



# Health Inequalities Indicators in the Regions of Europe

**Project I2SARE**  
Agreement number: 2007112

## Interim Report

**30 June 2009**

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Project financed by the European Commission



The European Commission or any person on its behalf is not responsible for the recommendations of this project

# 1. Introduction

The Isare projects led by the Fnors for 8 years demonstrated the importance of health indicators at regional level. Using the lessons from the Isare projects, I2sare aims to study inequalities in the regions of Europe.

## 2. I2SARE aims project

The principal objective of the project is to assist European, regional and local decision makers in developing their health policy, by informing them of the state of health of the populations in the regions of Europe. To achieve this objective, the project proposes to establish a health profile for each region of Europe.

The second part of the project concerns the study of inequalities in health at a sub-national level. The project will set up a typology of the regions of Europe, thus permitting the European regions to see where they stand with respect to one another. It will enable the highlighting of homogenous zones from the socio-economic and health point of view, and to identify the most disadvantaged zones. Furthermore, because regional decision makers often decline their policies at a local level, this study will also be carried out on an infra-regional level in a limited number of countries and regions.

## 3. Specifics objectives

1. To collect and update data needed for the health profiles and the typology at regional level. The data collection will be made through contact with the countries correspondent and international organisations (Eurostat).
2. To define and collect the data needed for the typology at sub regional level. The countries participating to the infra-regional part of the work will receive a questionnaire for this purpose.
3. To establish health profiles for all the regions of all the countries of Europe. Analysis of the collected data will be undertaken in order to provide, for each region of Europe, a health profile.
4. To create a typology of the regions of Europe. A typology of all the regions of all the countries of Europe will be established from the demographic, social and health indicators collected to highlight homogenous zones.
5. To create a typology of geographical units at infra-regional level. Classification at infra-regional level will be achieved from the demographic, social and health indicators collected to identify homogenous zones.
6. To disseminate the results of the project. The dissemination of the results will be done through internet, a network of professionals working at regional level and a final meeting

## 4. General project Working

### • Project group

**Missions:** This group develops the protocol, methods and tools, manages the budget, organizes meetings, and writes analysis documents and final report. It maintains contacts and communicates with other groups which are working on health indicators in European Union in order to take account of their conclusions.

**Composition:** Leader of each work packages, a represent of DG Sanco and French Health Ministry.

### • Steering group

**Missions:** The steering group approve the main themes of the project, the method used and the tools required, it follow project's progress

**Composition:** Germany, Belgium, Spain, France, Sweden, Estonia and England.

**Others participants:** a represent of DG Sanco, Eurostat and French Health Ministry.

### • European countries group

**Missions:** The members of this group constituted the "resources persons". They give information on data sources that exist in their countries and on their production of data and regional indicators.

**Composition:** A represent of each country of European Union and of Switzerland and all the members of steering group.

*There is also a small group (Fnors group) with the member of Fnors and Observatory who work at the coordination.*

## 5. Project advancement

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### Work package 1: Coordination of the project

This work package made financial, technical and legal management. All financial operations (payment of partners), contacts with the EU Commission for administrative purposes and co-ordinate different reports were made.

### Work package 2: Dissemination of the results

A website was created ([www.i2sare.eu](http://www.i2sare.eu)) with the presentation of the project. Several pages have been created to the next steps of the project (health profiles, directory, and reports) and an intranet was developed for communication between associated partners.

A new logo of I2SARE was developed by Hainault Health Observatory (Belgium).

Concerning Newsletters, the number 1 was sent in February 2009 to 528 contacts through an E-mail address created especially for the newsletter: [newsletter@i2sare.eu](mailto:newsletter@i2sare.eu).

Two versions of leaflets have been written to describe the I2sare project: a French one and an English one. Documents are downloadable on the website.

Concerning the directory of institutions, the data collection form has been tested in Belgium, Germany, UK, Republic of Ireland and France.

### Work package 4: Updating, validating and promoting the use of data

Links with colleagues working on WP5 and WP6 were done initially by email and then through project meetings in Newcastle (November 2008), Paris (December 2008), Dublin (January 2009) and Dusseldorf (June 2009).

Links with participating countries through country steering group members and collaborating partners were established. More work was needed in identifying the contacts from the new countries (Bulgaria and Romania) and the candidate countries (Croatia, FYRM and Turkey).

Data collected within the I2SARE project was to meet the needs of WP5 and WP6 for their work in the development of regional health profiles and typology. Data were chosen by identifying data items already assessed and collected in previous ISARE projects and by discussions with colleagues from WP5 and WP6. Indicators to be calculated were chosen.

A data collection sheet was designed to be distributed to participating countries, for the collection of each of the chosen data items. Data definitions for each of the data items accompanied the data collection sheet, these were the definitions previously used within the ISARE2 project. Chosen data items were checked on Eurostat, at NUTs 2 level, for availability and the latest year they were available. Where data were available, they were extracted and put into the data collection sheet. Eurostat data was used where countries were unable to provide data, or where the Eurostat data was more up to date than the data provided by the country. Raw data and calculated indicators were finally dispatched to WP5 and WP6 on the 24th April 2009.

Data validation was carried out by assessing the differences between the country data and Eurostat data where the year was the same, checking for completeness of data and ensuring Eurostat data was added to country data for missing or incomplete data items. Further validation was carried out with the valuable assistance of WP5, looking at outliers for each indicator and checking the data and indicator calculation to ensure they were correct.

### Work package 5: Realization of Health Profiles

A literature review was done to report on good practice on the production of 'health profiles'. A report was written in April 2009 (Annex)

A first draft four pages layout of the regional health profile including the indicators they will contain was presented and discussed in Dublin meeting in February 2009.

## Work package 6: Typology of regions in Europe

A literature review was begun to identify variables which are the important determinants of health, and examples of typology and methodologies. In June 2009, work package 6 presented postponement of decision on indicators and regions that are used when the final data set is available.

## Work package 7: Typology at infra regional level

A literature review was begun and will be integrated to the report of literature review of WP6.

At the project group meeting in December 2008, it was decided that typology at infra regional level will be done for:

- Countries: UK, Estonia, France, Latvia and Sweden.
- Regions: Germany (NRW and Baden Württemberg), Spain (Pais Vasco), Austria (Vienna), Belgium (Hainaut).

A survey was done to identify the availability of the sub-regional information.

The collection process has been decided with the project group in June 2009:

- WP7 has to contact WP4 about collection of sub-regional data
- Preparation of a questionnaire adapted to each region / country (list of data to be collected, year for each data),
- Collection between September and October 2009,
- Analyse between November and mid-March

## Meeting

Several meetings were organised:

- Project group meeting : 5<sup>th</sup> June 2008 - Paris
- Project group meeting : 8<sup>th</sup> September 2008 – Vienna
- Steering group meeting : 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> September 2008 – Vienna
- Work package 4 meeting : 6<sup>th</sup> October 2008 – Newcastle
- Project group meeting : 5<sup>th</sup> December 2008 - Paris
- Work packages 4 and 5 meeting : 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> February 2009 – Dublin
- Work Packages 4, 6 and 7 meeting: 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009 – Düsseldorf

Reports of these meetings are in annex.

# 6. The pursuit of work

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### July 2009 – September 2009:

- Literature review report on typology
- Report about data collection
- Report on the health profiles
- Finalization of the layout of regional health profiles and elaboration of a web based tool to realize standardised comments of regional health profiles.
- First results of typology
- Upload the directory of institutions on I2sare website and update it.

### October 2009- March 2010

- Finalize the typology of regions.
- Collection of sub regional data and analyse.
- Production and validation of regional health profiles
- Prepare the database for uploading on the website.

### April 2010 – July 2010

- Publication of the health profiles in the regions of Europe and on I2sare website.
- Organization of a seminar “Dissemination of tools of the I2sare project and production of guidelines of good practices”
- Reports on typology in regions of Europe and typology at infra regional level

### September 2010

- I2SARE final conference in Budapest

### November 2010

- Final report