Abstract
The paper makes an analysis of the historical background of social participation, the predominant trends and patterns within different environments including Cuba. It presents assessments as starting points for analysis of certain examples and circumstances. As it is stated in the concept of health as a social product, social participation is a fundamental health problem-solving element, in such a way that it is applied to and needed for actions inherent to the health care sector, but at the same time, it goes beyond that and involves the whole society. The paper showed various dimensions that have been given to specify the scope of social participation that, in its most genuine form, is an indispensable pillar for the quality of life of the peoples.

Keywords
public health, social participation, local health systems, local participatory planning, health-promoting municipalities movement.