Bridge Health Overview

EUPHA workshop
October 2015
... working towards a European health information and data generation network covering major European health policy areas.
BRIDGE Health aims

- to create a **blueprint for a European health information system (EU HIS)** and infrastructure;

- to evaluate different **structural and institutional options** including a comprehensive European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) in health information; and

- to **prepare the transition** towards a sustainable and integrated EU HIS for both public health and research purposes.
This project is funded by the Health Programme of the European Union.

Bridge Health constitution

- 31 institutions
- 12 WPs and 7 HAs
- 16 EU countries

BRIDGEHEALTH
Bridging Information and Data Generation for Evidence-based Health Policy and Research
www.bridge-health.eu

Contact: bridge.coordination@wiv-isp.be
Health examination surveys - added value for health interview surveys, availability and comparability in Europe

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What is a health examination survey (HES)?

- Population based survey with questionnaire(s), physical measurements and collection of biological samples
- The most reliable data source for many health indicators
- Complementary to European Health Interview Survey and administrative registers
What a national HES can provide?

- Objective health measurements for
  - Evidence-based policy making
  - Planning and evaluation of prevention activities
  - Research

- Data for several of the indicators defined by the WHO Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases
  - % of raised blood pressure and mean systolic blood pressure
  - % of raised blood glucose/diabetes and overweight and obesity
  - Mean population intake of salt
European Health Examination Survey (EHES)

- A system to collect standardised, representative health examination survey data on the adult population of the European countries
- The pilot phase was conducted in 2009-2012
  - EHES Reference Centre was established to coordinate the activities
  - 12 countries planned and conducted a pilot HES, some a full scale HES
- More information about EHES at http://www.ehes.info
Reporting and recall bias in health interview surveys - obesity

Average difference = 4.4 %-points

Average difference = 4.2 %-points

Tolonen H et al. Eur J Public Health 2014; 24(6):941-8
Reporting and recall bias in health interview surveys - hypertension

Average difference = 10.1 %-points

Average difference = -3.5 %-points

Tolonen H et al. Eur J Public Health 2014; 24(6):941-8
Reporting and recall bias in health interview surveys - high cholesterol

Average difference = 49.6 %-points

Average difference = 43.6 %-points

Tolonen H et al. Eur J Public Health 2014; 24(6):941-8
Reporting and recall bias in health interview surveys - diabetes

Average difference = 0.8 %-points

Average difference = -0.9 %-points

Tolonen H et al. Eur J Public Health 2014; 24(6):941-8
Proportion at risk missed by self-reported data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Obesity</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High cholesterol</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tolonen H et al. Eur J Public Health 2014; 24(6):941-8
History of national HESs in Europe
Current status of national HESs in Europe

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Comparability of results between national HESs

- European level standard protocols created by EHES
  - Published at [http://www.ehes.info](http://www.ehes.info)
  - Training material on the web
  - Training seminars organized in 2010
  - External quality assurance system
    - Support on planning
    - Site visits
    - Laboratory quality assessment
  - EHES Pilot project demonstrated that standardisation is possible

Blood pressure standardisation results: Tolonen H et al. BMC Medical Research Methodology 2015;15(1):33
Future of national HESs in Europe

- Experiences from EHES are promising
- Several countries have plans to conduct a national HES during the next 5 years
- A sustainable system for coordination and standardisation of future national HESs is needed
  - Further development and updating of survey protocols
  - Organization of quality assurance measures such as training, site visits and laboratory quality assessment
  - Support for countries planning their surveys
Thank you!

For more information on EHES
http://www.ehes.info
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