

Project description sheet issued by a federal administration

This description sheet is issued by a federal administration. It describes the nature of the project it wants to implement, the tasks that should be attributed to a scientific team yet to be selected, the budget and timing devoted to the scientific team. It also describes the way the public institution will implement the end result of the scientific team both in terms of integration in its own functioning as in terms of dissemination of valuable information for researchers and the public at large.

Practical information

Name of the public institution who has issued the project: Federal Public Service Social Security (<http://socialsecurity.fgov.be/>)

Name of the project: A preparative study in view of complementing the health information system with data from a perspective with a dynamic life course.

Timing of the scientific tasks to be accomplished: 12 months

Deliverables and valorisation activities by the scientific team (not foreseen in the project description below):

- *International seminar (beginning of the project, state of the art concerning the data/work to perform) ;*
- *brief report* exposing the way the data concerned by the project could make international/European comparisons or harmonisation possible by the public authority;
- *Valorisation activity by the end of the project:* the team will make a proposal in this respect in its submission form.
- Deliverables from the research contract with federal Science Policy Office: *project description* (max. 25 lines in French, Dutch, English and German for the Web site of the Science Policy Office), *summary of the project* in max. 10 pages in F/D/EN/G for the web site of the Federal Science Policy Office, *a document* in max. 40 lines destined to the AGORA Newsletter at the end of the project in F/D/EN, *interims reports* (max. 2 pages, issued every 6 months destined to the financing of the project), *reports for the users' committee* (see below) ;

All these activities are to be financed within the allocated budget.

Working of the project:

The public authority steers and manages the project and collaborates closely with the team and the federal Science Policy Office (which form the technical committee of the project). The project is followed up by a users' committee who comes together at least three times in the course of the project (at the beginning, in the middle and at the end). Its role is to give a positive input to the team and the public authority in the management of the project. It is composed by representatives of other public administrations and by other researchers. The scientific team is in charge of preparing the documents for this committee, the public institution is responsible of the agenda and the minutes of the meetings.

Date of the information session with a delegate of the public institution (inscription at least a week in advance by e-mail – naji@belspo.be . without mark of interest, the meeting will be cancelled):
11 January, room 7 of the Federal Science Policy Office, 10 a.m.

The project

1. Name of the institution

Federal Public Service Social Security,
Eurostation II, Place Victor Horta 40, P.O. Box 20,
1060 Brussels

2. Name of the project

A preparative study in view of complementing the health information system with data from a perspective with a dynamic life course.

3. Acronym

HIS

4. Description of the project and situation within the framework of the institution.

The scientific understanding grows that health differences and differences in the use of health care provisions are very much influenced by differences in the course of life, namely concerning the often cumulative consequences of several events during the course of life. However, the development of a life-course perspective requires a specific approach of data management and exploitation.

A recent analysis by the FPS Social Security and the Federal Health Care Knowledge Centre of the possibilities that the existing data bases offer for the policy-oriented research in the field of health care showed that our country needs a conceptual framework and an analysis of the possibilities to collect and exploit data in a longitudinal perspective, in view of complementing the health care information system with data from a life-course perspective.

The complementing of the health care information system is a priority of the FPS Social Security, because this FPS has been asked by the federal government to coordinate the interdepartmental "health statistics coordination group" it has set up. This coordination group aims to solve problems that may occur when collecting health statistics, in consultation with the federal and regional services and the semi-governmental institutions concerned. This in view of the obligation of the European directive "Community statistics on public health and health and safety at work", which is expected for the end of 2006

5. Tasks to be accomplished

a. by the research team:

In view of developing a health information system, the development of:

- (a) a conceptual framework, based on international comparative research (a report will be produced in this respect),
- (b) a definition and implementation of variables and
- (c) an inventory of the way in which existing data bases can supply these data for longitudinal analyses at this moment, is needed.

The makers of the report have to build further on the understandings, which are developed in various initiatives/research projects for the different public services.

b. by the public institution:

The FPS Social Security will give the research team access to the already available inventories and the corresponding documentation of the data bases for policy-oriented research regarding health care and related themes.

The FPS Social Security will organise consultations with the Health Care Knowledge Centre¹, the Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology and the National Institute for Sickness and Invalidity Insurance in order to inform the research team of the already acquired understandings that these public services have already built up in the framework of several initiatives/research projects in the past?

6. Final product to be delivered

a. By the research team:

- A report containing a literature study of concepts that are relevant for a life-course approach;
- Identification and development of possible variables;
- An inventory of databases and exploitation possibilities (including a linking);
- A description of a concept of a global model for "data warehousing" in function of social-economic health differences and equity problems, with stress on the longitudinal (life-course) perspective;
- Description of the current practical problems for the exploitation of data for longitudinal research

b. For the Public Institution

Before the start of the project, the FPS Social Security makes an overview of the existing inventories and makes a report of the consultations with the research team, the Health Care Knowledge Centre, the Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology and the National Institute for Sickness and Invalidity Insurance.

7. Valorisation of the final product

a. For the public institution: integration of the end product into its own way of working

In consultation with the Health Care Knowledge Centre and the National Institute for Sickness and Invalidity Insurance, the FPS Social Security will implement the "health information system" described by the researchers, in view of:

- Recurrent reports (per trimester, per six months, per year, ...)
- The analysis of policy proposals in a national and international context (working groups SPC, OECD etc.)
- carrying out policy-oriented research itself

b. for the 'public': access conditions and modalities for scientific users and for the general public

Scientific valorisation of the literature study and the conceptual framework is desirable. Health accounts will be made available to the public.

8. Timing, planning of the tasks

a. timing of the activities:

1 September 2006 - 31 August 2007

b. planning of the activities for the scientific team

Phase 1: Development of a conceptual framework on the basis of international comparative research ("best practices") that will be presented during a first consultation with the Health Care Knowledge Centre, the Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology and the National Institute for Sickness and Invalidity Insurance, organised by the FPS Social Security.
Phase 2: Definition and implementing of the variables.

¹ see website (only in French and Dutch): <http://www.kenniscentrum.fgov.be/nl/>

Phase 3: A motivated evaluation of the quality of the existing data bases, in view of the development of the described "health information system" and formulation of suggestions for improvement

9. Special conditions

a. Suggestions for the composition of the support committee

Representatives of the following institutions: the Health Care Knowledge Centre, the Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology, the FPS Social Security, the National Institute for Sickness and Invalidity Insurance and representatives of the communities.

b. Presence of the research team in the institution

Not required.