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

Hanna Tolonen, National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL), Finland
- 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 nationals HES in past ten years

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

- Experiences on the uses of HES data
- Data sharing and joint reporting
- Quality assurance
- Professional support
- Networking
- Guidelines and standardized procedures

Exchange and sharing of knowledge
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
- 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

Sampling
Reporting
Collection of biological samples
Laboratory analysis
Measurement devices
Recruitment/incentives
Participation rate

EHEIS
BRIDGE HEALTH
European Commission
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
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 others 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