The New Perspectives of Health Promoting Schools development – Current Situation in Europe and Poland

Abstract

The World Health Organization has proposed many different activities in the field of health promotion during the last 20 years, including activities concerning children and youth. These kinds of actions in many European countries caused the emergence of health promoting schools. Efforts to create health promoting schools in Poland have been undertaken since 1992. This article concentrates on issues connected with functioning of health promoting schools network in Poland and Europe. It examines the perspectives of SHE (Schools for Health in Europe) development, in the context of European as well as Polish conditions and possibilities of implementation.

Key words: health promotion schools, health education, Schools for Health in Europe.

Health promotion is a new conception and strategy of activities for health. It originated at the end of the last century, together with the movement “Health for all in the year 2000,” and its basic assumptions were formulated during the first Health Promotion Conference in Ottawa, in 1986. The foundation of the Health Promoting Schools Network was a significant aspect of this conception. The network was created by three international organizations: The WHO Regional Office for Europe, the Council of Europe and the European Commission (Woynarowska, 1999, p. 381; Parsons, Stears, Thomas, 1996).

In 2008 the founders of The European Network of Health Promoting Schools (ENHPS) decided to transform it into Schools for Health in Europe (SHE). Cur-