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SANCO call for proposals 2008

The 2008 call for proposals has been published:
thttp://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_programme/howtoapply/call_for_proposal_en.htm. Deadline for submission is May 23. All relevant information is available at the site of PHEA as well:
thttp://ec.europa.eu/hea
calls/call_for_proposals_en.html

Call for experts

A call for expressions of interest was launched to draw up a list of experts to assist in activities in connection with the Public Health Programme 2008-2013. More information: http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_programme/ami/ami_036831_en.htm

European Developments

Health Examination Surveys in the European Union

The European Commission has adopted the White Paper “Together for Health: A Strategic Approach for the EU 2008-2013” developing the EU Health Strategy. One of the priorities explicitly mentioned in this EU Health Strategy is the creation of a European Health Examination Survey (EHES). A health examination survey (HES) is a population based survey where the measurements go beyond the questionnaire based data (interview or self-administration), such as anthropometric measures, blood pressure, blood samples, test of functional capacity, etc. The Work Plan 2008 to implement the 2nd programme of Community action in the field of health (2008-2013) will provide the necessary support to develop the EHES in a pilot phase in the coming years. The 2006 funded project Feasibility of a European Health Examination Survey (FEHES) is assessing the feasibility of carrying out such standardized HES in all EU countries and is preparing a proposal for the implementation of examination modules. One of the findings was that in 17 European countries active plans for some form of national HES already exist. Good quality and international comparability are desirable for these surveys. Therefore international collaborative actions are needed now. This is the reason why DG SANCO is preparing, with the support of PHEA, a workshop on EHES, which will take place on April 9-11 2008 in Luxembourg. More information on EHES can be found at the DG SANCO website: http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_information/dissemination/reporting/ehss_06_en.htm

Evaluation of ECDC

ECORYS Nederland, an independent research and consulting company, is carrying out the first external evaluation of the European Centre for Disease prevention and Control (ECDC). The evaluation is aimed to demonstrate accountability to stakeholders and to support learning for the future. All interested stakeholders can participate in the evaluation: http://s.checkmarket.com/?e=8063&h=BE38AC5B1A52C9FB02A7&l=en&q1=1
European Heart Network

The European Heart Network (EHN) is a Brussels-based alliance of heart foundations and other concerned non-governmental organisations throughout Europe. EHN has 31 members in 26 countries. The European Heart Network plays a leading role in the prevention and reduction of cardiovascular disease through advocacy, networking and education so that it is no longer a major cause of premature death and disability throughout Europe. On February 14, EHN launched the European cardiovascular disease statistics 2008, showing that Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is the main cause of death in the EU with over 2 million people dying from CVD every year. Moreover, the recently published statistics indicate that there are significant inequalities between Member States and that together, CVD across all Member States is estimated to cost the EU economy €192 billion a year. More information is available at the EHN website: http://www.ehnheart.org/content/default.asp

The Task Force on Major and Chronic Diseases

Multiple Sclerosis Information Dividend (MS-ID) - one year on

The MS-ID project - what it is? The Multiple Sclerosis Information Dividend (MS-ID) project led by the European Multiple Sclerosis Platform (EMSP) has two central objectives: 1) the development and piloting of a model European MS Register and 2) the promotion of the European Code of Good Practice in MS at national level across EU Member States.

European MS Register. Much of the focus of the project during the past year was on the development and finalisation of the minimum data set that constitutes the European MS Register. There are five neurological centres actively involved in data collection in Germany, Iceland, Poland, Romania and Spain in conjunction with coordination support from the partnered MS society. Each entry on the register is comprised of the data gathered in two questionnaires (1) a medical questionnaire completed by a treating clinician and (2) a socio-economic questionnaire filled in by the person with MS him/herself. Both questionnaires are completed during a visit to the clinician in the participating neurological centre. The questionnaires will be piloted during March, with an evaluation period following on from which any adaptations to be made will be incorporated as necessary.

Code of Good Practice in MS. EMSP organised a workshop in November 2007 at which was explained how lobbying strategies and campaigns related to the endorsement of the Code of Good Practice in MS could be developed. EMSP has developed a “toolkit” which takes the readers through the logical steps of crafting and planning a public relations strategy. The workshop report and a DVD of the presentations made thereat, will be available shortly.

MS Barometer. A benchmarking tool developed to measure the annual progress of policies relating to MS in all EU member states is currently being completed by national MS societies. The compiled results will be presented at a high-level roundtable discussion event to be held in Ljubljana in May 2008. This MS-ID initiative, the MS Barometer, will permit meaningful comparison between countries on the strengths and weaknesses of healthcare, employment and social affairs policies that impact directly on the quality of life of people with MS.

MS in print. Increasing the information base about MS is one of the cornerstones of the MS-ID project. To this end, a chapter on MS was submitted to the 2007 Report on Major & Chronic Diseases. A further contribution on the status of health of the EU population and MS was submitted to the EUGLOREH report whose publication is also in its final stages.

Further information. Any questions on the MS-ID project, please contact:
Ms. Mairead O’Leary, MS-ID project coordinator
mairead.oleary@emsp.org
**EUPHIX**

EUPHIX, the European Public Health Information and Knowledge System, has been launched. EUPHIX is a web-based knowledge system for health professionals, policy makers and others. It presents structured European public health information, giving a special insight into similarities and differences between EU Member States. EUPHIX is funded by DG SANCO under the European Community Public Health Programme. EUPHIX is available at: [http://www.euphix.org](http://www.euphix.org)

**Best Information Through Regional Outcomes (BIRO) project**

The BIRO project focuses on building a shared European diabetes information system. Besides through the BIRO website, regular newsletters are produced by the project to inform the stakeholders on BIRO’s progress and results. In December 2007, the third BIRO newsletter was published. It features, among other things, items on Diabetes care in Cyprus, Privacy Impact Assessment, and Towards a common Diabetes register in Scandinavia. The BIRO newsletters can be found at the project website: [http://www.biro-project.eu/index.html](http://www.biro-project.eu/index.html)

**Indicators for monitoring COPD and asthma in the EU (IMCA II) project**

The aim of the project is to extend the work on indicators already carried out by the IMCA I project by collecting or using already available data and producing reports/papers on all groups of indicators recommended by the project (mortality, prevalence, risk factors, clinical management/health services and outcomes). The project also aims to extend the work of the IMCA I project by developing a module of COPD and asthma to be incorporated to Health Examination Surveys and testing its feasibility and pilot performance in four selected geographical areas of Spain, Italy, Sweden and Germany. A protocol for the “HES feasibility study: a randomized control trial approach” has been agreed upon by the project partners, ethical approval has been obtained, and fieldwork has been finished in Barcelona in December/January 2007/2008. In March the study will be performed in Sweden, Germany and Italy. More information on the IMCA II project is available at the SANCO site: [http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_projects/2005/action1/action1_2005_22_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_projects/2005/action1/action1_2005_22_en.htm)

**European Network on Endometriosis (ENE) project**

The ENE project seeks to raise understanding and promote awareness of the impact of endometriosis across the EU and to create an international network of expertise and opportunities for all professionals and individuals dealing with the disease. Being selected for funding in 2006, the project had its first partner meeting in May 2007. In the mean time, a questionnaire for the creation, development and analysis of a pan-European epidemiological study on endometriosis has been developed and approved. More information is available at the project website: [www.endonetwork.eu](http://www.endonetwork.eu)

**Cancer registry based project on Haematological malignancies (HAEMACARE)**


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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

For an overview of events in the field of Rare Diseases see the SANCO site: [http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_threats/non_com/events_rare_diseases_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_threats/non_com/events_rare_diseases_en.htm)

**SANCO Workshop on Health Examination Surveys in the EU, Luxembourg, April 9-11 2008.** More information will follow.


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UPCOMING EVENTS


Events

10th meeting of the Network of Competent Authorities, January 30 & 31

The members of the Network (representatives of Member States and Candidate and EFTA countries) were informed on all major European Health Information developments. Issues discussed among other things were: Programme of Community action in the field of Health 2008-2013 and a new advisory structure for the Health Information Strand within this Programme, the Work Plan 2008, the EU Health Strategy White Paper, Health Information on children and adolescents, and the forthcoming Framework Regulation on Community statistics on public health and health and safety at work. Furthermore, all Working Parties and Task Forces of DG SANCO’s Health Information and Knowledge Strand presented their progress over the past six months. Major progress reported by the three Task Forces of the Working Party on Morbidity and Mortality:

The Task Force on Rare Diseases:
- Drafting of the Communication “Rare Diseases: a challenge for Europe”
- European Conference on Rare Diseases (Lisbon, 27-28 November 2007; over 400 participants from 35 countries)
- OrphaNews Europe (Newsletter TFRD)

The Task Force on Major and Chronic Diseases:
- Communication tools: quarterly Newsletter; restricted access website for members; new public website launched in September 2007 (http://www.nivel.eu/EC/TCChronicDiseases)
- Task Force workshop was held at EUPHA conference in Helsinki in October 2007 (information available at TFMC D website)
- Task Force contribution to the ECHI indicator system (biannual overview produced by the Task Force’s Scientific Assistance Office)
- Report on Major and Chronic Diseases 2007

The Task Force on Health Expectancies:
- Three year Strategic Plan developed, discussed and adopted
- Website developed (www.tf-he.eu)
- Involvement of US through Healthy People 2010 and of international organisations (OECD, WHO)

All materials related to the meeting (agenda, summary report, presentations) are/will be available at the website of DG SANCO: http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_information/implement/nca/events_nca_en.htm

8th meeting of the Network of Working Party Leaders, January 30

During this meeting it was decided to carry out, like last year, a ‘gaps assessment’. This is a bottom-up inventoring exercise, in which all experts of all the Working Parties and Task Forces are asked to contribute. They are asked to identify in their specific field of expertise the ‘gaps’ in the European Health Information and Knowledge System they encounter in
Publications

**REPROSTAT2 project:**

**BIRO project:**


**2007 Annual report on the state of the drugs problem in Europe (EMCDDA).** Available at: http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/html.cfm/index419EN.html


**‘Europe’s environment — The fourth assessment’ (EEA).** Available at: http://www.eea.europa.eu/pan-european/fourth-assessment

Daily practice while operating and developing this System. All expert input will be compiled into a summary document, which will be offered to DG SANCO as input for the Work Plan 2009. The NWPL aims to have completed this exercise by the end of May. All materials related to the meeting (agenda, summary report, presentations) are/will be available at the website of DG SANCO: http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_information/implement/nwpl/events_nwpl_en.htm

**SCIENTIFIC ASSISTANCE OFFICE (SAO)**

**DG SANCO report on Major and Chronic Diseases 2007**
SAO is coordinating the Editorial Board for the Report on Major and Chronic Diseases (MCD). Contributions for this report have been written by different project leaders of the Task Force on MCD at the request of DG SANCO, with the aim to show the contribution of the Task Force to the EU Health Information System on MCD. Currently the lay out of the full report is being finalised, Publication Right Agreements from all authors are being collected, and short summaries of the chapters are being compiled into an executive summary. This executive summary will be published on paper, while the full report will be published online. SAO aims to send all materials to SANCO for publication by the end of March ultimately.

**NCA Work Group on Data Protection**
Recent supporting activities of SAO for this Work Group entail: preparation of Work Group meeting on January 29 in Luxembourg, preparation of a first draft of a Position Paper on behalf of the NCA on the legal data protection situation in Europe in the context of public health monitoring, and writing of a short paper on behalf of the Work Group for the European Journal of Public Health (accepted for publication). For more information on the Work Group, please contact SAO at nca.nwp@nivel.nl

SAO’s funding will stop per June 1st. This March 2008 Newsletter therefore will be the last edition of the Newsletter SAO will be able to produce. As explained above, the discussions on the advisory structure for the Health Programme 2008-2013 are currently ongoing. At this time it is not clear yet to what extent the Networks, Working Parties, Task Forces and their scientific secretariats will be continued within the new advisory structure. For now SAO would therefore like to say goodbye and thank you all for the pleasant and constructive cooperation!