



Madrid, October 16, 2008. Ernest Lluch's Assembly Room of the Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs.

ROUND-TABLE 1: ON HEALTH MATTERS, HOW ARE WE? The health surveys

COMMUNICATION 4: The European Health Survey

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SUMMARY

Although a great part of the EU and the OCDE make health surveys directed to the whole of the population, there is no uniformity among them, fact that creates difficulties for providing joint indicators for the planning of the common policies in the EU.

With the aim of being in keeping with the information and having common indicators, it has been working during the last years in the inners of the EU, in work groups run by Eurostat, in which as the Minister of Health and Consumer Affairs (“MSC”) as the “INE” have taken part.

It has been agreed a single questionnaire divided into four modules: European Health State Module (EHSM), European Health Determinants Module (EHDM), European Health Care Module (EHCM) and European Backgrounds Module (EBM), common to all household surveys. The project is called *European Health Interview Survey (EHIS)* and in Spain will be conducted for the first time with the name of *European Health Survey. EES-09*.

A big number of countries have already made it (since 2006) or else will be collected in 2009. In Spain, the translation and the previous cognitive test was made in order to assure a better adaptation to the questions and at last, the project is fully programmed, which what field works will be started on March 2009. The period of gathering of data will last 12 months (from March 2009 to February 2010).

The collection of data method will be that of Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI). The interview is made in a joint manner between the interviewer and the interviewee, excepting the questions about “One’s own pocket cost”, “Tobacco consumption”, “Alcohol consumption” and “Drug consumption”, which are answered preserving the intimacy of the reply (self-administered).

In 2013 is planned the second edition, this time under a European Council and Parliament Regulation, which is nearly completely approved. The “EES” shall have a 5-year periodicity then.

As in the countries of its vicinities, in Spain the National Health Survey (“ENSE”) is carried out too. Since 1987, when the first one was made, the “MSC” has made 7 editions, the last two of them in cooperation with the “INE”.

The last version, 2006, is now adapted in some way to the European test. In spite of that, the final survey of the European Health Survey 2009 differs in some key points from the “ENSE-2006”: periods of reference of many questions are changed (for instance, the receipt of the health status in the present moment which the EHIS determines in opposition with the health status perception in the last 12 months which computes the “ENS”). In the second place, questions aren’t customized to the reality of the own healthcare system and finally the organization methodology of the survey is different (exists a self-administered part in the European Survey).