**Call for good practices and lessons learned on food security and nutrition policy implementation in Europe and Central Asia region**

**Template for submissions**

FAO’s Project “[Developing Capacity for Strengthening Food Security and Nutrition in Selected Countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia](http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/GCP/GLO/674/RUS)” (funded by the Russian Federation), in collaboration with the [Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition](http://www.fao.org/fsnforum) and the [FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia](http://www.fao.org/europe/en/), is pleased to invite you to share**good practices** and**lessons learned** on food security and nutrition policy implementation in the region.

**Please use this**[**submission form**](http://bit.ly/2nAitb1)**to share your examples and experiences.
For the necessary background and guidance, please refer to the website:** [www.fao.org/fsnforum/eca/activities/open-calls/FSN\_policy\_implementation](http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/eca/activities/open-calls/FSN_policy_implementation)

**You can upload the completed form to the FSN Forum** [www.fao.org/fsnforum/eca/activities/open-calls/FSN\_policy\_implementation](http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/eca/activities/open-calls/FSN_policy_implementation) **or send it via email to** fsn-moderator@fao.org**.**

**Author of submission** (name, surname, position, organization)

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**Title of your example**

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| **CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT IN FOOD, NUTRITION AND PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE/BALKAN COUNTRIES (CEE/BC) THROUGH REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS** |

**Theme**

[ ] Sustainable food systems for improved nutrition

[ ] School food and nutrition programs linked to the agricultural sector

[ ] Nutrition sensitive social protection programs;

[x] Governance and accountability for nutrition.

**Date, location and geographic scope of your example (regional, sub-regional, national, local)**

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| In 2005 a meeting in Budapest was held to initiate processes which finally led to the establishment of the UNU/SCN Network for CD in nutrition for Central and Eastern Europe (NCDN-CEE). The objective was to initiate and support CD activities in research and training in CEE countries based on country specific needs. This was part of the UNU/SCN Working Groups efforts in catalyzing the formation of regional networks working towards the enhancement of individual, institutional, and organizational capacity in food and nutrition. In order to continue our activities in CEE region we established the “Capacity Development Network in Nutrition in Central and Eastern Europe, CAPNUTRA” in 2012. NCDNCEE’s follow-up is CAPNUTRA [www.capnutra.org](http://www.capnutra.org)  |

**Main responsible entity(ies) for the implementation of your example**

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| Researchers from the Centre of Research Excellence in Nutrition and Metabolism, Institute for Medical Research, University of Belgrade, Serbia, [www.srbnutrition.info](http://www.srbnutrition.info) and members of the network from CEE/Balkan countries from food and nutrition research and public health nutrition institution.UNU/SCN Network meetings took place one in 2005, 2006 (two), one in 2007 , 2008, 2009 , 2011 and CAPNUTRA in 2013, 2017 . Reports/agenda/photo gallery and 2 video films from those meetings are available at the link [www.capnutra.org](http://www.capnutra.org)  |

**Key objectives and implementation approach of your example** (approximately 600 words)

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| To initiate and support the establishment of networks for capacity development in various part of the World, for the purpose of improving knowledge and skills in areas such as food, nutrition and health policy development, nutrition research and higher training, nutrition academic accreditation, nutrition advocacy, nutritional recommendations, such as recommended intakes, dietary guidelines, food composition databases. The regional networks will themselves decide on capacity development objectives, their focused activities, all based on the needs in the countries in the region. |

**Funding and technical assistance of your example** (approximately 200 words)

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| The UNU/SCN NCDNCEE had support from the UNU Food and Nutrition Programme (2005-2011), FAO SEUR/REU office in Budapest, several EC projects (EuroFIR; EURRECA; EuroFIR Nexus and with active involvement of the researchers from the Centre of Research Excellence in Nutrition and Metabolism, Institute for Medical Research, University of Belgrade, Serbia, [www.srbnutrition.info](http://www.srbnutrition.info) and members of network from CEE/Balkan countries. |

**Key stakeholders involved. Describe the cross-sectoral coordination mechanism of your example, if any** (approximately 300 words)

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| Participants over the last years came from the following countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Hungary, Poland, Republic Srpska, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and facilitators came from the Netherlands , Norway and UK.This network is consisting of members from 11 WB and CEE countries (signed Memorandum of Understanding –MoU) and is in tight cooperation with other European and international similar associations, sharing scientific information on food, health and related nutritional challenges. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed with 11 CEE and Balkan countries, forming Balkan food platform: Croatia (2 institutions); Cyprus; FB&H ; Republic of  Macedonia; Moldova ; Montenegro; Russia; Slovenia, Ukraine & EuroFIR AISBL, Serbia-IMR, CAPNUTRA.The main expertise's are in the field of food composition research, nutrients, food & nutrition, public health nutrition, relevant nutritional grey literature selection and collection from CEE, development of nutritional tools and technology transfer, dissemination. More info on the website: [www.capnutra.org](http://www.capnutra.org)  |

**How your example addresses food security and nutrition challenges. Describe linkages to social protection policies / school food programs / sustainable food systems** (approximately 600 words)

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| Our experiences and achieved results in enhanced nutritional training, exchange of information and knowledge transfer and brought about development of substantial capacity in food, nutrition and public health research in CEE/BC.Nowadays, CAPNUTRA network is a platform that fosters regional involvement and further developments in PHN research with great potential for further capacity development and implementation of the ICN2 FfA and Decade of Action on Nutrition SMART actions in the region. |

**What are the elements needed for the practice to be institutionally, socially, economically and environmentally resilient and/or sustainable?** (approximately 500 words)

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| Further collaboration and regional capacity development activities on harmonization and standardization of the food consumption collection and dietary intake survey in Balkan region are of great importance for countries and the whole region.Continual capacity development/training /education and harmonization in dietary surveys for collection of the data for evidence based policy making is necessary. CAPNUTRA network experience in capacity development activities in CEE region/Balkan is important and can contribute also to FAO capacity development activities. Since one of the ICN 2 FfA recommendations relate to the collection of the dietary intake data /monitoring and evaluation and in close link with Decade of Action in Nutrition it is essential to continue with CAPNUTRA’s CD activities .This activities will contribute also to the Global Individual Food consumption data (GIFT)- Collective effort of FAO, WHO, EFSA, on harmonization of individual food consumption data at global level <http://www.fao.org/nutrition/assessment/food-consumption-database/en/> For further activities beside the great knowledge, expertise , experience of the whole CAPNUTRA network fund are also essential for further CD in this region. |

**The impact of your example on national policies and people’s lives. What indicators have been used to measure it? (approximately 400 words)**

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| Activities for the UNU/SCN NCDNCEE –CAPNUTRA 2006-2017:Identify status, needs and follow-up activities within food, health and nutritional challenges in order to facilitate the initiatives of the Network in the field of capacity development in the CEE region;Identify strategic elements to meet the capacity development plans of institutions and individuals in the region.;Identify status & gaps in food and nutrition research infrastructure, needs and gaps in nutritional knowledge and specific trainings ;Organize specific capacity development activities such as workshops , trainings; seminars and other education related to the food and nutrition based on identified situation and needs in countries /region with support from EC projects, FAO, WHO and other relevant stakeholders;Disseminate scientific achievements, experiences and international co-operation and communication between scientific institutions, individual scientists and stakeholders in order to accelerate implementation of innovations, knowledge exchange and technology transfer;Create , test and implement nutritional tools for food composition data base development, dietary intake analyses and assessment based on questionnaires in population at national and regional level using harmonized and standardized methods according to European recommendations;Collaborate on information exchange with other national /European and international networks/ associations/institutions; Foster regional involvement and identify needs and opportunities in regional CD: Current status in academic nutrition education in CEE countries needs improvement-Solution: to organize trainings based on identified needs with support from EU level;Share and discuss challenges in national developments of dietary guidelines / recommendations for different population groups. Initiate a dialogue with relevant food industries and SMEs in the region on how to take nutritional considerations in developing new food productsShare information and the results of the Network on food, health and related nutritional challenges in the CEE countries as identified by the Network participants (this includes also sharing of information through Internet, a home page)Workshops/trainings/courses: 26 in total International meetings: 42; 73 presentations Other meetings: 5 ; 8 presentations Research papers in scientific journals: 11Food and nutritional tools - 5Network meetings: 9 ; Total 200 participants <http://www.agrowebcee.net/ncdn/events/> 3 Video films <http://www.agrowebcee.net/ncdn/events/>  |

**Key lessons (positive and negative) that can be learned from your example and how gaps, obstacles and any other adverse conditions were addressed** (approximately 600 words)

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| * The network was a source of new scientific knowledge in nutrition, a tool to foster regional involvement and identify needs and opportunities in regional CD
* During the last decade, impressive food and nutrition CD results were achieved in the field of PHN research in CEE/BC, especially in harmonization of the food consumption collection and dietary intake surveys in this region.
* CD in food and nutrition is more than formal training: includes also human resource development, organizational, institutional and legal framework development with aim of enhancing knowledge and skills;
* CD is a long term, continuing process, which gives primacy to national priorities, policies, plans and processes.
* Other region can also use our experience and lessons learned and start to initiate CD activities in their countries
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**Sources and/ or additional background material** (please provide weblinks when possible or send the material to fsn-moderator@fao.org)

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