

Second Conference on Health Inequalities, organized in connection to the HEPROGRESS project, took place in Sarpsborg, Østfold County on 15 – 16 May 2012. More than 100 politicians, health practitioners and administrators from Latvia, Norway and Poland took part in the conference. Local coordinators of Healthy Cities from Norwegian Healthy Cities Network were also present.

The purpose of the conference was to further discuss the challenge of social inequalities in health within the politicians, decision makers and planners in order to raise their awareness of the issue, as well as to support the creation of ideas to counteract the inequalities and their consequences.

- It is crucial to make communities and the society in general more inclusive and participatory and less excluding and marginalising with its meaningless waste of human resources, says Niels K. Rasmussen, Project Manager.

That is the main goal of HEPROGRESS which was developed and implemented in Norway (Østfold County) and Latvia (Vidzeme Region) since December 2010.

During the first part of the conference, the participants received the **introduction to the Norwegian discourse** and documentation of inequalities in health and the challenges they bring to the Nordic welfare model. Plenary speakers from Norway, represented by Inger-Christin Torp, Asbjørn Wahl, Prof. Camilla Ihlebæk, Prof. Nils Aarsæther and Arve Negaard discussed about the development and change of the welfare state, how to maintain the social capital or how to ensure that the citizens are healthy. All speeches give the excellent input to the project work and development of the policies.

Conference for more inclusive communities

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