



# Capacity building through exchange and sharing of knowledge in European Health Examination Survey

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# Health examination survey

- Includes questionnaires, physical measurements and collection of biological samples
- Contents varies between countries and surveys
- At least EHES core measurements (height, weight, waist circumference, blood pressure and blood samples) in all previous national HES in past ten years

[http://www.ehes.info/publications/Report\\_inequalities\\_health\\_information.pdf](http://www.ehes.info/publications/Report_inequalities_health_information.pdf)



# European Health Examination Survey (EHES)

- A collaboration between organizers of national HESs in Europe
- Supports capacity building in the EU Member States
- Aims to ensure high quality and comparability of the surveys
- A Pilot Project was organized in 2010-2011
  - To test the feasibility of proposed standardized protocols in 12 countries
  - To establish the EHES Coordinating Centre



# EHES Coordinating Centre

- Established in 2009
- Hosted by the National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL), Finland
- Activities
  - Coordination
    - EHES network of national survey organizers
    - European level and international stakeholders
  - Maintaining and developing protocols for HESs
    - The EHES Manual
  - Providing support to the countries planning and preparing a national HES
    - Consultations
    - Training and training materials for survey coordinators and fieldwork staff
    - Supporting tools for sampling, budgeting and reporting
  - Quality assessment and survey evaluation
    - Evaluation of national HES plans
    - Site visits to evaluate fieldwork of national HES
    - External laboratory quality assessment
    - Quality assessment of the obtained HES data
  - Joint analysis and reporting
    - Dissemination and interpretation of the health indicators at the European level
  - Joint data management
    - Maintaining the EHES database of standardized survey data and sharing it with research groups

<http://www.ehes.info/rc.htm>



# Capacity building



# Guidelines and standardized procedures

- EHES Manuals
  - Part A. Planning and preparation of the survey
  - Part B. Fieldwork procedures
  - Part C. European level of collaboration
- Related training materials
- Library of existing international standardized protocols
- Library of methodological reports of previous national HESs
- Library of health measurements included to previous national HESs

<http://www.ehes.info/manuals.htm>

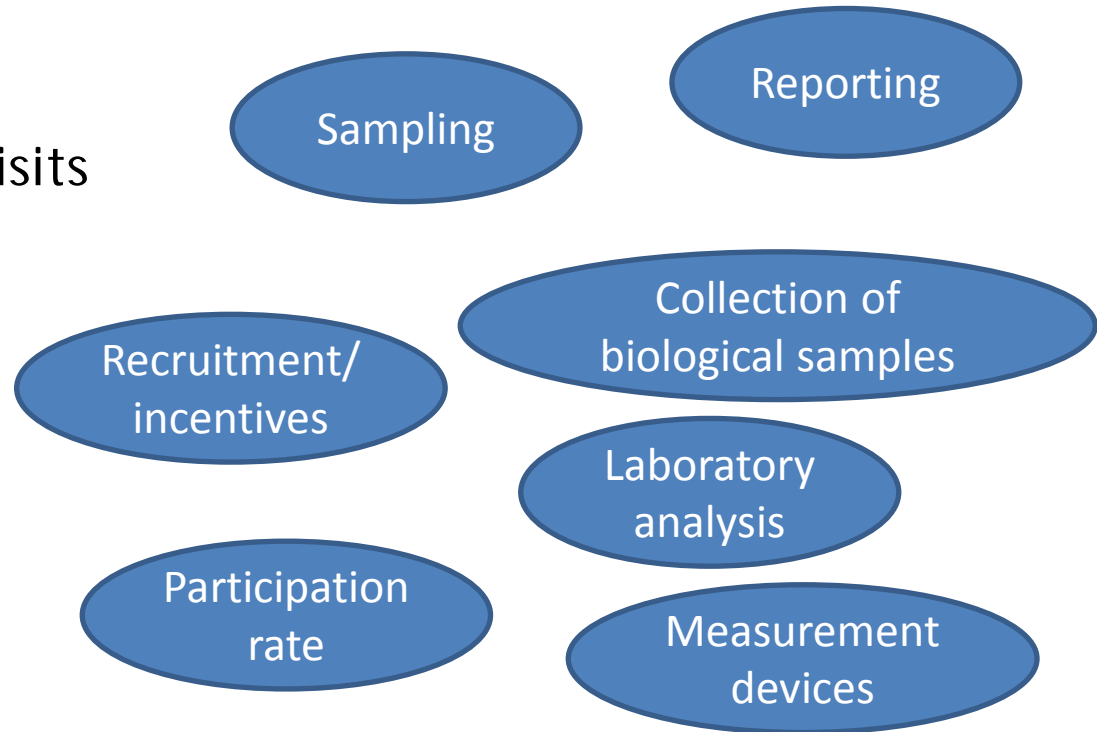
# Networking

- EHES Network of potential HES organizers in all EU Member States
- Future needs:
  - Face-to-face network meetings
  - Internet based tools and platform for sharing experience between network members



# Professional support

- E-mail consultations
- Future needs:
  - Personal consultation visits





# Quality assurance

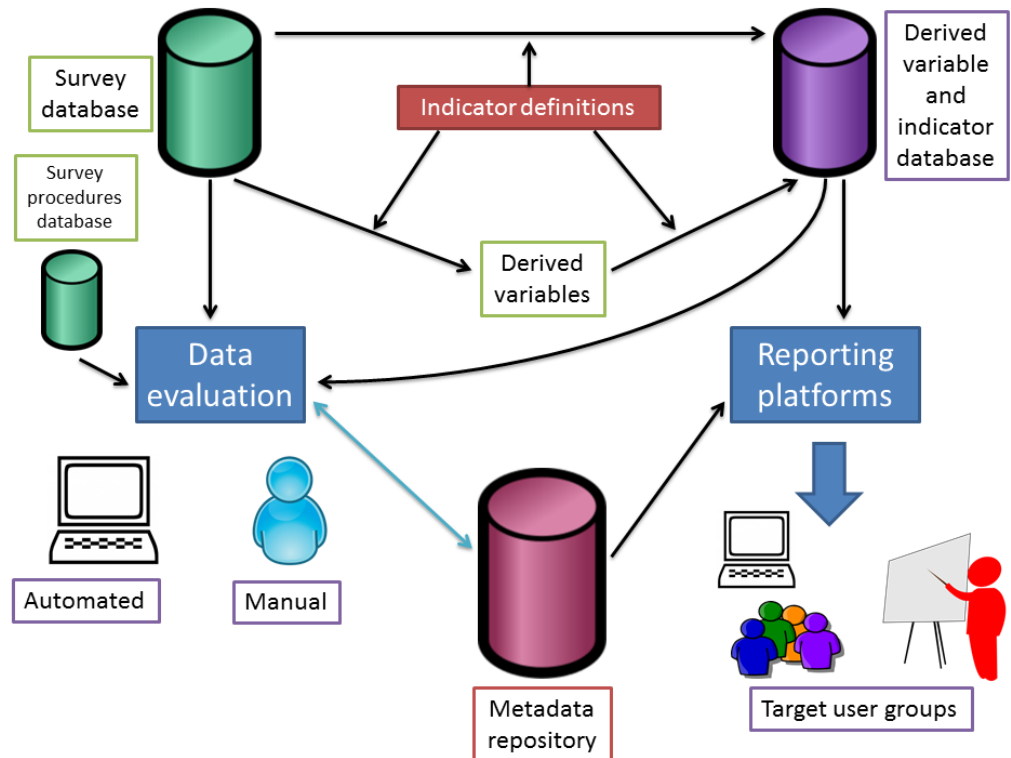
- European level training seminars and training materials
- Site visits
  - Evaluation of the fieldwork practices and survey organizations.
  - How feasible standardized protocols are in different settings.
- Quality assessment reports
  - Documentation of the used procedures and possible deviations
- Laboratory quality assessment
  - To avoid unacceptable inter-laboratory differences exist despite participation of the laboratories in national and international external quality assurance programmes



# Data sharing and reporting

- Common definition of indicators for EHES core measurements
- Programme codes to calculate common indicators
- Centralized database
- Library of key results from previous national HESs
- Future needs:
  - Joint reporting system

[http://www.ehes.info/publications/Blueprint\\_data\\_reporting\\_systems.pdf](http://www.ehes.info/publications/Blueprint_data_reporting_systems.pdf)



# Experiences on the uses of HES data

- Future needs:
  - Library of national/international clinical treatment guidelines which have used research evidence from HES data
  - Library of risk calculators based on national HES data
  - Library of examples key health problems identified through national HES data
  - Library of reference values based on national HES data
  - Library of uses of HES data for intervention studies



# Conclusions

- Learning from others has many benefits
  - Avoiding problems which other have faced previously
  - To do things more cost-effectively
- Knowledge sharing benefits everyone involved in the process
- Knowledge sharing increases comparison of results between countries
- Sustainable funding for EHES CC activities needed

<http://www.ehes.info>

