towards the citizens)
  - Local administration afraid of decentralization (delegation of responsibilities without allocation of resources)
  - Socio-economic conditions & empty budgets
  - Weakened public health profession & apathetic majority
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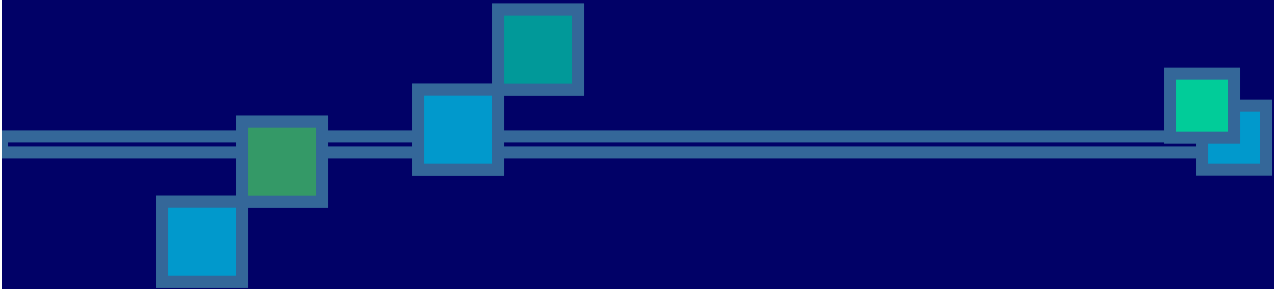

Advantages we build on...

Cities feeling of “been left alone”



- **RAP (rapid appraisal to assess community health needs):**

- Increased awareness of the state of (ill) health in the city and of the factors affecting it
  - Recognized amount of problems and reached consensus about the leading ones
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- Open dialogue between different interest groups (citizens initiative, professionals, institutions and city administration)
  - Recognized cities potentials and identified resources for health promotion intervention
  - Developed alliances across the community and coordinate (focused) health promotion efforts
  - Increased awareness that the problems could be tackled and solved locally (confronting bureaucratic passivity – waiting for solutions or instructions to be given by the central government)
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## ■ **Gathering:**

- training (for newcomers)
  - Motovun Summer School of health Promotion
  - Health Fair
  - Autumn business meeting
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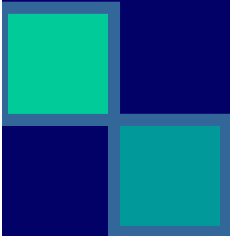
## ■ **Networking:**

- thematic grouping (ability to gain and exchange information, learn from others, improve local conditions)
  - Develop conscious that only united could influence process of decision making at the county or country level
  - Connect with other levels and sectors (horizontally and vertically) and international agencies
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## ■ Empowering:

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- Even if the wider environment is very constraining something could be done
  - Citizens are experts for their neighborhoods, they know what the problems are and how they could be solved
  - Nothing goes easy, process takes time
  - Important issue is to know where we are heading
  - Political support is important but not crucial
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