

### **HEPRO will now carry out a health survey that builds a health profile of the region.**

The purpose of the health survey is to get current and updated knowledge of health conditions to help the municipality to plan for and carry out its health care and health promotion activities in accordance with the needs of the citizens.

The health survey will be accomplished in 27 partner regions in six different countries. Approximately 40 000 citizens will participate in the survey. In Norway and Denmark data will be collected by postal questionnaires. In Poland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania the data will be collected by interviewing. The data will be collected during October and December 2006. The organisation that realises the data collection is TNS Gallup.

- In order to get a broad picture of the health status of the citizens it will be important that the inhabitants answer the questions of the health survey, says project coordinator Famara Sanyang.
- The statistics that have been used by the local municipalities or councils to identify the inhabitants' health conditions are seldom extensive enough. Statistics from local health surveys are therefore expected to be employed in addition to other knowledge. We see, for example, that several national surveys rarely give figures on a regional level. Local surveys can therefore give knowledge about each council or municipality – perhaps even on a suburban level, says Sanyang.

A health profile intends to identify changes in the inhabitants' health conditions over time. The results from the health survey will be building a health profile of the region. Health profiles are expected to be a tool to discover where preventive and health promoting implementations must be employed. By that way, it creates a background for local spatial health planning and identifies risk groups of the population. Furthermore, it sets health issues on the political agenda, and creates a background to establish interdisciplinary and intersectorial public health work in the municipalities or councils.