

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE EUPHORIC PROJECT

ATHENS, 4 DECEMBER 2007

NATIONAL AND KAPODISTRIAN UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS

Participants:

MB: Torre Marina – Istituto Superiore di Sanità (ISS), Rome (Italy)
AB: Psaltopoulou Theodora – National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA), Athens (Greece)
AB: Marrugat Jaume and Ferrer Yolanda – Institut Municipal d'Investigació Mèdica (IMIM), Barcelona (Spain)
AB: Labek Gerold – EFORT-EAR Innsbruck Medical University (EAR), Innsbruck (Austria)

Note: MB: Main Beneficiary, AB: Associated Beneficiary

1. Welcome

Marina Torre welcomes all the participants at the meeting and gives a special thanks to Theodora Psaltopoulou for hosting the meeting.

She communicates that following the submission of the First Interim Report, a part of the payment has finally arrived at the ISS and she will hasten the preparation of the bank transfers to all the associated beneficiaries.

She informs the participants that after receiving an official letter of resignation from GRI, the possible inclusion of GRI's residual budget will allow the implementation of the additional work packages .

The modified agenda, which includes two more discussion points (CV pilot and ECHIM indicators), is approved.

2. Work package Univ. Athens WP 5.3

Gerold Labek presents the contents of the WP 5.3 which was previously described at the Helsinki meeting. The orthopaedics pilot needs statistical requirements since there is a huge quantity of data that refers to different basic statements.

Theodora Psaltopoulou presents a draft report that includes a the classification and a description of the different types of clinical studies.

The final elaboration of the report will include a glossary defining the most important useful terms for the implementation of the orthopaedics pilot. As a basis, the terms already submitted to the HSWP Glossary will be taken into account and will be integrated with others that are considered relevant to the specific aim. The 4th edition of the "Last Dictionary of Epidemiology" will be taken into account. The study classification, which has already been implemented on the website, will be used as a reference.

The same report will also consider the main end points that will be taken into account in the pilot.

A questionnaire will be prepared to be sent to all the partners in order to ask information that is useful for quality assessment of the registers (hospitals, patients, regions and characteristics).

A list of variables that are supposed to have an influence on revision rate and revision burden will be prepared.

3. Time schedule and workflow

The first part of the report has to be prepared before the 5th EUPHORIC meeting (Innsbruck, 13-14 March). It includes points 4.a and 4.b (see the next item).

4. Things to do list

Theodora Psaltopoulou is requested to:

- a) prepare a general description (by 1 March 2008). The draft version of this part will be sent by the Coordinator (ISS) to partners IMIM (Jaume Marrugat), DEASL (Danilo Fusco), EAR (Gerold Labek) and KAR (Rino Bellocco) for comments.

- b) verify the definition of variables collected in the different registers by means of the questionnaire (by 1 May 2008).
- c) validate the data on a dummy dataset in order to define some guidelines that refer to the changes of several variables (for example, variability and sample size) and to analyze the importance of the selected variables. Literature research referring to what has already been done in other fields (for example, cancer) and from other institutions (Eurostat, OECD) could be the starting point (by 1 August 2008).

5. CV pilot

Jaume Marrugat presents the current status of the CV pilot. The protocol has been finalized and the questionnaire will be sent in the next weeks, including the part related to hospital discharge records (needed by DEASL partner in order to prepare the foreseen deliverable). All the attempts to keep in touch with Anselm Gitt were unsuccessful. However, thanks to valuable contacts with Prof. Shlomo Behar (Neufeld Cardiac Research Institute – Israel) it will be possible to consider the EHS database (years 2000 and 2005) for the implementation of the CV pilot. Gerold Labek suggests contacting also Prof. Weidinger in Austria, who is managing important datasets that refer to ACS. An agreement will be set up with the Associated Beneficiary STAKES to share data. Therefore, the CV pilot implementation will consider a significant amount of records that come from Israel, Finland and Austria's population registers. The possibility of including the Catalan database, which considers 20 hospitals, will be taken into account.

6. ECHIM indicators

As requested by Pieter Kramers, EUPHORIC provided ECHIM with detailed information about four indicators (two for orthopaedics and two for CV). A deliverable will be prepared including the general rationale supporting the use of outcome indicators, a comparison with the indicators which were previously considered in the ECHIM short and long lists, and the detailed sheets of the selected indicators.

It emerged from the detailed elaboration of the CV pilot that two other indicators will be added to the first EUPHORIC list (.....). A thread will be opened on the EUPHORIC website in order to propose and discuss their inclusion within the consortium. After receiving approval from the other partners, Jaume Marrugat will prepare the detailed sheets for the new indicators to be included in the Deliverable N. 2.

7. Closing of the meeting

Before the Innsbruck meeting, a meeting of the core working group and partner DEASL will be organized in Rome at the ISS at the beginning of February 2008.

The meeting closed at 15:15.