

Closing comments

at the SHE Assembly meeting 2021

(By Anette Schulz, SHE manager, 3rd June 2021)

I would like to thank you all for participating in the 2021 Assembly meeting and capacity building workshop. It's been a real pleasure to see you all, despite not being together physically.

Thank you to Ulla and Nina for planning such an informative and interesting Assembly meeting. Thanks also to Peter, Susanne and Branka for planning the capacity building workshop and participating in the following discussions. Peter, you summarized the 4 main themes from the group discussions perfectly.

I would like to give a huge thank you to all participants for their contributions to the SHE website. Additional thanks to the presenters who have shared their research and experiences with us these past two days, especially the children and young people who shared their opinions. Thank you, Val for joining us at this meeting – your presentation was very inspiring.

Sharing research, experience, and opinions is exactly what the SHE network is about – learning from each other in order to promote and support implementing of school health promotion across the WHO European Region.

So many brilliant initiatives are taking place on a national level – initiatives that I personally would love to see adapted and translated into English. As I start writing the funding application for the up and coming 4-year period, I will aim to include in the content and budget, finances, so national initiatives can be selected and translated into international initiatives available for everyone. In addition, I would like the new funding application will contain the possibility to develop new initiatives on mental health.

As some of these initiatives are already published in English – e.g., such as that from Scotland, Ulla and I will see if these initiatives can be made available on the SHE website.

Hopefully, we will be able to meet face to face next year. Although it's expensive – as you saw in the budget yesterday – and even though this assembly meeting was perfectly planned and implemented online, there are still benefits meeting face to face, which we cannot replicate in an online forum. So, I am assuming that when the COVID-19 situation is under control, and we are all vaccinated, we should be able to safely interact with each other next year.

Please, contact me if you want to see the budget or the report from 2020 on piloting the standards and indicators. And please contact me if you would like a consultancy visit during the autumn/winter.

Ulla and I will keep you up-to-date on the different SHE tasks in 2021, and of course, I will let you know how the funding process proceeds in the future.

Have a safe 2021. Take care, everyone.