

1ST MEETING OF EUROCISS II
ROME, 11th-12th OCTOBER 2004
MINUTES

Participants in the meeting:

Konrad K. STEINBACH (Austria); Mette MADSEN (Denmark); Veikko SALOMAA (Finland); Juliette BLOCH (France); Remy MORELLO (France); Angela DORING (Germany); Roza ADANY (Hungary); Inga THRAINSDOTTIR (Iceland), replacing Vilmundur GUDNASON; Simona GIAMPAOLI (Italy); Salvatore PANICO (Italy), chairman of the session; Diego VANUZZO (Italy); WM Monique VERSCHUREN (The Netherlands); Sidsel GRAFF-IVERSEN (Norway); Andrzej PAJAK (Poland); Evangelista Casimiro ROCHA (Portugal); Susana SANS (Spain); Anette LINNERSJO (Sweden), replacing Nicklas HAMMAR; Paola PRIMATESTA (UK); Sophie PETERSEN (European Harth Network)

See attached the list of participants with all personal information.

11TH OCTOBER

On 11th October the major results of EUROCISS project phase I have been illustrated, together with the project proposal of EUROCISS phase II.

CHAIRMEN: V. Salomaa; D. Vanuzzo

AGENDA

EUROCISS PROJECT
CARDIOVASCULAR INDICATORS SURVEILLANCE SET
Chairmen: V. Salomaa, D. Vanuzzo

The EUROCISS I Project
S. Sans

Registers of cardiovascular events in the north of Europe
M. Madsen

HIS & HES Surveys
P. Primatesta

The EUROCISS II

S. Giampaoli

HIS & HES Surveys in Italy

S. Conti

Discussion

M. Madsen, M. Verschuren, A. Pajak

12TH OCTOBER

CHAIRMEN: M.Madsen; S. Panico; V: Salomaa; D. Vanuzzo

AGENDA

1. Steering Committee
2. Web site
3. Agreement
4. Questionnaire for the inventory (sources of information, timetable, financial support)
5. Writing group of the manuals of operations (Cardiovascular Surveys; AMI/ACS; CVD Registers;)
6. Dissemination of results
7. Next meeting (time and place)

1. Steering Committee

The members of the Steering Committee (M. Madsen, A. Pajak, P. Primatesta, S. Sans, S. Giampaoli) had been elected taking into account the following:

- their expertise in registers and in HIS/HES Surveys, as one of the specific objectives of the EUROCISS phase II project is to prepare the manuals of operations for registers and surveys;
- their contribution to EUROCISS phase I which will facilitate the smooth progress of the work;

It was stressed the importance of having in the group an expert from Eastern Europe allowing for geopolitical evolvement and positions in benefit of the general surveillance of cardiovascular diseases.

It was unanimously decided that the Steering Committee should undertake to perform the following activities:

- support the coordinating center in its main decisions;
- represent the project in all occasions;
- assure the involvement of all participating in supporting the objectives of the project;
- contribute to the coordination of working groups;
- plan the dissemination of final results;
- give its contribution to other EU projects

2. Web site

The web site of PROGETTO CUORE contains already a new page, that of EUROCISS project.

Ms Barbara Paltrinieri from the Italian group is responsible for its realization.

She explained the arrangement modalities of the home page of EUROCISS, which follows the sections of the report.

Comments:

- reduce in size the title of the web site, “PROGETTO CUORE”.
- check the accuracy of partners’ personal information
- e-mail addresses not linked.
- link data from different countries, e.g. Finnish national data (www.ktf.fi/cvdr.)
- translate only the key parts of documents related to the EUROCISS project in the different language of participating countries.

For some countries it is of great importance to have the documents translated in their native language, whereas for others the translation is needless, as almost everyone is used to English. To give an example, in Italy the translation is essential as not all public health groups and policy makers are used to English.

Being the web site the best and fastest way to spread information all over the world, it is very important for all partners to contribute to its development and updating through the translation of documents in their own language.

Sophie Petersen, in particular, will supervise the development of the web-site.

3. Agreement

In accordance with the objectives of the project as set out in the Grant Agreement concluded between the European Commission and the Contractor, the European Partners of the project,

together with the Italian working group and the European Heart Network, shall undertake to perform the following activities:

- develop a manual of operations for the implementation of population-based registers for myocardial infarction and stroke that will detail best practices for collection and validation of recommended indicators for monitoring cardiovascular diseases; these data, collected through population-based registers, can be used for computing attack rates, incidence, case fatality and 1-year survival.
- develop a manual of operations for the collection and validation of recommended indicators for monitoring cardiovascular diseases through the implementation of surveys to measure prevalence of ischaemic heart diseases, heart failure and other cardiovascular diseases.
- develop, in collaboration with other multi-annual projects dealing with chronic diseases within the Health Monitoring Programme, a minimum set of questions to be included in the Health Interview Surveys and a minimum set of exams to be included in the Health Examination Surveys to evaluate the prevalence of cardiovascular diseases in Europe.
- participate in project meetings.
- collect and provide data on sources of information and available indicators for monitoring acute myocardial infarction, acute coronary syndrome, heart failure, ischaemic heart diseases, stroke and other cardiovascular diseases, and in particular for Hospital Discharge Records, Registers, Longitudinal Studies, Surveys and General Practitioners Networks in each partner country.

For the last activity, an agreement with all partners' institutions involved will need to be signed in order to engage a Researcher for a period of 77 days. He will be paid the maximum amount of EURO 8008.00 (EURO 104.00 daily) for his work. A pre-financing payment of EURO 4004.00, representing 50% of the full amount, will be made immediately after the signature of the agreement and it will be computed within 30th April 2005. The second tranche of the payment shall be made after the conclusion of the activity by the end of 2005. Partners will be encouraged until May 2007 to carry on all the activities related to EUROCISS project.

After a long debate among partners on the agreement mentioned above, it has been unanimously decided to request the administrative division of ISS the possibility of not specifying the number of days necessary to fulfil the required task, as every country has official rates of payment which cannot be comparable to that of other countries.

As concerning the justifying documents (certified copies of payslips), it would be very difficult for partners to provide them as the majority of institutions can provide only a summary of staff costs. To provide a satisfactory solution, the Legal Representative of each institution involved in the project will be directly contacted by the administrative division of ISS.

4. Questionnaire for the inventory

The questionnaire prepared is more detailed than the one produced during EUROCISS phase I, given the gained experience in making final summarizing charts. Furthermore, the original questionnaire has been up-dated taking into account the discussions on recommended indicators arisen during the first phase, and no longer discussed during this first meeting of EUROCISS II.

EUROCISS project is particularly focused on based-population registers and surveys, or better on all sources of information which can contribute to give a picture of the health status of populations. In the first phase of the project, the inventory of sources of information has helped to identify available indicators to recommend for future data collection of CVDs in Europe. The new inventory should help partners to describe which procedures and methods could be useful for preparing the manuals.

Information on methods, procedures and validation is as much essential as the use of up-dated diagnostic criteria, considering that the task for the next three years will be the preparation of the manuals of operations for AMI and stroke registers and for CVD surveys.

To achieve this, it is fundamental for new partners complete the inventory of sources of information and available data in their countries in order to provide a list of recommended indicators and data collection methods. As for partners countries which participated in phase I, they should accurately update the inventory through new information on indicators.

In order to provide greater reliable information on CVDs indicators, much more questions on validation and more complete data will be included in the questionnaire.

In addition, the section “Comments”, existing in each form, under which experts can indicate what they might consider useful and helpful for the comprehension of the methods adopted, will have more space. Also the missing table on all other cardiovascular diseases will be soon included.

The deadline for sending any comments or suggestions regarding the questionnaire is 1st November. The inventory should be ready by the end of the year 2004, but if necessary, partner countries can take more time, on or before 15th February 2005, as the main important task is the improvement of the information and knowledge needed for monitoring CVDs of major importance.

5. Writing group of the manuals of operations

Two researchers, starting from January 2005 through half 2006, and perhaps more, will dedicate full time to the preparation of the manuals of operations, but the support from each country will be needed to review and comment the documents.

- The writing group of the Manual of Operations of Cardiovascular Surveys will be of six members: P. Primatesta (coordinator); A. Doring; S. Graff-Iversen; S. Panico; S. Petersen; WM M. Verschuren.
- The writing group of the Manual of Operations of AMI/ACS will be of eight members: M. Madsen (coordinator); V. Gudnason.; A. Pajak; E. C. Rocha; V. Salomaa; S. Sans; K. Steinbach; D. Vanuzzo.
- The writing group of the Manual of Operations of CVD Registers will be of four members: S. Giampaoli (coordinator); R. Adany; N. Hammar; R. Morello.

The Steering Committee will compile a list of contents of each manual which will be then distributed to the three groups in order to help them organize the work.

Maybe external experts will be involved in the preparation of manuals and audio-conferences will be organized within each group in order to facilitate progress of the work.

6. Dissemination of results

Summaries of the manuals of operations should be published on International journals.

Italian Journal of Public Health has required a summary of the final report of EUROCISS phase I for its publication.

An abstract of the EUROCISS project will be sent to the Spring Joint Meeting 2005 “Long-Term Approach in Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation” to be held in Leuven, Belgium, in April 7-10,2005.

EUROCISS project will be also presented at the Sixth International Conference on Preventive Cardiology to be held in Foz do Iguassu, Brazil, in October 30, 2005.

A symposium of EUROCISS project at EUPHA Meeting “Linking health promotion and health care: perspectives, policies, research and training” to be held in Graz, Austria, in November 10-12, 2005 is also under consideration.

7. Next Meeting

Date: 4th - 6th October 2005

Tentative places proposed:

- Spain (Gerona)
- Poland;
- Italy (Lecce or Rome)

The meeting rose at 3.30 p.m.