

Strengthening of statistics health information system and its harmonisation with EU requirements 2003-004-995-03-06

Basic Information

The overall objective of the project is to complete the implementation of the Acquis concerning monitoring of health statistics and creation of a system of health monitoring.

Project purpose is to strengthen the capacities ensuring statistical health information according to EU requirements/EUROSTAT methodologically and technically.

The project will help to achieve two priorities of the 2001 Accession Partnership:

- *Statistics: Further improve the quality and coverage of statistics, ensure adequate resources are available to further strengthen statistical capacities, including at regional level.*
- *Social Policy and Employment: To accomplish transposition and ensure the implementation of the EU legislation in the area of public health, to work out the measures in the area of monitoring and control of infective diseases and health.*

It is also in line with the 2001 National Programme for the Adoption of the Acquis, which defines the project priorities and actions in the chapter on Public Health:

In the public health sector it is necessary to further develop programmes of ... monitoring of health and to create system of health monitoring in communities.

Background and Justification

High quality statistical data are required both by local institutions and by international organisations including i.a. EUROSTAT, OECD and WHO. The Act No. 277/1994 constitutes the legal basis of Slovak health statistics (health care) as amended. According to the Act, the *Institute of Health Information and Statistics (IHIS)* is the only provider of country wide health statistics in the Slovak Republic. IHIS is a budgetary organisation of the Ministry of Health of SR (MoH SR). The latter manages, controls and co-ordinates tasks and activities of IHIS. Beside the Statistical Institute of the Slovak Republic, MoH is one of the main users of IHIS data. The Data Centre Department of MoH SR was established based on a new concept of health information system development. On the one hand, data collection and primary data processing is located at IHIS. On the other hand, data processing for strategic decision-making is located at MoH SR. This allows the MoH to have rapid access to essential information and relevant data necessary for strategic decision-making.

Current indicators monitor the health status of the Slovak population, the network and activities of health facilities, health workers, health service economy, state of real estates and equipment. In terms of content, structure, and methods of collection and evaluation, these indicators are not fully harmonised yet with the EU standards, and the requirements of international organisations such as EUROSTAT, OECD, and WHO go beyond the structure and quality of currently available Slovak health indicators. It is therefore necessary to re-evaluate the extent and the methodology of data collection and processing. The aim would be to establish a system that would be consistent with following EC legislation:

- Decision No 1400/97/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 June 1997 adopting a programme of Community action on health monitoring within the framework for action in the field of public health (1997 to 2001);

- Decision No 3092/94/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 December 1994 introducing a Community system of information on home and leisure accidents;
- Council Directive No 89/391/ EC of 12 June 1989 on introduction of measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health of workers at work;
- Council Decision No 1999/279 EC, on founding statistical-inquiry structure EC regarding to branch of audio-vision and related sectors;
- Decision No. 1786/2002 of European Parliament and Council of 23 September 2002 adopting programme of Community activity on field of public health (2003-2008);
- Decision of the Council of 22 May 1995, amending the Decision No. 3092/94/EC introducing a Community system of information on home and leisure accidents by:
 - Analysis and detailing out of the requirements.
 - Synchronising of the requirements of domestic and foreign users.
 - Incorporating of the requirements into the sector reporting.
 - Management of requirements incorporation into the extra-sector reporting.
 - Finding of information sources

In order to achieve this objective, the Health Department Data Centre needs methodological and technical support. Special emphasis should be placed on training the Centre staff to collect, process and evaluate health data and statistics according to requirements of Slovak and international institutions. This will contribute to a better understanding of the current public health situation in Slovakia and will allow meaningful international comparisons.

Linked Activities

- Phare project SK9708.01 *Financing and Primary Health Care*. One of the project's main objectives was the preparation of a new system of cost accounting, performance monitoring and more efficient use of data in healthcare.
- Japanese PHRD grant project no. TF 026121, managed by the World Bank and implemented in the period of 2000 - 2002. One of the project's tasks was developing a Management Information System in the Health Sector.

Results

1. Health indicators methodology developed and implemented

The project will contribute to complete the harmonisation of methods of statistical surveys (collection, processing, and evaluation of health data) and developing new technologies of health data processing to be subsequently implemented in the Data Centre. This would lead to a system consistent with the standard methodology applied in the EU capable of providing all relevant health information in the specific data structure requested by EU institutions, OECD and WHO.

2. Data centre in the department of MoH modified and strengthened

The Data Centre will be upgraded in terms of software and equipment to prepare it for the increasingly sophisticated operations of collecting, processing, and evaluation of health data.

3. Pilot project

During the final phase of the project, a pilot project will be carried out. It will include statistical finding, analysis, and assessment according to harmonised methodology. The output will be health information file according to actual requests of EUROSTAT, OECD or WHO.

Activities

The project will be implemented in the framework of one Twinning light arrangement, one service contract and one supply contract covering the following activities:

1. Development of methodology

A working group will be established at the beneficiary institution including Member States experts, Ministry of Health and IHIS representatives. On the basis of a comparative analysis of health indicators, the working group will complete the harmonisation of the required methodology of health indicators including the redefinition of terms, the new structure and range of monitored indicators, develop the assumptions for further unification of other health indicators, including the implementation of harmonised methods of data collection, processing, assessment and reporting using the developed technology.

2. Data centre system strengthening and implementation of methodology

The EU Member States experts will train the data centre operators/employees for the utilisation of the above-mentioned methodology for the collection of indicators. An ad-hoc working group led by a Member State expert in co-operation with representatives of the MoH will define the conditions, outputs, inputs, and functionality of the special software for application and utilization of new methodology. An indicative list of the required hardware specifications is attached (Annex 4). They will be further developed in co-operation with the consultants to be contracted under the "service - Technical Assistance" component of this project.

The consultants will also provide training for the users in data centre. Procurement of hardware and standard software will be done under supply contract.

3. Pilot project and systems rollout

Health data will be collected during the final four months of the project according to the instructed methodology. They will be evaluated, analysed and finally provided in relevant form according to current requirements of EUROSTAT, OECD and WHO.

Means

a) One Twinning light arrangement – 1 lead expert is required for a period of 6/8 man/months in charge of the overall supervision and co-ordination of the project. He/she should have a university education in a relevant field, several years of experience in the area of health statistics in the EU and/or OECD – methodology, definition of indicators, analysis, and statistics. He/she must be fluent in English and should have excellent communication skills. The lead expert is required to cover the following activity areas:

- Analytical activity and leading the working group;
- Co-operation on producing of comparative analysis and subsequent production of methodology on harmonization of required indicators;
- Providing training of methodology, composition and structure of indicators and statistical register;
- Collaboration on specification of SW and HW;
- Advice and help in carrying out the pilot project, its management, monitoring and evaluation.

The lead expert will be supported a pool of short-term experts. They would be highly skilled professionals in the field of health statistics in EU.

b) One Service contract - The Technical Assistance will assist in selecting and customising the required off-the-shelf software, specifying parameters of the sufficient hardware for the application, and training of the relevant staff.

c) One Supply contract for data processing equipment.

Lessons learned

This project arises from the submission of the report "*Development of the informatics department of Health Ministry of SR*". This document summarises all lessons learned in the area of public health statistics. It was approved by the Ministry of Health SR on 4 February 2002. Particular emphasis is placed on the *harmonization of indicators in health service with requirements of home and foreign executive administrations and institutions*.

Institutional Framework

The Ministry of Health (MoH) is the beneficiary institution and one of the recipients. It will have the overall responsibility for the management and control of the project. The MoH supervises the activities of the IHIS, which is the second recipient of the assistance.

Monitoring of and supervision over the progress and development of the entire project will be provided by a steering committee, which will include representatives of the MoH and IHIS. The EC Delegation will be invited to participate as observers. The SC will meet once a month or more frequently as needed.

The institutions have already appointed officers as contact points –

- MoH contact person will be Ms. Zuzana Škublová, Director,
Project unit of foreign aid
Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic,
Limbová 2, Bratislava 83752, Slovakia
Tel.: 00 421 2 59 373 268 Fax.: 00 421 2 547 77 645,
E-mail: zuzana.skublova@health.gov.sk
- IHIS contact person will be Mr. Ľubomír Vlčák, Director,
Institute of Health Information and Statistics,
Drieňová 34, 820 09 Bratislava,
E-mail: vlcak@uzis.sk

The recipient and beneficiary institutions will ensure the necessary office space, equipment and personnel is timely available.

Implementation Arrangements

Implementing Agency

PAO: Director of CFCU - Mrs. Silvia Czuczorova

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Twinning light

The institutional twinning partner will be the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic, responsible for the overall supervision of the project. The Ministry of Health will cooperate in project implementation with the IHIS, which will be the recipient of the project. The twinning light experts will be deployed at the office of the Ministry of Health.

Non-standard aspects

PRAG rules and the rules of the Twinning Manual will be strictly followed.

Contracts

The project will be implemented with the following contracts:

- Twinning covenant;
- Technical assistance (SW);
- Supply contract (HW).

Equal Opportunity

Equal opportunity principles and practices in ensuring equitable gender participation in the project will be guaranteed, particularly as regards to selection of trainees for the training programme, where a balanced distribution of positions/places will be sought.