

Building policy capacities: experiences from the PASEO Project (workshop)

Policy-related interventions are an increasingly relevant topic in health and physical activity promotion, with efforts to build policy capacities becoming more and more popular. At the same time, the evidence base is becoming increasingly relevant not only for health promotion interventions but also for health promotion policy. This has led to a lively debate on how to best translate knowledge on effective interventions, policies, and policy development from research into policy. This symposium will present experiences from an EU sponsored project that has attempted to combine both discourses, building policy capacities for physical activity promotion for older people through an exchange of knowledge between researchers and policy-makers. While all PASEO partners employed the same concept of knowledge translation and capacity building, differing contextual variables in the participating countries led to a significant variance between cases with respect to alliance setups, alliance topics, planning processes, and outcomes. The speakers of the symposium will present experiences from four select countries to illustrate differences and similarities:

Peter Gelius (University of Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany) will introduce the project and its knowledge translation/capacity building concept. He will also present experiences from the German branch of PASEO, where a regional alliance focused on developing local-level pilot projects to build policy capacities for physical activity promotion among older people.

Michael Kolb (University of Vienna, Austria) will present PASEO Austria, where a regional alliance resulted in a very comprehensive action plan that received widespread support, among others by the regional and national ministries of health.

Jorge Mota (University of Porto, Portugal) will report on experiences from Portugal, where the national PASEO alliance was built around a specific issue, i.e. walking and running for older people.

Alvydas Kalvenas (Lithuanian Academy of Physical Education) will report on PASEO in Lithuania, where the national alliance did not focus on older people alone but on HEPA in general. As a matter of fact, the PASEO alliance is the first national network ever to deal with health-enhancing physical activity in this country.

The presentations will be followed by discussion between the audience and the present country experts. A moderator is available for leading the discussions.