

Executive Summary

This Report presents recommendations for the development of a European Health Promotion Monitoring System based on sets of common health promotion indicators. It is the result of the work of the EUHPID Project financed by the European Commission DG SANCO under the Health Monitoring Programme. The EUHPID Consortium, which carried out this work, consisted of experts from the Member States of the EU, together with colleagues from Norway and Switzerland, as well as from the principal international professional association – the International Union for Health Promotion and Education.

The EUHPID Project focussed its work on contributing to, and improving, the European Community Health Indicators (ECHI) framework. In particular, it sought to strengthen the framework by making it more holistic and comprehensive through the inclusion of more salutogenic perspectives, based on health capacities and health opportunities at individual and environmental levels. The Project emphasised the complexity of health promotion as a major intervention tool that not only works at individual level but also at group, community and societal levels. It established a health development model to set the context, not only for health promotion as an intervention tool, but also for interventions based on health services and related forms of delivery. This health development perspective, adopted as a context for the Community Health Monitoring System, strengthens the ECHI indicator framework as a flexible and effective tool, not just for monitoring, but also for planning effective interventions at both Community and Member State levels.

The health development model which underlies the EUHPID Health Promotion Model and Monitoring System is offered as a major contribution to the public health field, and to the ECHI framework in particular, as a policy relevant focus for public health development at both Community and Member State levels. It enables the EC Health Information and Advisory System to form an active monitoring and planning tool for intervening in health development.

It is recommended that Class 4 of the ECHI framework is changed to form ‘Health Interventions: Health Services’ (to include health care and disease prevention), and a new Class 5 is created, entitled ‘Health Interventions: Health Promotion’. The new Class 5 will initially be comprised of the following core indicator sets:

- ‘Integrated Settings’ and
- ‘Health Promotion Policy & Practice’

These indicator sets are currently included in the recommended ECHI-2 short list of core indicators.

Demonstration examples of the integrated settings indicators are provided in the Report in relation specifically to the following key settings – work place, school and hospital. It is important that operational data is collected for these integrated settings by further strengthening EUHPID's established links with European networks active in these settings. In particular with the European Network of Health Promoting Schools, the European Network of Workplace Health Promotion and the European Network of Health Promoting Hospitals. (The latter forming an important development interface between the proposed Class 4 and Class 5).

Examples of areas related to health promotion policy and practice indicator sets are included in the Report, with a clear recommendation that data for these indicators be collected at Member State level in conjunction with the HP Source tool and database.

It has been clear from the inception of this work, that this is a development area and further work is recommended on the development of Class 5 (to include, in due course, indicators related to 'Health Protection') and on the further development of a Health Promotion User Window. The latter will enable the broader concept of health promotion to be integrated across the whole ECHI framework of indicators to enable active planning and monitoring of its impact on the determinants and priority areas of public health.

The complexity of the task begun by the EUHPID Project is detailed in the Report, which in no way represents a final stage. From a policy point of view it is essential that EUHPID should continue this process of developing the health promotion monitoring system linked into a comprehensive European Community Indicator System based on the health development model. It is recommended that this can be best achieved by EUHPID combining with ECHI, HP Source and other interested colleagues to make a corporate proposal to DG SANCO to further streamline and fine tune the ECHI system over the next two years. This will enable it to form the engine for the European Health Information and Advisory System, and relate it also to the needs of all the Member States, including the Accession and Candidate Countries.

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