



WORKHEALTH

Establishment of indicators for work-related health monitoring
from a public health perspective

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Interim Report

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I. Aim of the project

In several Member States work-related health monitoring schemes do exist. These schemes often operate on a regional or industry-branch level and focus on occupational diseases, work accidents, and on the mere description of working conditions. However, at national as well as at international level discussions on the standardisation of reports took place and key indicators have been proposed by several bodies, including the EU Commission and the WHO. These proposals follow the still distinct lines of surveillance and quality of work indication from an occupational health and safety point of view. In contrast, health monitoring from a public health perspective tends to include indicators for policy impact analysis, as e.g. the existence and distribution of health promotion programmes. Furthermore, work-related health monitoring should provide insight in the associations between work and health. Indicators for morbidity or working conditions only – while giving important aggregate information – may not provide sufficient evidence to trigger specific public health policies. Objective of this project is therefore to establish indicators for work-related health monitoring from a public health perspective and deliver a contribution to a community-wide network for sharing health data. WORKHEALTH is carried out by means of three work packages (a detailed description of the project is provided in annex 1).

This interim report summarises the project activities and results by September 30th, 2003.

II. Activities

Work Package I: Describing the status on indicator sets

In Work Package I two project meetings were held. The start-up workshop of the project was held on 13/14th January 2003 in Berlin and served the introduction of the project to the partners. Information was collected about the current situation of work-related health monitoring in the participating countries. For details on the workshop and the participants see attached minutes (annex 2).

Aim of Work Package I was to describe the status on indicator sets. Based on the fact that several work-related health monitoring schemes already exist, a “Synopsis of work-related indicator sets” (provided as annex 3) was prepared which compiles these published or otherwise disseminated indicator sets. In terms of an inventory it provides an overview about what is available so far with regard to work-related health monitoring. All project partners

were involved in the process of agreeing on the references to be included. Besides describing the current status on indicator sets the synopsis focuses on a model of work-related health monitoring which serves as the basis for the further proceeding in the project.

At the workshop “synopsis” (Berlin, 09/10th April 2003) the compilation was discussed with the project partners and suggestions for changes and amendments taken on and included in the document accordingly later. In a very constructive session, the project group jointly developed the above mentioned model of work-related health monitoring. It is best described as a policy cycle model where health monitoring evaluates the health impact of relevant policies by means of output and outcome indicators. This model has the potential of being applied to other public health settings such as schools or communities. A full description of the model can be found in the last chapter of the synopsis (see annex 3), for further details on the workshop “synopsis” see the according minutes (annex 4).

The synopsis is currently being disseminated to several international organisations with an interest in that area (e.g. European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, European Agency for Safety and Health at Work, WHO, ILO, OECD), project co-ordinators in the Health Monitoring Programme and further contact persons at national as well as European level.

Work Package II: Supplementing missing generic indicators

Based on the synopsis, work package II is aimed at supplementing new indicators for work-related health monitoring. This will be done on the basis of the model of work-related health monitoring and the policy domains covered therein.

Four workshops will be held where the different professional perspectives, which share their interest in work-related health monitoring, will be represented (Social Insurance; Safety & Health at Work; Public Health; Labour Inspectorate). Against the background of already existing indicators systems as they are compiled in the synopsis, gaps will be defined and new generic indicators supplemented from each perspective.

In the course of developing the policy model for work-related health monitoring, a number of policy domains were defined (see annex 3). For these domains, output and outcome indicators will be established at the workshops. To avoid duplication of work, each domain is allocated to one workshop. Due to a considerable overlap between Public Health and Health & Safety at Work interests and in order to gain maximum synergies, these workshops are in agreement with the EU Commission merged and will be held jointly.

Satellite workshops	Policy domains to be worked on
Social Insurance Stockholm, 17./18. September 2003	vocational rehabilitation sickness absence <i>outcomes: morbidity, mortality, costs, retirement, disability pension, work ability, employability</i>
Public Health Athens, 6./7. October 2003	health promotion social inclusion health inequity <i>outcome: job satisfaction</i>
Health & Safety at Work Athens, 6./7. October 2003	working conditions work organisation working environment occupational ill health
Labour Inspectorate 1./2. December 2003	accidents at work structural information concerning the workforce international co-operation and regulations

During the process of defining new indicators, the project ECHI will be taken into account to derive a set of indicators which is compatible with the ECHI structure as far as possible. The work package includes the identification of data needs based on an analysis of data availability. Currently it is being examined what information is available routinely and accessible at national or international level.

The planned allocation of project partners and guests to the workshops is summarised in annex 5.

III. Co-operating Partners

All co-operating partners are listed in annex 6.

In spite of letters of intent that were available from partners in France and Portugal at the beginning of the project, these partners withdrew their participation afterwards. In the meantime, Karine Chevreul from CREDES (Research and Information Center for Health Economics) has been identified as a new partner for France. The president of CREDES, Dominique Polton, serves as a member of the board of InVS (Institut national de Veille Sanitaire), allowing to establish close links between this institution and WORKHEALTH, as suggested by Frédéric Sicard. Attempts will be made to establish contacts also with ADEREST (Association pour le Développement des Etudes et Recherches Epidémiologiques sur la Santé au Travail). Concerning Portugal, the search for an adequate representative is still going on

IV. Promotion of the project

The project has been presented so far as follows:

- article in press at *European Journal of Public Health* (due September for a supplement about projects under the EU Health Monitoring Programme) (annex 7)
- poster presentation at the conference *Evaluation of National and Regional Public Health Reports: European Conference on Health Reporting* (13./14. February 2003 in Bielefeld, Germany) (annex 8)
- poster presentation at the annual conference of the *German Society of Social Medicine and Prevention* (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sozialmedizin und Prävention; 24.-27. September 2003) (annex 9)
- dissemination of the synopsis to various international organisations (e.g. EFILWC, OSHA, WHO, ILO, OECD), project co-ordinators in the Health Monitoring Programme and further contact persons at national as well as European level
- publication of the synopsis as part of a book serial on worksite health promotion (editor: Federal Association of Company Health Insurance Funds) presumably in autumn 2003
- internet presence (<http://www.bkk.de/bkk/content/powerslave,id,97,nodeid,28.html>) in English and German
- report on the project in *Eureport Social*, the European news magazine of the German social security system (issue 7-8/2003, p. 13) (annex 10)

Annexes

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