Best Practices in Prevention of Skiing Accidents in Europe: 
The New Challenge  
(Be.Pra.S.A.)

1st Interim report  
March 2007

Grant Agreement n. 2004132

European Commission  
Health and Consumer Protection Directorate General  
Directorate C – Public Health and Risk Assessment  
Unit C2 – Health Information
Main beneficiary: Azienda ULSS 20 Verona
Via Valverde 42 37122 Verona, ITALY

Legal Representative: Mr. Ermanno Angonese

Project Leader: Mr. Claudio Detogni

Associated Beneficiaries: Italian National Health Institute (ISS, Rome) - ITALY
Kuratorium für Verkehrssicherheit (Kfv, Vienna) - AUSTRIA
PSYTEL (Paris) - FRANCE
Institute of Public Health of the Republic of Slovenia - SLOVENIA
Consumer Safety Institute – THE NETHERLANDS

Start Date: 01.09.2005
End Date (contracted): 31.08.2007
Actual end date: 30.06.2008 – as per Amendment n.1 to Grant Agreement
ref. SANCO C/AR (pavb) D(2006)310254

Total cost of the project: 360.395,00 €
EC maximum grant: 216.237,00 €
GOALS OF THE INTERIM REPORT

The goals of this interim report are:

To comply with the contractual requirements agreed among parties (Ref. Grant Agreement N. 2004132)

To provide the European Commission with the due information for assessing the state of the art of the project in relation to the resources utilised

To retune the project and set the expected outcomes in relation to the changing situation and oncoming needs in relation to the resources allocated
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INTRODUCTION

The Be.Pra.S.A. project (Best Practices in Prevention of Skiing Accidents in Europe: The New Challenge) was elaborated to respond to the identified general lack of harmonization of injury prevention measures on skiing slopes, within and between the European countries, despite the increasing relevance of the phenomenon of skiing and snowboarding accidents. In particular, an unsatisfactory availability of micro data for cross-countries comparisons at EU level of both injury data and data regarding prevention measures was highlighted.

The specific aims of the project are to fill this gap, to provide the European Community with a reliable manual of best prevention practices, to disseminate the results achieved by the project and to promote a harmonization of best prevention practices in Europe.

The present document intends to satisfy the reporting requirements set by Grant Agreement n. 2004132 - as amended by SANCO C/AR (pavb) D(2006) 310254 dated 09/10/06 - signed between the European Commission DG SANCO and the main beneficiary Azienda ULSS 20 Verona, concerning “Best Practices in Prevention of Skiing Accidents in Europe: The New Challenge (Be.Pra.S.A.)” and is organised in two main sections:

I Interim Technical Implementation report - this section describes the work carried out and the results obtained during the period 01/09/2005 - 31/01/2007 and state in particular:
- description of the objectives of the project, according to grant agreement and relevant Work Packages (ref.: Description of the work);
- the Activities and Results obtained to date and indication of any deviation from the initial work programme (ref.: Activities and Results);
- the work programme planned for the following period (ref.: Future steps).

Relevant Annexes to support the description of the activities carried out and the results achieved to date are provided at the end of this section.

II Interim Consolidated Financial Statement - this section highlights the comparison between the expenditure incurred during the period 01/09/2005 - 31/01/2007 and the foreseen budget stated in Annex II to Grant Agreement n. 2004132.

SUMMARY OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT’S ACTIVITIES TO DATE

The project started on 01/09/2005 and will end on 30/06/2008, as per Amendment n. 1 to Grant Agreement ref. SANCO C/AR (pavb) D(2006)310254.

The primary aim of BE.PRA.S.A. is to fill in the information gaps pertaining to injury and prevention measures, through the collection and analysis of data at selected European ski spots (2-3 spots will be selected for each beneficiary country), in order to provide the European Community with a reliable manual of best prevention practices for dissemination throughout Europe.

The principal activities under this action will include:
- Establishing a network of European experts and associations on skiing injuries and prevention measures
- Promoting understanding of specific surveillance systems on skiing injuries
- Carrying out comparative analyses of data (e.g. European Injury Data Base) on skiing and mountain injuries at the European and international level and identifying gaps and problems with the already existing data at the European level
- Promoting the simultaneous collection of skiing/snowboarding injury data and of data regarding prevention measures at 2-3 spots (for each beneficiary country) relevant at national level, in a way which makes it possible to address risk taking (incidence rates) and to classify risk areas
- Performing comparative analyses of the collected data in order to establish best practices of prevention of skiing and snowboarding injuries

Important results have been achieved so far, thanks to a fruitful collaboration among partners and to networking activities in the relevant field:
Turin Charter on Skiing Safety (Winter Olympic Games 2006) - The European Commission supported the idea of Be.Pra.S.A. project to be promoter of the Turin Charter on Skiing Safety, a guideline-document prepared by a panel of international experts that gathered in Turin on February 5th 2006 in the context of the XX Olympic Winter Games, under the patronage and coordination of the Olympic Games Committee. The aim of the Charter is to lay the foundations for articulating a common universal vision and implementing global norms and standards for safety aspects for skiing activities in order to reduce the burden of injuries and promote sport activities and their related benefits, and to create incentives for effective injury prevention. Azienda ULSS 20 Verona together with EuroSafe (European Network Association for Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion, based in Amsterdam) was appointed to follow the implementation and world-wide diffusion of the Charter. The Charter has already been endorsed by numerous international expert in the field. It was presented at the First European Conference on Safety Promotion and Injury Prevention held in Vienna on 25-27 June 2006 and abstracts and full versions have been disseminated in different languages through various web sites in key countries. More than 200 international institutions have been contacted through the Be.Pra.S.A. network for the Charter dissemination.

Kick off and Technical Meetings - Agreement among Partners has been achieved at a meeting held in the context of the Consensus Conference in Turin and afterwards in Verona on 5-6 June 2006, on the detailed activities, roles and responsibilities to pursue the project’s objectives in line with the framework set by the Grant Agreement.

Literature Review Update exercise - Guidelines and Terms of reference have been circulated among relevant Partners to conduct a joint exercise to update the project’s information regarding existing literature/data/research work both at regional/national and international level. The strength of this exercise is to identify and highlight in particular important relevant data/experiences/pilot projects produced at regional and national level, with the final aim of exchanging good practices and ideas that otherwise may remain ignored among the majority of the European Community, final beneficiary of the project.

Study Design – A Study Design document was prepared and disseminated among Partners, setting the guidelines and methodological framework for the implementation of project activities regarding collection, processing and analysis of data on skiing/snowboarding accidents and injuries and exiting safety prevention measures at EU level. The Study tries to investigate the extent to which the lack of harmonization prevents from obtaining relevant results by comparing data among different selected European countries. All along the project life regular reports culminating in a manual of best practices with recommendations to the European Community will be edited.

Minimum Data Set Model – Through a review process and comparison study between existing questionnaires identified at selected ski resorts in Europe, Azienda ULSS20 Verona and the Italian National Health Institute (ISS, Rome) elaborated an European Minimum Data Set Model specific for data collection on injuries and accidents on the slopes, which could constitute a first step toward a relevant harmonised skiing/snowboarding injuries data collection and analysis work.

The project’s objectives, activities and achievements to date have been widely disseminated through various networks and the active participation to relevant events and conferences, among which:

I. INTERIM TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

1. Work Package Number 1: Coordination

1.1. Description of the work

The objective of this work package is the overall coordination of the project, ensuring implementation of the plan according to the timetable, together with the administration of the activities and the financial aspects of the project. It aims to ensure that the expected deliverables are realized according to an agreed work plan, that relevant documents and reports are produced in a timely manner, as well as maintaining regular open communication between all associated beneficiaries.

1.2. Activities and Results

The work package aims to the overall objectives of efficiency and effectiveness through good coordination of the project’s activities, throughout the project’s life.

A series of activities have been carried out by the WP1 – Work Package Leader: Azienda ULSS 20 Verona – to date to ensure coordination of the project’s overall activities and the results have been achieved as detailed below:

- To define a common understanding of the project’s context, its activities and their future implementation, a kick off meeting took place in the context of a Consensus Conference for the promotion universal principles on skiing safety, organised and coordinated by the Be.Pra.S.A. project (in coordination with the Olympic Committee TOROC and the Italian National Health Institute – ISS Rome) during the 2006 Winter Olympic Games in Turin. The Conference represented a high-level international opportunity to set the basis for mutual collaboration among the Be.Pra.S.A.’s Partners. Key associated partners attended the meeting. A presentation of the Be.Pra.S.A. Project has been prepared by WP1 and discussion held among participants.

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<tr>
<th>Results</th>
<th>Annexes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Kick-off Meeting held in Turin in the context of the Consensus Conference “Skiing Accidents: a Mounting Planetary Challenge”.</td>
<td>Annex 1:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Presentation of Be.Pra.S.A.’s objectives and activities</td>
<td>▪ Support Letter by the EC DG SANCO (27/10/2005)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Discussion of the main aspects of Partner’s future collaboration</td>
<td>▪ Power Point presentation of the Be.Pra.S.A. project</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Definition of roles and responsibilities for the dissemination of the Turin Charter</td>
<td>in the context of the XX Winter Olympic Games</td>
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- To reach a consensus on the division of tasks and responsibilities among Partners a two-day technical Meeting was organised by WP1. Discussion has been promoted among Partners by WP1 and a working methodology on data collection and analysis has been drafted at this First Technical meeting.

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<th>Results</th>
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<tr>
<td>Technical Meeting held in Verona on 5-6 June 2006.</td>
<td>Annex 2:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• An Agenda was prepared and circulated among Partners</td>
<td>▪ Agenda of the Technical Coordination Meeting 5-6 June 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• A proposed methodology for the Meeting was circulated among Partner in advance</td>
<td>▪ Proposed Working Methodology for the meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Primary objective of the meeting was to reach a consensus on the working methodology and division of tasks among partners as well as agree upon the methodology to be adopted for the data collection and analysis on accidents/injuries on the slopes and existing safety and prevention measures for the oncoming</td>
<td>▪ Draft Working Document – Methodology</td>
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<td>▪ Draft Working Document – Questionnaire</td>
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Project Leader: Azienda ULSS20 Verona - Italy
2006/2007 ski season.

- Main issues discussed:
  - presentation and discussion of a proposed Draft Working Methodology
  - establishment of a Minimum Data Set of raw data on accidents/injuries to be collected on selected ski resorts in Europe – presentation of Draft working document - Questionnaire
  - identification of national spots for data collection;
  - establishment of guidelines for the training of interviewers to conduct the survey on existing prevention measures in selected ski resorts;
  - presentation of SIMON system: IT platform and collection system for data on accidents/injuries implemented by the Italian National Health Institute of which BePraSA has been identified as one of the main contributors;
  - definition of the main guidelines, roles and responsibilities for conducting an international and national literature review update;
  - update on establishment of a network of experts: more than 200 institutions, organisations, association, professional contacted for involvement;
  - update on the dissemination of the project’s results to date and future strategies.

Following the technical coordination meeting held in Verona 5-6 June 2006, a Study Design has then been produced and disseminated among Partners by WP1 (in collaboration with WP5) to provide a reference document with clearly established procedures, guidelines and the methodological framework for the implementation of the project’s activities in order to meet the project’s objectives.

### Results

Be.Pra.S.A. Study Design.
The study focuses on the following areas and issues:
- Literature review
- Definition of working methodology
- Definition of the activities to be carried out:
  - Identification of the needed information
  - Identification of the data to collect (Minimum Data Set proposed in Annex I to the Study Design)
  - Definition of the data collection system
  - Definition of tools
  - Testing of the tools, Pilot Study (SIMON and IT platform in Annex II and III to the Study Design)
  - Training of the collectors
  - Data collection
  - Data analysis
  - Outcome (description of findings)
  - Recommendations (on the basis of findings)
  - Work plan (according to activities):
    - Diagram of responsibilities (Task responsible & Coordinator, Annex IV to the Study Design);
    - Gantt Chart (Expected flow of the activities and timeframe, Annex V to the Study Design).
- Deliverables
- Step forward

### Annexes

Annex 3 - Be.Pra.S.A. Study Design

- To ensure continuous communication and regular updating on the project activities, bi-lateral meetings, constant e-mail exchange and telephone calls between WP1 Leader and the other
Partners have been ensured. WP1 provided immediate feedback and response to all enquiries made by associated beneficiaries regarding technical, administrative and financial issues via emails and telephone calls.

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<th>Results</th>
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| Regular e-mail and communication exchanges between the project leader and associated partners have been guaranteed. A dedicated archiving system both on paper and electronic version has been created by WP1. Rescheduling of activities’ deadlines have been discussed and agreed when possible without compromising the efficient achievements of the project’s results. Bi-lateral meetings (formal and informal) have been organised in order to clarify tasks, roles and future steps to be taken with some of the Partners when necessary. In particular:  
  - Meeting held in Verona in December 2005 between Azienda ULSS 20 Verona and the Italian National Health Institute (ISS, Rome) for definition of tasks and roles;  
  - Meeting held in Vienna on 2nd February 2007 between Azienda ULSS 20 Verona and KfV Austria for updates regarding data collection on Austrian slopes and exchange of views and ideas on data transfer and the survey on existing prevention measures in selected ski resorts. | Annex 4 – Templates for collection of Information for the interim report sent to Be.Pra.S.A.’s Partners. |

To ensure a clear and complete report in a timely manner to the EC and to facilitate Partners in their task, a template for the interim report has been prepared and disseminated among Partners by WP1.

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<th>Results</th>
<th>Annexes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Forms/Templates of required information and documents for interim report’s purposes have been created and provided to the Be.Pra.S.A. partners well in advance for facilitating the reporting process.</td>
<td>Annex 4 – Templates for collection of Information for the interim report sent to Be.Pra.S.A.’s Partners.</td>
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1.3. Future steps

Some delays in the project’s activities have occurred, due to unexpected problems or issues arising. WP1 ensured constant constructive dialogue among the Partners in order to ponder, discuss and duly agree some re-scheduling, not compromising the efficient development of the project.

The WP1 Leader will continue to ensure timeliness and coordination of the project’s activities in line with the Grant Agreement n. 2004132. In particular:

- One more Coordinating meeting will be organised by WP1 (before the beginning of the ski season 2007/2008) and 2 workshops (possibly one in December 2007 and by the end of the project);  
- a final technical and financial report will be produced and presented to the EC before 30/09/2008 for the period covering 01/09/2005 to 30/06/2008;  
- bi-lateral meetings, telephone calls and e-mail exchanges will ensure constant communication among Partners throughout the project’s life.
2. Work Package Number 2: Dissemination

2.1. Description of the work
This work package aims to ensure the dissemination of the project's results and main deliverables to strengthen access to information to all relevant stakeholders. It is strongly linked to the concept of the European added value. Lead Partner is Azienda ULSS 20 Verona with the active involvement of all associated partners.

Dissemination of information and results might be by means of conferences and cultural events. Dissemination of the best practice manual (final deliverable of the Be.Pra.S.A. project) will be implemented through project's partners, local implementers, relevant associations and experts participating to the networking activities.

The main beneficiary is responsible for mandatory reporting to the European Commission through interim and final technical and financial reports.

2.2. Activities and Results

- **Identification of relevant stakeholders through collaboration among the project's Partners.**
  
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<th>Results</th>
<th>Annexes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identification of stakeholders</td>
<td>Annex 5 – Contact List for Be.Pra.S.A. and Turin Charter dissemination</td>
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<tr>
<td>creation of a dedicated database (more than 200 contacts among national, international association/federation/organisation, public and private bodies and institutes, university medical faculties in 39 countries)</td>
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<tr>
<td>dissemination of relevant information</td>
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- **Production of material for dissemination through different means of communication:**
  
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<tr>
<th>Results</th>
<th>Annexes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Be.Pra.S.A. dedicated webpage on WP2 Leader’s website (<a href="http://internazionali.uls20.verona.it/it/progetti02.html">http://internazionali.uls20.verona.it/it/progetti02.html</a>)</td>
<td>Annex 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be.Pra.S.A. Brochures (leaflet format)</td>
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<td>Turin Charter Brochures (with an attractive A4 booklet format)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abstracts for Newsletters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Various Articles in national/international newspapers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Power Point Presentations</td>
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- **Organisation of meetings and conferences to discuss relevant issues, present and disseminate the Be.Pra.S.A. project.**
  
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Results</th>
<th>Annexes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Consensus Conference “Skiing Accidents: a Mounting Planetary Challenge” in Turin in the context of the XX Winter Olympic Games: the BE.PRA.S.A project promoted a consensus conference in coordination with the Olympic Committee TOROC and the Italian National Health Institute. As a result of the Consensus Conference “The Turin Charter on Skiing Safety” was developed by a panel of experts. The Charter lays the foundations for articulating a common universal vision</td>
<td>Annex 7</td>
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<td>Annex 7</td>
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<td>working methodology;</td>
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<td>working documents;</td>
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<td>list of invitees</td>
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and for implementing global norms and standards on skiing accident prevention measures (please refer to Annex 6 to this Interim Report for a full version of the Charter). BePraSA, together with EuroSafe (European Association for Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion) have been entitled for the dissemination of the Charter.

- Kick-off Meeting held in Turin in the context of the Consensus Conference “Skiing Accidents: a Mounting Planetary Challenge” (please refer to Annex 1)
- Technical Meeting held in Verona on 5-6 June 2006 between BePraSA Partners (please refer to Annexes 2)

- Participation to national and international meetings, conferences and events to present the Be.Pra.S.A.’s objectives, results and achievements

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<tr>
<td>Be.Pra.S.A and its objectives &amp; activities have been presented at the following national and international conferences (the programme, lists of invitees and relevant presentations are provided in Annex 8 exclusively for international conferences and events. For events at National and local level information remain available at WP2 leader head office and will be provided upon request):</td>
<td>Annex 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Presentation of Be.Pra.S.A. and SIMON system – Passo del Tonale, Italy, 26 November 2005 (attendees: ULSS20; ISS Rome)</td>
<td>• Bruxelles, 21 Feb 2006: Programme, list of participants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• <em>The Turin Charter on Skiing Safety</em> - Institute of Research for Mountain Safety and culture – Chamber of Commerce, Treviso – Italy, 12 June 2006 (attendees: ULSS20)</td>
<td>• Luxembourg 12 October 2006: Agenda, Power Point presentation and Minutes of the meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• <em>Safety and Research (Sicurezza e Ricerca)</em> – Institute of Research for Mountain Safety and culture – Chamber of Commerce, Treviso – Italy, 20 June 2006 (attendees: ULSS20; ISS, Rome)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• International Workshop on accident/injury data collection for non-food product and service risk assessment – European Commission, Bruxelles, 20-21 February 2006; (attendees: ULSS 20)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• First European Conference on Safety Promotion and Injury Prevention - Vienna, 25-27 June 2006; (attendees: ULSS 20)</td>
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<td>• Joint Meeting Working Party on Accidents and Injuries and Governmental Experts Group on Accidents and Injuries - European Commission, Luxembourg, 12 October 2006; (attendees: ULSS 20)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Second European Legal Forum on Snow Safety “Dai diritti della Neve al Diritto della Neve” (Bormio, Italy, 1-3 December 2006 (attendees: ULSS 20)</td>
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</table>

2.3. Future steps
In May 2007 the Be.Pra.S.A. Project and the Turin Charter will be presented at the ISSS (International Skiing Safety Society) 17th International Research Symposium on Ski Trauma and Skiing Safety to be held in...
Aviemore, Scotland. The ISSS is a multidisciplinary organisation founded in 1974, with members from all over the world, that advances safety issues and injury care in snow sports through education, research and development in all related fields. The conference is a biannual symposium and the world's leading forum for research into the causes and systems of prevention of snow sport accidents and injuries. A worldwide network of experts will gather to exchange views and ideas on a host of research topics, including injury epidemiology, case reports, treatment of snow sport injuries, new equipment design and testing, evaluation of protective equipment, injury prevention campaigns, ski area factors. The audience attending the symposium is possibly among the most relevant at international level for disseminating the universal principles fixed by the Turin Charter on skiing safety and to present the first results of the studies - conducted within the framework of the Be.Pra.S.A. project - over skiing and snowboarding accidents in selected EU countries in the Alpine area (Austria, France, Italy and Slovenia). Please refer to Annex 9 for full programme of this upcoming event.

Constant dissemination of the Be.Pra.S.A. results will be pursued throughout the project’s life with the aim of connecting relevant experts and facilitate information exchange to provide recommendations on best practices at a final international Conference which is foreseen as a project's deliverable.
3. Work Package Number 3: Network of National Experts

3.1. Description of the work
WP3 focuses on the identification of national experts and relevant associations/organisations who will participate in the networking activities. Initial contacts are made through the project’s partners, the European Working Party on injuries and the relevant national and international associations. The package foresees the creation of a list of experts and contacts and the involvement of national experts and relevant associations in the implementation of the project.
Lead Partner of WP2 is Azienda ULSS 20 Verona, with the involvement of all Be.Pra.S.A.’s Partners.

3.2. Activities and Results
Relevant organisation, national and international experts, all-round stakeholders have been identified and contacted through various means to allow for a constant exchange of ideas and information on the subject of skiing safety and injuries prevention in winter sports.

The idea was to involve professionals from different fields in the area of skiing safety and accidents prevention. Through the participation and the active involvement of relevant identified stakeholders a multidisciplinary network has been created.

Results

- Identification of stakeholders through collaboration with project Partners and EU Working Party
- creation of a dedicated database: the main areas involved are:
  - Rescue services
  - Patrol services on slopes
  - Health professionals/medical doctors
  - Legal professionals
  - Ski associations
  - Lifts associations
  - Regional departments for infrastructures
  - Equipment manufacturers
- Participation in relevant meetings and conferences to strengthen collaboration and raise awareness of the project’s activities:
  - Treviso-Tonale-Milan (24/29 Nov. 2005): Various meeting and presentation for data collection and networking activities with various stakeholders (attendees: Alessio Pitidis, ISS Rome)

Annexes

- Annex 5 – Contact List for of Be.Pra.S.A. and Turin Charter

3.3. Future steps
Identification of relevant experts will continue during the project’s implementation and constant exchange of information and findings will be performed throughout the duration of the project. Main materials and reports will be disseminated to the network. The active involvement of relevant experts in the events organised under the Be.Pra.S.A.’s umbrella is foreseen.

The participation to the ISSS (International Skiing Safety Society) 2007 International Conference in May 2007 will prove to be a great opportunity to further widen the Be.Pra.S.A. network at European and International level (please refer to Annex 9 for provisional programme and list of presenters and topics that will be discussed).
4. Work Package Number 4: Skiing Accidents Surveillance System

4.1. Description of the work

The work package aims to implement as a pilot/feasibility study a specific surveillance system for skiing accidents. The final objective of this research is the definition of population groups at risk and the indication of the determinants and the consequences of skiing accidents. Moreover the work aims to identify possible lack of information in the data collected and to provide an alternative system (questionnaire or others) which could prove more complete and provide new series of relevant information.

The work focuses on the implementation of a surveillance system and injury/accidents data collection on more than 60 skiing resorts in the Alpine and Apennine regions in Italy. In so far as possible data on skiing injuries in Sweden will also be retrieved. The work package foresees the full development of an IT-platform for data registration and transmission via internet. A dedicated software application structured as a user-friendly interface by a WYSIWYG (What you see is what you get) will be used for data upload, transfer and query.

The surveillance system will lead to the production of more detailed information on: the dynamic of skiing accidents, the relation between accidents and environmental conditions, the relations between the type of accidents and the injuries reported in skiing and snowboarding accidents.

Deliverables of WP4 have been identified in the production of a Skiing Accidents Epidemiological Analysis in Europe and the creation of an IT platform for skiing accidents registration and transmission.

The surveillance system data will be analysed by the Italian National Health Institute (ISS, Rome), Leader of WP4.

4.2. Activities and Results

An analysis of existing systems in place for ski injuries surveillance in Europe has led to the identification of a newly born experimental method of reference developed by the Italian National Health Institute (ISS, Rome) as one of the most advanced existing surveillance systems. Due to the completeness and exhaustiveness of the investigation that this system can potentially provide on skiing accidents the Be.Pra.S.A. project elected the implementation of the SIMON system as the pilot study to be developed under its umbrella.

The method used to develop the system is based on collection of data on accidents, retrieved at the site of the accident by various first aid personnel and privately organised assistance, or assistance provided through public institutions. The ski slope accident monitoring system was tested on a sampling of Alpine and Apennine winter sports stations in Italy.

The method calls for surveillance on two levels: i) first aid on the slope and ii) assistance at health facilities. In order to report data concerning the number of presences on the slopes the possibility to purchase an information system to record the number of passages on the slopes electronically at the entrance turnstiles has been examined.

The possibility of creating a vertical connection between the information gathered on the site of the accident, relating primarily to the dynamics of the event and the more specifically medical information gathered from local clinics and first aid centres has also been studied. Finally, the possibility of implementing an information technology platform to record and transmit this information from accidents’ sites to the ISS has been analysed, developed and implemented.

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<th>Results</th>
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<tr>
<td>Identification of sites for collection of accident raw data.</td>
<td>Annex 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Creation of an IT Platform. Data bank developed by the National Health</td>
<td>BePraSA Experimenting and Information Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institute (ISS, Rome), structured on a Relational Database Management</td>
<td>system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>System Microsoft Inc. SQL Server.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creation of dedicated areas on mass memory of relevant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rescuing and patrolling authorities on identified Italian slopes.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIMON Reports produced and disseminated (please note that the SIMON</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report 2003-2006 has been released in March 2007</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
and will be available in English at a later stage).

- Relevant meeting for the development of the platform
  - Milan (16 / 21 June 2006) Meeting in Milan/Verona/Turin for the development of SIMON system; Networking and promotion of BePraSA to relevant stakeholders, i.e. State Police in charge of rescuing services in Italy (attendees: Alessio Pitidis, ISS Rome)
  - Milan (20/22 Nov. 2006) Data collection for SIMON system; Networking and promotion of BePraSA to relevant stakeholders, i.e. State Police in charge of rescuing services in Italy

4.3. Future steps

The pilot project will continue to retrieve and analyse data during the 2007/2008 skiing season. The relevant report will be translated in English and disseminated to the relevant stakeholders. Data retrieved will contribute to the epidemiological analysis of skiing accidents in Europe. Lessons learnt from the SIMON pilot project will contribute to the final recommendation on best practices to be provided to the Community.
5. Work Package Number 5: International Data Analysis

5.1. Description of the work
The objective of WP5 is to perform an updating exercise on the analysis of existing international literature and to retrieve data on injuries and accidents in selected spots in Europe.
A full list of relevant existing international data bases and statistical documentation on skiing accidents will be prepared together with analysis of qualitative data on relevant issues.
Existing data on skiing/snowboarding injury and accidents in selected EU Member States will be retrieved through the collaboration of the partners of the project.
Data collected will be analysed by the WP5 Lead Partner (Azienda ULSS 20 Verona).

5.2. Activities and Results

- The updating exercise of existing national and international literature over skiing injuries and injury prevention measures has been identified as a fundamental research work in order to create an umbrella of information on which a team of experts will eventually conduct a targeted cross-country micro data collection in Europe useful also to provide with interpretative keys for the study of new data. Guidelines have been provided and the work has started and almost completed by the Partners involved.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Results</th>
<th>Annexes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Provision of guidelines for National and International literature review updating exercise with relevant ToR; templates of Summary of findings produced;</td>
<td>• BE.PRA.S.A. Collection of existing documents on skiing injuries and injury prevention measures in Austria, France, Italy and Slovenia;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Summary of findings and relevant bibliography produced</td>
<td>• BE.PRA.S.A. Updating of existing international literature over skiing injuries and injury prevention measures;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Templates for literature review summary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Summary of Findings and bibliography produced by BePraSA’s Partners:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Azienda ULSS 20 Verona (internal Lit. review)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- KfV Austria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Psytel France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- IVZ Slovenia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- An analysis of existing questionnaires in use on selected EU ski resorts to retrieve data on accidents and injuries has been performed. Information was retrieved on the data collection systems utilised in various mountain territories to which the BE.PRA.S.A. project refers. Comparison of the variables indicated and the manner of collection reveals that there is a good level of agreement between the various systems of collection, which testifies to how safety problems in skiing areas are substantially similar in the various different territories.

A Minimum Data Set (MDS) for a harmonised data collection in Europe has been elaborated by WP6 with all Partner’s contribution and disseminated among Partners.
Data collection on accidents and injuries in 2-3 selected spots for each country to which the project refers through the proposed MDS has been promoted by the Be.Pra.S.A.’s Partners to resort managers. Where existing available data, retrieved by different collection systems, respond to the information needed, duplication has been avoided.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Results</th>
<th>Annexes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Collection of existing questionnaires for data collection on</td>
<td>Annex 12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
accidents and injuries in various skiing areas.

- Comparison analyses between existing questionnaires, through the creation of a synoptic table showing common aspects and differences between (and within) countries regarding the data retrieved on slopes. Problems relating to the creation of a synoptic table have been highlighted during the work. The main problems can be summarised as follows:
  - Difficulties linked to translations, in particular in terms of the terminology used (i.e. different words used to identify the same object or concept).
  - Problems relating to aggregation of data (i.e. the use of “lower leg” and “higher leg” or simply “leg” to identify the injured part).
  - Incongruence relating to different measuring scales, which makes it difficult to universally define a parameter (i.e. “difficult”, “medium” or “easy” referred to slopes OR “beginners”, “professional” referred to skiers’ ability).
  - Finally, another problem identified is how to deal with open questions. Some are formulated in a way that allows for open answers, while others provide options to be ticked by the rescuer.

- Proposed MDS elaborated by WP5 and excel format template provided for data transmission.

| Existing questionnaires for retrieving data on accidents and injuries collected in different skiing areas |
| Synoptic Table and Comparative analysis of the collection system |
| Proposed Minimum Data Set (English, German and Slovenian versions) |

5.3. Future steps

The elaboration of a final summary of international and national literature review is still underway. It is reasonable to state that the literature review exercise on relevant issues will be constantly updated. A full analysis report will be produced at the end of the project.

The Data retrieval on skiing/snowboarding accidents and injuries is currently underway in selected ski spots and will continue throughout the next skiing season (2007/2008). A full analysis report will be produced at the end of the project.
6. Work Package Number 6: International Prevention Data Collection and Analysis

6.1. Description of the work

Final aim of this work package is to promote the analysis of data regarding skiing and snowboarding injuries and accidents in connection with existing safety and prevention measures in 2-3 selected spots, for each country involved in the project. The analysis of the data retrieved will provide information for the elaboration of best practices for skiing and snowboarding, in terms of: i) the most effective and efficient prevention measures; ii) the most effective and efficient practices to rescue and treat people incurred in skiing accidents on the slopes. Final deliverable will be the development of a best prevention practice manual in English for the Community. WP6 Leader is Azienda ULSS 20 Verona with the active involvement of all associated Partners.

6.2. Activities and Results

A detailed work plan as been agreed among Partners as per Be.Pra.S.A. Study Design. According to the work plan, a dedicated questionnaire was drafted to be administered to selected ski resort managers by the partners either through a personal meeting or through telephone, whenever a personal meeting was not possible. The interviews will take place during the first ski season. The partners will send the filled-in questionnaires to Azienda ULSS 20 Verona for analysis.

Azienda ULSS 20 Verona and the Italian National Health Institute (ISS, Rome) have drafted the questionnaire and have sent the document to partners for comments, endorsement, translation into the national language and submission to selected skiing resort managers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Results</th>
<th>Annexes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Definition of methodology for the creation and submission of the Questionnaire on existing (first draft).</td>
<td>Annex 13:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Identification of relevant surveyors in Austria and Slovenia.</td>
<td>- Draft methodology: Survey on existing safety prevention measures on ski slopes in Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Development of the First draft of the Questionnaire for initial comments.</td>
<td>- List of selected surveyors: still work in progress</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6.3. Future steps

An exhaustive methodology document will be produced and disseminated among Partners and surveyors by the end of the skiing season 2006/2007. A full list of collaborating resort managers in select EU countries will be created. A final version of the questionnaire will be produced and administered to the identified resort managers.

By the end of the project a best practice manual for skiing safety will be developed by WP6 Leader, in collaboration with the project's Partners.
7. Lessons Learnt

Problems and constraints encountered during this first phase of the project should turn into important lessons in order to further improve the efficiency of the project’s activities and avoid the same errors in the future.

In particular:

- Data collection on accidents and injuries:
  - the overall process of identifying resort managers willing to collaborate with the Be.Pra.S.A. in selected ski areas in Europe, has proven to be a difficult task. It was only thanks to an excellent networking activity by the Partners that fruitful collaboration has been achieved. In particular questions relating to privacy issues had to be faced: this problem was overcome by assuring the publication of the results only in an aggregated format, while raw data will be kept in a dedicated secure database and will be used only of analysis purposes.
  - The implementation of new collection systems where already existing ones could retrieve and deliver the data needed for the Be.Pra.S.A.’s purposes was deemed not efficient and not useful at this stage. Therefore full integration of data gathered via different collection systems has been pursued.

- Identified budget constraints might have limited some contributions from Partners. However, where possible, reallocations have been agreed with the full authorisation of the European Commission. Where necessary and possible future budget revisions might be taken into consideration, always in full agreement with the EC.
8. Conclusions

Although minor delays in the project’s activities have occurred, these have been agreed among Partners and have not compromised the smooth flow of the project. Important results have been achieved so far and key activities relating to accidents/injuries data collection is currently underway and will also be performed for the next ski season (2007/2008).

Problems and constraint encountered in the first phase of the project implementation have been discussed among Partners in a pro-active and constructive way.

The contribution of highly committed Partners in the development of this project proved to be essential. Only through their constant communication and exchange of ideas an important series of activities could be completed so far.

Continuous dialogue among Partners and contact with the European Commission will be ensured to allow for an efficient development of the project’s oncoming activities.

Annex 1:
- Support Letter by the EC DG SANCO (27/10/2005)
- Power Point presentation of the Be.Pra.S.A. project in the context of the XX Winter Olympic Games

Annex 2:
- Agenda of the Technical Coordination Meeting 5-6 June 2006
- Proposed Working Methodology for the meeting
- Draft Working Document – Methodology
- Draft Working Document – Questionnaire

Annex 3:
- Be.Pra.S.A. Study Design

Annex 4:
- Templates for collection of Information for the interim report sent to Be.Pra.S.A.’s Partners

Annex 5:
- Contact List for Be.Pra.S.A. and Turin Charter dissemination

Annex 6:
- Be.Pra.S.A. Brochure (English and Italian version)
- Turin Charter Brochure (Publisher Version)
- Abstracts for Action on Accidents and injuries newsletter and EuroSafe Newsletter
- Various articles in local, national and international newspapers

Annex 7:
- Turin Charter working methodology
- Turin Charter working documents
- Turin Charter list of invitees

Annex 8:
- Bruxelles, 21 Feb 2006: Programme, list of participants.
- Luxembourg 12 October 2006: Agenda, Power Point presentation and Minutes of the meeting
- Bormio 1-3 Dec. 2006: Conference Programme

Annex 9:
- ISSS 17th International Congress on Ski Trauma and Skiing Safety – Provisional Programme and Abstract presented

Annex 10:
- Be.Pra.S.A. Experimenting and Information Technology system

Annex 11:
- BE.PRA.S.A. Collection of existing documents on skiing injuries and injury prevention measures in Austria, France, Italy and Slovenia;
- BE.PRA.S.A. Updating of existing international literature over skiing injuries and injury prevention measures;
- Templates for literature review summary.
- Summary of Findings and bibliography produced by Be.Pra.S.A.’s Partners:
  - Azienda ULSS 20 Verona(international literature review)
  - KfV Austria
  - Psytel France
  - IVZ Slovenia
Annex 12:

- Existing questionnaires for retrieving data on accidents and injuries collected in different skiing areas
- Synoptic Table and Comparative analysis of the collection system
- Proposed Minimum Data Set (English, German and Slovenian versions)

Annex 13:

- Draft methodology: Survey on existing safety prevention measures on ski slopes in Europe
- List of selected surveyors: still work in progress
- First draft (English version) of the Questionnaire
II. INTERIM CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

1. Consolidated Financial Statement – Grant Agreement n. 2004132

1.1. General Comments

As shown in details in the Annex IIA –Global Interim Report Table below, the total amount of costs reported for the period 01.09.2005 – 31.01.2007 is equal to 58% of the total approved budget for the project, showing therefore a close relationship between costs incurred and the time schedule of the project.

Some activities that were not forecasted in the original approved budget (namely the February 2006 Consensus Conference in Turin) generated some unexpected costs that caused some items to exceed their original budget (Other costs and Consumables). The amounts involved however are limited and within the accepted 10% re-allocation rule applied by the European Commission.

All Partners reported costs within their approved overall budgets (please refer to Annex 2, 3 and 4 to the Interim Consolidated Financial Statement for details).

Only one (minor) Partner did not submit any cost.

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### Global Interim Report

**Expenditures**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Direct eligible costs</th>
<th>Interim Report (€)</th>
<th>Total Budget (€)</th>
<th>Int/tot %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E1a. Staff costs not pertaining to national officials</td>
<td>136,317,04</td>
<td>229,530,00</td>
<td>59,4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E1b. Staff costs pertaining to national officials</td>
<td>18,792,29</td>
<td>31,950,00</td>
<td>58,8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E2. Travel and subsistence allowances</td>
<td>14,128,63</td>
<td>53,760,00</td>
<td>26,3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E3. Equipment</td>
<td>0,00</td>
<td>7,200,00</td>
<td>0,0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E4. Consumables and supplies</td>
<td>8,343,47</td>
<td>3,200,00</td>
<td>260,7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E5. Subcontracting</td>
<td>0,00</td>
<td>0,00</td>
<td>0,0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E6. Other costs</td>
<td>17,081,56</td>
<td>11,345,00</td>
<td>150,6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total for Direct eligible costs</strong></td>
<td><strong>194,662,99</strong></td>
<td><strong>336,985,00</strong></td>
<td><strong>57,8%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Indirect eligible costs**

| E7. Overheads | 13,524,30 | 23,410,00 | 57,8% |

**Total - Expenditure**

| 208,187,29 € | 360,395,00 € |

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**Incomes**

| I1. Commission funding request | 124,912,38 € | 216,237,00 € |
| I2. Contribution pertaining to national officials | 18,792,29 € | 31,950,00 € |
| I3. Applicant’s financial contribution | 64,482,62 € | 112,208,00 € |
| I4. Income generated by the project | 0,00 | 0,00 |
| I5. Other external resources | 0,00 | 0,00 |
| I6. Other current funding applications | 0,00 | 0,00 |

**Total - Incomes**

| 208,187,29 € | 360,395,00 € |
1.2. Personnel costs

1. The total Interim Report amount of costs is 59.3% of the total approved budget which, in our opinion, is a very reasonable and acceptable percentage considering that the Interim Report covers 50% of the life time of the Project.
2. Some Partners have modified the forecasted composition of personnel functions and time used on the project with respect to the original budget, but with no effect on the overall budgeted limits.
3. Each Partner has submitted signed documentation reporting names of employees assigned on the project, their functions, number of days worked on the project and relevant unit time costs.
4. We have informed each Partner that copies of employment contracts, of payslips, and any other document that may be necessary to support costs charged to the projects, must be made available if requested.
5. One Partner submitted unit costs that are based on company internal cost tariffs certified by an external auditor. The partner was informed that, in case of request by the Commission, it must submit employment contracts and all administrative and accounting documentation needed to support the reported costs.

1.3. Travel costs

1. The total Interim amount of costs relating to this heading is only 26.3% of the approved budget.
2. Azienda ULSS 20 Verona has in fact reported only a € 6,310 of costs against a budget of € 38,160. The gap was partly caused by some delays in the project travelling activities and by the fact that some travelling expenses to attend international and national events have been covered by relevant organising committees. We expect to reduce it considerably during the remaining and final period of the project.
3. Each Partner has submitted detailed list of travels with indication of destination, number of days, mean of travel and relevant costs.
4. All other Partners have reported costs in line with their budgets.
5. In some cases subsistence costs were reduced to the daily acceptable rate.

1.4. Equipment

No equipment expenses were reported by any Partner for the period.

1.5. Consumables and supplies

1. The total Interim amount reported (€ 8,343) exceeds approved budget (€ 2,200)
2. In fact Azienda ULSS 20 Verona incurred unexpected costs mainly because of a major event that was not forecasted in the original budget such as the Consensus Conference held in Turin during the 2006 Winter Olympic Games. The conference generated additional costs for publications, stationeries, and other various consumables.
3. The excess amount (€ 6,143) however, is well below the 10% re-allocation rule accepted by the European Commission.

1.6. Subcontracting

No subcontracting expenses were reported by any Partner for the period.

1.7. Other Costs

1. The total Interim amount reported (€ 17,081) exceeds the approved budget (€ 11,345).
2. In fact Azienda ULSS 20 Verona incurred additional unexpected costs mainly because of a major event that was not included in the original budget such as the Consensus Conference held in Turin during the 2006 Winter Olympic Games. The conference generated additional cost for rent of premises and equipment, photographic exhibition and conference dinner that were not forecasted in the original budget of the project.
3. The excess amount (€ 5,736) however, is well below the 10% re-allocation rule accepted by the European Commission.
1.8. Overheads

The average percentage used (6.95%) is equivalent to the one applied in the original approved budget.

**Accounting and Records**

Azienda ULSS 20 Verona has applied (and requested its Partners to apply) the following accounting rules:

- all charges posted are to be supported by written original documents duly signed and approved by authorised functions of the Partner/s.
- all charges debited to the project are to be in compliance with national administrative and fiscal laws and regulations
- all accounting entries are to be made through and in accordance with standard internal accounting systems
- all amounts posted correspond to the actual cost and/or payment sustained by the Partner/s
- all entries are to be recorded and numbered on Partner/s central accounting & financial Dept. protocol register in order to avoid double posting and to enable easy tracking of supporting evidence and documents
- all the entries relevant to the project are to be included in the official accounting results and annual reports of the Partner/s.
- all original documents are to be filed with the Partner/s Central Accounting Dept
- Partner/s must be able to submit all documents and evidence supporting costs charged to the Project.

**Payments received from the European Commission**

The Project has received from the European Commission the Advance Payment amounting to € 64,871,10 equal to 30% of the total expected co-financing.

Azienda ULSS 20 Verona transferred to all Partners their portion of Advance Payment using the same percentage criteria.
2. Annexes to the Interim Consolidated Financial Statement

Annex 1 - Global Interim Report
Annex 2 - Detailed Interim Report
Annex 3 - Interim Report by beneficiary
Annex 4 - Information for First Interim Report by Partner
This report was produced by a contractor for Health & Consumer Protection Directorate General and represents the views of the contractor or author. These views have not been adopted or in any way approved by the Commission and do not necessarily represent the view of the Commission or the Directorate General for Health and Consumer Protection. The European Commission does not guarantee the accuracy of the data included in this study, nor does it accept responsibility for any use made thereof.