



**Health and Consumer Protection Directorate-General
Health Monitoring Programme
European Global Oral Health Project**

Health Surveillance in Europe

European Global Oral Health Indicators Development
Project

Selecting Essential Oral Health
Indicators in Europe

Project Closure Meeting

Report of the Consensus Workshop for Guidelines in Oral
Health Information

National Assembly
Paris, France
17-18 March 2005

**Community Action Programme
on Health monitoring
European Commission
Directorate-General
Health and Consumer Protection**

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The authors alone are responsible for the views expressed in this document.

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Selecting Essential Oral Health Indicators in Europe

Consensus
Workshop for
Guidelines in Oral
Health Information

**Project Closure
Meeting**

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Consensus
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Executive Summary

The meeting took place in Paris in the vicinity of the National Assembly. The list of participants and the agenda are attached.

Professor Bourgeois, Project leader, welcomed all participants and presented the proposed agenda:

The first day of the meeting was entirely devoted to reviewing the draft catalogue of the indicators descriptions.

The major point of the second day was the conference debate to address the issue of how to promote the project outcomes, how to link the scientific and the associative bodies and the political world so as to implement the technical recommendations made and the set of indicators selected. An important objective of this agenda item was to provide an example of the kind of dialogue and discussion that should be promoted at national levels after the closure of this project phase;

The proposed agenda was adopted, as well as the report of the Nice meeting.

Before reviewing each indicator, Professor Bourgeois summarised comments received prior to the meeting and stressed the following points:

- Users of the catalogue will not be specialised oral health personnel therefore. The section "rationale" should be written to convince decision-makers.

- References, should be chosen preferably in the context of contributions made by institutions such as Eurostat, WHO etc..., because of their scientific credibility. Web references should be excluded, as well as individual publications.
- We should keep in mind that we are not reinventing the wheel as was agreed in the first meeting held in Lyon two years ago.
- While reviewing the catalogue, we will concentrate on the content, the focus of the messages, the clarity of the explanation given, not on editorial aspects.
- This catalogue is not addressing the issue of methods for data collection. This will be the object of the phase II of the project.
- After this meeting, a second draft will be circulated. This second round will be the ultimate opportunity given for comments and possible amendments. Within three or four weeks, the final catalogue will be produced meetings.

This intervention was followed by the detailed review of the indicators descriptions which covered the whole day work. All discussions took place in plenary sessions.



Conference Debate: “Promotion of Health Policies: from the Recommendation to the Decision Making”

The second day of the meeting opened by Professor Bourgeois was honoured by the presence of Dr Michèle Aerden, President elect of the Fédération dentaire internationale, Dr Bedossa member of the European Social and Economic Council, Dr André Prost, former EC Liaison Officer of the World Health Organization, Dr Antoni Montserrat Moliner, DG Sanco, Dr Patrick Hescot, President elect of the European Regional Organisation, Professor Benque, Adviser to the Ministry of Health of France.

The major objective of this debate is to address issues relating to the promotion of public health recommendations, the catalogue of oral health indicators being a tool among others to serve as a basis for reflection, discussion and decision-making. How to reach key health policy actors, identification of political and/or technical obstacles, institutional networks, possible ways to outreach within and outside the health system, communication strategies and techniques, is a non-exhaustive list of issues that need to be addressed, if not fully answered, so as to support our next task: the promotion of recommendations on oral health to make them an integrated and unavoidable dimension of public health programmes at national and European Community levels.

Dr Prost, facilitator, give introductory remarks to position the debate;

"What use is a technical recommendation? What is its impact on the actual policy" Knowing that the political decision is often at the cross-roads of conflicting interests, private, public, societal etc.. Political decisions demand evidence, certitudes, scientists have a natural culture of questioning. Politicians have to rely on specialized analysis in domains beyond their competence. Aware of this context, in order to be able to promote our recommendations, we need to know how we can convince politicians to make use of the report. What are the channels? The mechanisms?

Dr Bedossa gave a clear insight on how the Commission works on health related matters. Until recently public health issues were not in the terms of reference of the Commission per se. Some aspects of health were scattered under different DGs and were dealt with as a component of Research, or Information systems etc. The situation will dramatically change when Mr Kaprianou will launch the first European Community health programme on 6th April.

An important result of this initiative is that national health policies will have access to Community structural funds. According to art. 95, public health should be linked to consumer's rights, needs and demand. SANCO is acting as the coordinator of technical recommendations.

Because of this approach, it is necessary to associate consumer networks to health projects; experts can influence politicians to support technical recommendations provided they have access to the information long before actual directives come into force. Networking, lobbying are the key leverages if we want expert groups recommendations to be applied.

Dr Montserrat described how the place of health progressed within the work and projects of the European Commission with the conscious of the need to develop information systems that will provide standardised and comparable information throughout all European countries. Information Systems are covering health indicators, health determinants.

Major developments are taking place regarding important health threats for example the creation of the European Centre for infection diseases. We need to enter into a second developmental phase with the development of influencing networks able to promote tools and recommendations on the codification of health information, its harmonization.

As mentioned by **Dr Aerden**, the European Oral health Liaison Committee could and should play a key role in this respect as mechanisms and contacts have already been established between this health sector and the European Commission.

How does the professional sector influence the politics?

In respect of the role of the professional associations and its impact on policies, Dr Aerden explained the role of the FDI, its various links with research institutions, educational bodies, international organisations and its longstanding history of collaboration with WHO in oral public health.

Dr Hescot explained how the ORE was promoting the concept of preventive care to become a major activity of the provision of care, and the integration of prevention at community level and practice level.

Health policies and sciences

Regarding the role of experts in influencing health policies, **Professor Pitts** underlined the need for experts to agree and to provide up-to-date information. Despite the recognition of evidence-based approaches, dissemination of information directed to policy makers remains poor and insufficient.

Harmonization of evidence-based information is necessary. In the area of prevention there is a need to update the tools to measure prevention rather than established disease.

Advising the Ministries of Health

The oral health profession has built a network of Chief dental Officers (CDOs), each of them acts as an adviser to the Minister of Health on oral health matters. Dr Pavi explained how the European CDO's coordinate their approaches and are directly influencing the national policies on oral health. She insisted on the necessity to speak the language of the politician to promote efficiently public oral health messages. Professor Benque's intervention gave an illustration of the role of the technical expert in advising the Minister.

On the issue of the broadening of the European Community, the positive role of the new incoming countries, their enthusiasm, competence and energy was perceived by all experts on the panel as a chance for Europe. As for the eventual next phase of the project, it would be recommended to include other participating countries selected in the group of the most recent members.



Finalization of the Catalogue and Further Project Development

The afternoon of the second day was devoted to finalise the discussion on the catalogue content and to address prospective aspects.

Dr Montserrat gave a very positive appreciation of the work achieved and expressed his wishes to see the development of methods for data collection. Several participants expressed their concerns about the need to clarify what the catalogue is, what is not, how it should be used and its limitation. This could be done in an introductory section before the descriptive section. It was agreed that 10 to 15 pages presentation will be prepare to introduce this list of indicators; most of the narrative will be taken from intermediary reports of the project. Lay persons should read the final draft to see if it is clear enough for non oral health specialists.

The group had been asked to classify the 39 indicators in priority order so as to come up with a selection of priority indicators to be included in international Health data bases such as the WHO data base. Because of the time constraints, results of the vote could not be presented. They will be transmitted to all participants individually.

Professor Bourgeois then described what could be the content of the Phase II of the project and invited all interested participants to provide comments and proposals so as to prepare a submission to SANCO. Contacts will also be made with potential new partners.

The main objective of Phase II will be to develop a standardised protocol for information collection in all European countries.

Because of the varying nature of the indicators, clinical/sociological, very different tools will have to be developed and used and participants will necessarily expand from oral health expertise towards, sociologists, opinion pool institutions etc.

- The first step, similarly as for phase 1 will be to evaluate the existing situation/ what is available, what has been tested, used, validated etc; What indicators are currently used in the various European countries? Is the information technically and ethically available?
- Additional methods will be developed together with a standard protocol
- A pre-test will take place in a small number of countries followed by a critical analysis of the methods proposed.
- Feasibility and cost evaluation should also be part of the evaluation
- Development of the standard protocol
- The final step will be the translation in some European languages of the documentation produced.

Proposed teams could participate on one or more modules of activity. They could be involved as associate or collaborating partners.

The deadline for the submission to be sent to SANCO is 16 April. Therefore, comments and proposals should be sent to Professor Bourgeois as soon as possible.

Participants expressed warm thanks to the Project Secretariat, Professor Bourgeois and his team for the work achieved and the conduct of the project.

Closure of the meeting and end of Project phase I.



European Global Oral Health Indicators Development
Project of the EU Health Monitoring Programme (SPC 2002472)

Meeting of Health SANCO Monitoring Programme
Final Workshop for Selecting Essential Oral Health Indicators

Conference Debate
“Promotion of Health Policies: from the Recommendation to the Decision Making”

18 March 2005

Assemblée Nationale Paris

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European Global Oral Health Indicators Development

Meeting of Health SANCO Monitoring Programme

Final Workshop for Selecting Essential Oral Health Indicators

Technical Agenda

Thursday, 17 March 2005

1. Registration/Welcome (9:30)
2. Opening session (10:00)
3. Approval of the agenda
4. Presentation of the EGOHIPD project results
5. Review of the draft catalogue
 - a. Review of the indicators descriptions
 - b. Harmonisation of the format and layout
 - c. General overview
 - d. Finalization: editing, publication, distribution.
6. Presentations of other projects funded by the Health Monitoring Programme
7. Communication strategy

Friday, 18 March 2005

8. Closure Open Conference Debate (9:30-12:00)
“**Promotion of Health Policies: from the recommendation to the decision making**”

Conference Debate animated by Dr André Prost
Former WHO representative European Union,
Brussels, WHO Director Government, Civil Society
and Private Sector Relations

With the participation

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Mr Adrien Bedossa
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Dr Elpida Pavi
President Council European Chief Dental
Officer

Professor Nigel Pitts
President European Association of Public
Dental Health

9. Project evaluation (2:00)
 - Round 1 : European institutions point of view
 - Round 2 : Local institutions point of view
10. Further working process within the framework of the 2005-2007 research programmes
11. Closure (4:00)