

Project: “Register of health professions”

1. Name of institution

Federal Public Service (SPF-FOD) on Public Health, Food Chain Safety and the Environment, Directorate of Health Professions, Health Vigilance and Wellness in the Workplace

2. Project description and position within the institution’s framework

The ‘federal register of health professions’ is a central databank covering all the recognised health professions (doctor, nurse, midwife, chemist, dentist, physiotherapist, paramedic, psychologist, etc.). The databank currently contains identification details for doctors and physiotherapists.

The following data relating to health professionals are included:

- Identification data (name, first name, National Register number, address, etc.)
- Data about qualifications (diplomas and titles, specialisations and certification, etc.)
- Data regarding personal circumstances (self-employed, employee, founder member of practice, overseas volunteer, retired, etc.)
- Contractual data (consultation address, hours of availability, addresses, telephone number, public key for computer encoding, etc.).

This databank pursues the following objectives:

- administrative simplification between the various partners concerned with these professions (training institutions, public institutions, professional associations, employers, professionals themselves)
- transparency, through publication of validated information that, furthermore, will improve relations between professionals and those between professionals and their patients
- making available of data for statistical uses (planning, geographical spread, etc.) for management of the professions and research

The data will be made available to the following users:

- the ordinary citizen (verification of qualifications and practitioner availability)
- health professionals (search for/selection of colleagues, recovery of their public key, etc.)
- SPF-FOD on Public Health (within the framework of performing its missions)
- other public institutions (SPF-FODs and semi-public social institutions within the framework of performing their missions)
- professional organisations (associations and employers, for identification data, while upholding respect for privacy)
- scientific institutions, for statistical research or socio-economic ends

Data will be listed and compiled automatically within the framework of a draft Bill currently being examined within the Chamber of Deputies, the aim of which is to regulate methods for gathering and using data.

3. Assignment for implementation:

a) By the scientific team

The scientific team will be responsible for defining the needs of users, data sets and the channel of communication for making information available to the various user categories (defined under point 2).

b) By the public institution:

1) *Prior to the scientific team's actual work*

The institution will need to finalise the application for its own (internal) clients and gather and validate data yet to be included (extension to all professions and professional situations).

2) *During the project*

The institution will need to offer access to the databank and, generally speaking, any item of technical or organisational information whose disclosure will have a bearing on the project's smooth operation.

The institution will provide technical support to the team of developers for the development, testing and validation of user profiles.

4. Expected end product:

a) *From the scientific team*

N/A

b) *For the public institution*

N/A

5. End product valorisation:

a) *For the public institution: integration of the end product within its own workings*

The register of health professions is crucial for the SPF-FOD as it will allow the General Directorate of Health Professions to perform its missions more effectively in terms of controlling the medical and paramedical professions (planning, visas, certification, measures for harmonising supply and demand, statistics, etc.)

b) *For the 'public': access methods and conditions for the scientific community and general public*

The various user categories will have access via a still undefined communication channel of their own to relevant, validated information. A wide variety of uses will be possible.

- Professional information will be available via the Internet (search for a doctor with a specific qualification and living less than X km from home, etc.).
- Where necessary, data for professional use will be made anonymous prior to being made available, in accordance with a protocol and the communication channels being studied, so as to reduce the danger of data being diverted for commercial ends.
- Data may also be selected by means of on-demand retrieval involving multiple criteria for scientific institutions.

Although a pricing policy has yet to be established, no more than the cost price will be charged for information.

6. Timing and planning of activities and estimate of the required scientific support

a) Timing of activities:

1/1/2004-31/12/2004

b) Planning of activities:

- 1) For the public institution (12 months) – end 2003 : prior to the work of the scientific team

Finalisation of internal applications
Data gathering and validation

- 2) For the scientific team – 1/1/2004 – 31/12/2004

Analysis of the structure of the databank and its actual data: 2 months
Establishment of contacts with clients: 2 months
Determination of client needs: 2 months
Determination and testing of access rights per user category: 2 months
Structure of standardised retrieval and testing: 2 months

7. Special conditions

a) Suggested composition of the accompanying committee

- Representatives from the scientific research community (statistics, planning, socio-economic studies, etc.)
- Representatives from public institutions concerned with Public Health and Social Security

b) Confidentiality clause (where applicable)

All actions will be pursued in accordance with privacy protection laws. For instance, it will not be possible to disclose data of a personal nature made available to scientific staff.

c) Presence, where necessary, of the team within the institution

For practical reasons, the scientific team will need to be stationed within the Public Health SPF-FOD (Food Chain Safety and the Environment).

d) Other

N/A