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COORDINATION OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL WORK IN THE UNECE REGION

Health state survey module: Budapest Initiative - Mark 1

Note by the Joint UNECE/WHO/Eurostat Task Force on Measuring Health Status

INTRODUCTION

1. The objective of this paper is to present the Budapest Initiative - Mark 1 version of the survey module for measuring health state as prepared by the UNECE/WHO/Eurostat Task Force on Measuring Health Status (see below). The module is a collaborative effort among representatives from Member Countries and international organizations working in health statistics to develop internationally comparable measures of health status. The BI-M1 is a milestone in this direction.

I. BACKGROUND AND PROCESS

2. The Joint UNECE/WHO/Eurostat Task Force on Measuring Health Status was established at the 2004 Joint UNECE/WHO/Eurostat Meeting on the Measurement of Health Status and was approved in October 2004 by the Bureau of the CES. The overall objective of the Task Force is to develop a common instrument to measure health status in its multiple dimensions.

3. Since its inception the Task Force has: developed a conceptual framework defining the concepts of health status and health state, decided on a set of criteria for selecting the functional domains to be included, selected a set of domains, developed a question set to measure the

selected domains, and written a testing protocol to evaluate the questions. This work was carried out via email, audioconference calls, and one Plenary Session and one Task Force meeting. Further details on the activities to date follow.

4. In 2005, a Joint UNECE/WHO/Eurostat Meeting on the Measurement of Health Status was held in Budapest, at which the work of the Task Force was presented to delegates from Member Countries and international organizations. From this meeting onward, the work of the Task Force has been referred to as the Budapest Initiative (BI).

5. Considering the feedback from the Budapest meeting, the Task Force further defined the domain selection, developed questions for each domain, and produced a testing protocol for the survey instrument. By late 2006, Task Force members were asked to carry out cognitive testing of the Budapest Initiative questions. The testing was conducted in four countries (Australia, Canada, Italy, US) using the protocol developed by the Task Force, as well as in a limited number of EU countries (Denmark, Spain) using protocols for tests of the European Health Interview Survey.

6. In January 2007, the Task Force met and finalized and approved the survey module to be used to produce internationally comparable estimates of the measurement of health state for the next 3 to 4 years (referred to as the Budapest Initiative Mark 1 (BI-M1) module).

II. RECOMMENDATION TO THE CES

7. In February 2007, the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians welcomed with appreciation the finalization by the Budapest Initiative survey module on health state (BI-MARK 1) to be used in the CES region to assure comparability across countries. It noted that, as previously agreed, the survey module will be delivered to Eurostat by end of February to allow EU countries to include it in their forthcoming health interview surveys. The Bureau decided to present the module to the June CES Session for final endorsement with a recommendation that it should be approved without any changes.

8. The Bureau noted that the BI will continue to work toward a refinement of the survey instrument which could be finalized within 2-3 years. It also asked the BI to consider the collection of the comparable data by a regional or international organization.

III. PRODUCTS

9. During 2005, the Task Force produced three papers defining the scope of its work. These papers are entitled *Health as a Multi-dimensional Construct and Cross-population Comparability*, *Criteria for and Selection of Domains for the Measurement of Health Status*, and *Conceptual and Logistic Issues in Item Construction and Proposed Questions for Domains*. For further information, please see the following website:

<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2005.11.health.htm>

10. Additional documents produced by the Task Force are the testing protocol and reports of the cognitive testing in each of the four countries. These documents as well as a report from EU testing prepared by Eurostat were presented at the January 2007 Task Force meeting. They are currently available within the Secretariat, and will be publicly available soon.

11. In February 2007, the Task Force delivered to Eurostat, as per the previous agreement, the Budapest Initiative - Mark 1 (BI-M1) survey module with the recommendation that the questions be used as a set (questions below).

IV. FUTURE WORK

12. The next steps of the Task Force are to continue to refine the BI-M1 survey instrument and to develop and test newly developed questions. Canada and the US have agreed to conduct additional testing. Other countries need to reassess their resources but there was interest in further research.

13. The Task Force will develop additional documents to serve as background information for reference in the implementation of the module.

14. The scheduled 2007 Plenary Meeting has been postponed until results are available from the survey instrument. In the interim, it was agreed that the BI module will be disseminated and presented at all possible venues. For example, the BI-M1 is being presented to the Conference of European Statisticians via this report.

15. At the upcoming meeting of the International Statistical Institute (ISI) to be held in August 2007 in Lisbon, a session is planned around the work of the Budapest Initiative. Papers on the development of the BI survey module will be prepared and presented by the Task Force, along with papers on challenges of cross-cultural comparability, measuring health status using clinical trials, and measuring population health status in surveys and censuses.

ANNEX
BUDAPEST INITIATIVE – MARK 1 (FEBRUARY 2007)
A SURVEY MODULE FOR MEASURING HEALTH STATE

Prepared by the Joint UNECE/WHO/Eurostat Task Force on Measuring Health Status

Preamble to the BI-M1:

"Now I am going to ask you some further questions about your general mental and physical health. These questions deal with your ability to do different daily activities, as well as with how you have been feeling. Although some of these questions may seem similar to ones you have already answered, it is important that we ask them all."

General instructions to interviewer:

If respondent asks about time frame, say: "Please answer according to how you have been during the past week."

Vision

1. [Do/Does] [you/he/she] wear glasses or contact lenses?

1. Yes (*Mention aids when asking VIS-2 and VIS-3*)
2. No
3. Don't Know
4. Refused

2. How much difficulty [do/does] [you/he/she] have in clearly seeing someone's face across a room?

(If answer above = yes) ... when using your glasses or contact lenses?

Would you say: no difficulty, a little difficulty, a lot of difficulty, or are you unable to do this?

☐ no difficulty ☐ a little difficulty ☐ a lot of difficulty ☐ unable

3. How much difficulty [do/does] [you/he/she] have clearly seeing printed text in a newspaper?

(If answer above = yes) ... when using your glasses or contact lenses?

Would you say: no difficulty, a little difficulty, a lot of difficulty, or are you unable to do this?

☐ no difficulty ☐ a little difficulty ☐ a lot of difficulty ☐ unable

Hearing

1. [Do/Does] [you/he/she] wear a hearing aid?

1. Yes (*Mention aids when reading HEAR-2 and HEAR-3*)
2. No
3. Don't Know
4. Refused

2. How much difficulty [do/does] [you/he/she] have hearing what is said in a conversation with one other person in a noisy room where there are several other conversations going on?
(*If answer above = yes*) ... when using your hearing aid?

Would you say: no difficulty, a little difficulty, a lot of difficulty, or are you unable to do this?

- ☐ no difficulty ☐ a little difficulty ☐ a lot of difficulty ☐ unable
(*Skip to
WALKING section*)

3. How much difficulty [do/does] [you/he/she] have hearing what is said in a conversation with one other person in a quiet room? (*If answer above = yes*) ... when using your hearing aid?

Would you say: no difficulty, a little difficulty, a lot of difficulty, or are you unable to do this?

- ☐ no difficulty ☐ a little difficulty ☐ a lot of difficulty ☐ unable

Walking

1. [Do/Does] [you/he/she] use any aids or equipment for walking or moving around?

1. Yes (*Go WALK-1b*)
2. No (*Go to WALK -2*)
3. Don't Know (*Go to WALK -2*)
4. Refused (*Go to WALK -2*)

1a. Which of the following types of aids or equipment [do/does] [you/he/she] use?

Interviewer: Read the following list and record all affirmative responses:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------|-------|
| a. cane or walking stick? | 1. yes | 2. no |
| b. walker? | 1. yes | 2. no |
| c. crutches? | 1. yes | 2. no |
| d. wheelchair? | 1. yes | 2. no |
| e. someone's assistance? | 1. yes | 2. no |

f. other (specify: _____)

2. How much difficulty [do/does] [you/he/she] have walking 500 metres on level ground that would be about _____ (*insert country-specific example*)?
(if yes to aids, above) ... without using [your/his/her] _____ [mention the aid from 1b]?

Would you say: no difficulty, a little difficulty, a lot of difficulty, or are you unable to do this?

☐ no difficulty ☐ a little difficulty ☐ a lot of difficulty ☐ unable
(Skip to
WALK 4)

Note: Allow national equivalents for 500 metres.

3. How much difficulty [do/does] [you/he/she] have walking 100 metres on level ground that would be about _____ (*insert country-specific example*)?
(if yes to aids, above) ... without using [your/his/her] _____ [mention the aid from 1b]?

Would you say: no difficulty, a little difficulty, a lot of difficulty, or are you unable to do this?

☐ no difficulty ☐ a little difficulty ☐ a lot of difficulty ☐ unable

Note: Allow national equivalents for 100 metres.

4. How much difficulty [do/does] [you/he/she] have walking up and down a flight of stairs, (if yes above) without using [your/his/her] [your/his/her] _____ [mention the aid from 1b]?

Would you say: no difficulty, a little difficulty, a lot of difficulty, or are you unable to do this?

☐ no difficulty ☐ a little difficulty ☐ a lot of difficulty ☐ unable

Pain

Overall, during the past week, how much physical pain or physical discomfort did you have?

Would you say: none at all, a little, moderate, a lot, or extreme physical pain or physical discomfort?

Interviewer: If respondent asks whether they are to answer about their pain when taking their medications, say: "Please answer according to whatever medication you were taking."

☐ none at all ☐ a little ☐ moderate ☐ a lot ☐
extreme

Cognition

How much difficulty [do/does] you have remembering important things?

Would you say: no difficulty, a little difficulty, a lot of difficulty, or are you unable to do this?

☐ no difficulty ☐ a little difficulty ☐ a lot of difficulty ☐ unable

Affect

Interviewer: If respondent asks whether they are to answer about their emotional states after taking mood-regulating medications, say: "Please answer according to whatever medication you were taking."

1. Overall, during the past week, how worried, nervous, or anxious did you [he/she] feel?

Would you say: not at all, slightly, moderately, a lot, or extremely worried, nervous, or anxious?

Note: Translators should use culturally appropriate terms to convey the spectrum of mood. Note that 'nervous' may have a special meaning in English that will have to be interpreted carefully in other languages.

☐ not at all ☐ slightly ☐ moderately ☐ a lot ☐ extremely

2. Overall, during the past week, how sad, low, or depressed did you [he/she] feel?

Would you say: not at all, slightly, moderately, a lot, or extremely worried, nervous, or anxious?

Note: Translators should use culturally appropriate terms to convey a spectrum of mood.

☐ not at all ☐ slightly ☐ moderately ☐ a lot ☐ extremely

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