Coordinated action checklist: a tool for partnerships to facilitate and evaluate community health promotion

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Background

Coordinated action is of crucial importance for health promotion. However, there is a lack of feasible tools to facilitate and evaluate coordinated action.

Conclusions

The coordinated action checklist enables to facilitate and evaluate partnerships that differ in phase of the program, scale (national and local) and topics. Partner checking increases internal validation. Parallel investigation in different pilots increases external validation.

Method

We developed a conceptual framework including variables to facilitate and evaluate community health promotion. The checklist was developed and piloted in six partnerships.

Results

In the six pilots the coordinated action checklist:

- Generated actionable knowledge
- Stimulated discussion by its scoring system
- Contributed to team building
- Enabled to sustain coordinated action
- Is applicable for (external) evaluation

Variables and relevant conditions

- Diversity of participants, voluntary, paid or consultant, recruitment, drop-out, work history, represented organisations
- Trust, mutual dependency, power relations/ equity, respect
- Participation level, participation satisfaction, participation result
- Involvement, ownership, commitment, motivation, task-focus
- Expectation, satisfaction, perceived effectiveness, benefits and costs
- Resources, (technical/political) support and assistance
- Competences, skills, knowledge, expertise
- Needs assessment, mission, vision, aims, action plan
- Evaluation, documentation, variability, feedback, reflection, flexibility
- Role, task, responsibility
- Structure, leadership, management
- Communication (intern/extern), information exchange, openness, dialogue, problem solving, decision making
- Linkages to other groups, reached target population
- Community context and readiness
- Image/public profile, media coverage
- Fund raising, resource mobilisation
- Visible outcomes, type of activities, change in (physical) environment

Examples of quantitative operationalisations

- Number of events attended
- Amount of time spent (in average month)
- Length of participation
- Experience: number of years worked on issue
- Number of participants (formal and informal)
- Number of participants attending meetings or attendance rate (in the last year)
- Number of collaboration structures, workgroups
- Number of organisations
- Number of partners recruited and dropped out (in the last year)
- Number of tasks of participants
- Number of contacts with target population
- Number of organised activities or services
- Number of participants per activity
- The intensity of use of facilities and services
- The number of resolved problems or the percentage to which they are solved