



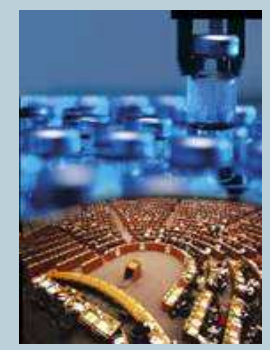
MHADIE Project Partners:

- Neurological Institute C. Besta IRCCS Foundation (I)
- World Health Organization (CH)
- European Federation of Neurological Associations (B)
- Mälardalen University (S)
- Zurich University of Applied Sciences, School of Education (CH)
- Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia, Agenzia Regione Sanità (I)
- Institut Municipal d'Investigació Mèdica (E)
- Regione Lombardia (I)
- National Authority for the Persons with Handicap (RO)
- National Disability Authority (IRL)
- Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (E)
- Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich (D)
- Charles University (CZ)
- University Hospital of Hamburg (D)
- Institute for Rehabilitation, Republic of Slovenia (SI)
- CF Consulting Finanziamenti Unione europea s.r.l. (I)
- Subcontractors**
- Don C. Gnocchi IRCCS Foundation (I)
- Disability Italian Network (I)

MHADIE

Measuring Health and Disability in Europe: Supporting Policy Development

A European Coordination Action for Policy Support



www.mhadie.it





MHADIE Project aims

The EU MHADIE Project employs the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) as its operational model and conceptual background.

The MHADIE aims are:

- a) to use ICF model of disability to analyze and evaluate existing sources;
- b) to demonstrate that the ICF model is adequate for describing and measuring patterns of disability;
- c) to show that ICF is useful and reliable for data collection and analysis in clinical, rehabilitation and educational sectors;
- d) to make policy recommendations and guidelines on health and disability for European Union.

European countries define and measure disability differently and this makes it impossible to have common policy guidelines for persons with disabilities. The MHADIE project was developed to be cross-cultural in approach and the European Commission has decided that MHADIE Project will provide important tools to improve European health and disability data analysis capacity.

Methodology

The MHADIE Project covered three main research areas:

- Statistical Area: to improve methodologies to analyze existing databases;
- Clinical Area: to collect data on functioning of clinical samples (1200 patients, 12 different diagnoses, 5 European countries);
- Educational Area: to apply the ICF model in different educational contexts across Europe and develop the MAP-EP.

Results

ICF, ICF-CY (and also the ICF Checklist and WHO-DAS II) were used to provide a common and multi-linguistic platform for different settings, different samples and applications.

MHADIE Protocol looked into the impact of health and disability far beyond diagnosis, in different daily living activities and linked statistical and clinical data.

MHADIE and policy planning

By addressing the difficult policy challenge of defining planning guidelines for health, social and educational policy in Europe, MHADIE researchers took important steps to answering the following policy issues:

- *How do we guarantee transferability and comparability of data on health and disability among European countries?*
- *How do we collect data of functioning and disability using ICF the model in different European contexts?*
- *How do we identify missing data that is important for health and disability and education? How will these gaps be filled?*
- *How do we provide health and disability data in a coherent and comparative way for all European policy makers?*

Conclusions

MHADIE Project results provide the background and justification for recommendations that will help to design new European policy on health and disability. These recommendations can be downloaded in draft form at www.mhadie.it. The final version will be sent definitely to EU Commission in April 2008.

MHADIE researchers have proposed a **definition of disability** as an important aim project, for them the condition of disability does not concern only a separate, minority group of individuals but the whole human condition.

DISABILITY is a difficulty in functioning at the body, person, or societal levels, in one or more life domains, as experienced by an individual with a health condition in interaction with contextual factors.

Leonardi M., Bickenbach J., Ustun T.B., Kostanjsek N., Chatterji S. on behalf of the MHADIE Consortium,
The definition of disability: what is in name.
The Lancet, Vol 368, Oct 7, 2006, 1219-21

The UN Convention for Person with Disabilities is grounded on this conception of disability and underscores how ICF could reflect the common life experience of disability. The UN Convention asks all Member States to recognize the full range of rights that secure inclusion and full participation for persons with disabilities.