



## NOTE TO HEALTH INFORMATION COMMITTEE

### **Subject: The process of creation of the European Health Examination Survey (EHES)**

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.

In the Work Plan 2009 for the implementation of such Programme it was stressed that: *To implement a pilot European Health Examination Survey in some Member States in order to test the examination modules for this survey defined by the earlier projects, so to contribute to completing the health surveillance and the ECHI indicators in the EU.*

On 16 December 2008 the European Parliament and the Council adopt (under the initiative of Eurostat) the Regulation 1338/2008 creating a statistical framework for data collection on health and safety at work in some areas (health status, causes of death, health care). It should be a 'umbrella regulation' to be developed via Commission Regulations. In Annex I: *The implementation of Health Examination Surveys shall be optional in the framework of this Regulation.*

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.

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

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.* 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). 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. The participating countries or regions are: FIN, CZ, DE, EL, HU, IT, MT, NL, NO, PT, PL, SK, ES, UK (ENG).

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.

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

**Action for the Committee:**

	For information
X	For comments
	For agreement