



## NOTE TO EXPERTS GROUP ON HEALTH INFORMATION

### **Subject: Roadmap for the European Health Examination Survey**

Health examination survey (HES) is a population based survey where the measurements go beyond the questionnaire based data (interview or self-administration), such as blood pressure, blood samples, test of functional capacity etc. A HES provides crucial information for the health care planning and health promotion that cannot be obtained by any other way. There are successful examples of HES in some European countries and North America.

The FEHES (Feasibility of a European Health Examination Survey) Project, led by KTL (Finland), has assessed the feasibility of standardized HES's in European countries and prepared a proposal for their implementation. Project selected in 2006 and concluded in 2009. The International Workshop on Health Examination Surveys (Luxembourg, April 2008) endorses FEHES Recommendations and open the process for the EHES.

A Call for Tender 2008/S 163-219619 from the European Commission (July 2008): *The development and planning of a pilot European Health Examination Survey in European Union and EFTA Member States in preparation to test examination modules and field procedures for this survey* was launched in 2008. This has permitted the creation of a European Health Examination Survey Reference Centre (EHES RC) located in Finland led by the THL (National Institute for Health and Welfare).

The main tasks of the EHES RC are: (a) To establish a sampling procedure; (ii) To plan an examination procedure; (iii) To develop a quality control and assessment procedure; (iv) To plan and establish the data handling systems and sample storage protocols; (v) To address legal, ethical, and data confidentiality issues; (vi) To perform a risk assessment and prepare mitigation measures; (vii) To translate the Manual into the official languages of the European Union; (viii) To establish a European Reference Centre for the pilot EHES in order to develop a programme to train the survey staff from the Member States, collection, compilation, storage, analysis, and transmission of the data, compile and disseminate the interim and final reports, and to organise a final conference, workshop, or seminar.

The recommendations on Health Examination Surveys in the European Union are available under:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_information/dissemination/reporting/docs/fehes\\_recommendation\\_full\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_information/dissemination/reporting/docs/fehes_recommendation_full_en.pdf).

The Joint Action for the implementation of the pilot European Health Examination Survey was selected for funding in 2009 and it's operational from January 2010. This Joint Action will support the national activities needed to build the capacity for

organizing a pilot Health Examination Survey (HES) in 14 countries. The Partners will work in collaboration with the European Health Examination Survey Reference Centre (EHES RC).

In order to prepare the Pilot EHES two Training Seminars have been organised in 2010. The first covered issues related to the planning and preparing for the EHES at national level (11-12 February 2010 in Rome, Italy). The 2nd Training seminar covered issues related to the field work of the national HES (20-24 September 2010 in Helsinki, Finland).

The pilot survey has been or is being implemented successfully during 2010/2011 in 13 Member States (FIN, CZ, DE, EL, IT, MT, NL, NO, PT, PL, SK, ES, UK) only HU renounced by several reasons.

The aim is to plan and prepare for a full-scale HES in the 14 countries, and to pilot the fieldwork, data collection, assessment and reporting. The full-size HESs will provide comparable information on major chronic disease risk factors and disease prevalence. The Partners will also produce local dissemination plans and prepare reports of the pilot results. This Joint Action will also cover the necessary EHES RC activities during the last 6 months of the Joint Action, after the EHES RC funding by the Tender is ceased.

Results of the Pilot Survey will be analysed in a Subgroup on EHES of the EGHI scheduled for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2011 in Luxembourg.

The launching of the Call for Proposals in the FP7 Programme for the phase II: Full-scale HES in the 27 Member States, Norway and others is scheduled for 2011 (negotiations with FP7 ongoing) including Biomonitoring activities.

EHES Project web site: <http://www.ehes.info>

**Action for the Experts Group:**

<b>x</b>	For information
	For comments
	For agreement