

4. Aims and objectives

The aims of the EUROCISS project were to identify, among existing data-sets, the essential information required to objectively define morbidity indicators for CVD and to recommend standardised methods for future data collection in the European Union. The achievement of these aims permits cross-country comparisons and improve CVD prevention and control.

Specific objectives of the I phase of the project (2000-2003) included:

- prioritising CVD of importance in public health, on the basis of available knowledge, incidence, attack rate and prevalence in the population;
- identifying specific indicators for assessing morbidity in both genders, youths, adults and older people, taking into account differences in socio-economic status across countries; an inventory of available indicators was made to describe the different methods of data collection and assess the degree of comparability and quality control of existing data-sets;
- developing recommendations for collection and harmonisation of data that are easily applicable within the different countries in order to obtain reliable and significant data for the periodic monitoring of cardiovascular morbidity in the EU.

To evaluate the health status of a population and set appropriate prevention programs, mortality and morbidity data are necessary, along with data on prevalence of risk factors.

Partners of EUROCISS Project decided to focus only on morbidity because mortality and risk factors have already been studied in other Health Monitoring Projects, in particular the European Health Risk Monitoring (EHRM)²⁰.