

## Minutes of the second meeting of the MINDFUL project

19–20 November 2004

Ministry of Health, Travessera de Les Corts 131-159 (19<sup>th</sup> of November)

Hotel NH Rallye (20<sup>th</sup> of November), Barcelona

### Present:

Ville Lehtinen

Kristian Wahlbeck

Ulla Katila-Nurkka

Antti Tuomi-Nikula

Juha Lavikainen

Tom Fryers

Eva Jane-Llopis

Heinz Katschnig

Viviane Kovess

Agustin Ozamiz

### Apologies:

Jürgen Scheftlein

Andrej Marusic

Tanja Kamin

### **Welcome and opening of the meeting**

The participants were welcomed by a representative of the Catalonian Ministry of Health, who gave a short presentation of the history of the premises (an old beautifully refurbished maternity hospital) where the meeting took place. He also described briefly the main functions of his organisation.

Ville Lehtinen opened the official meeting. He introduced some changes to the agenda mainly due to later arrival times of some of the participants. These changes were accepted.

### **General action plan**

The meeting started with a presentation of Kristian Wahlbeck, who outlined the general action plan of MINDFUL and described its connections to other actions and initiatives<sup>1</sup>. In view of the data collection Kristian mentioned that that is not the task of MINDFUL but rather one of Eurostat. MINDFUL will, however, have an important role in suggesting relevant items to Eurostat and the Commission developments in the field of mental health information. One further option is that within a continuation project - MINDFUL 2 - European standards will be suggested to enhance harmonisation of data definitions and collection.

Kristian noted that in the longer run it is elementary to start a dialogue with the authorities and agencies responsible for the implementation of the surveys at a national level. As to the database that is being designed in STAKES, Kristian said that the aim is to divide the data according to age, sex, region, longitudinal series, socioeconomic status. In addition, metadata such as definitions will be added. The possibilities to construct a web-based database are currently being explored.

The discussion stressed the need to integrate the projects within MINDFUL and their outcomes. The issue of conflicting definitions was brought up, together with the fact that many of the topics dealing with (mental) health information are in a constantly fluctuating state. It seems that the ECHI short list will be highly important in the future developments. A report on a minimum data set for mental health has just been released in the UK, and the urgency of contemplating how this relates to the EU level was underlined.

### **STAKES' role in MINDFUL**

In the presentation by Juha Lavikainen and Antti Tuomi-Nikula, the role and tasks of STAKES were explained. On one hand, STAKES is responsible for the co-ordination of the whole MINDFUL project, and on the other, STAKES also carries out an individual partnership project with the aim of focusing on and refining the mental health indicators.

In this presentation, the basics of the MINDFUL-database were introduced and the current status as to the availability of the indicators unveiled. At present, the database consists of the 36 indicators selected and defined in the previous indicator project.

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that all Powerpoint presentations are annexed to the minutes and not referred to as such in the text.

In the following discussion, the "double-role" of STAKES was further specified and clarified. The width and coverage of the selected set of indicators was also addressed, and it is by no means a definitive selection that was introduced in this presentation. In contrast, there is a clear need to progress with the database along with the outcomes with all the partnership projects.

### **Partnership project presentations**

The status and coordination of the partnership projects followed (see Attachments).

The need to focus on the different languages and cultures was highlighted in this presentation. The main contribution of the MGEN project to MINDFUL is relating to the validity of the survey instruments. A golden standard of the most feasible clinical interviews will be developed allowing better comparability of the surveys.

The project of the University of Leicester investigates the question whether risk factors can be translated into indicators. The focus is on a description of the childhood determinants and on exploring what kind of indicators could be useful for future development.

The project of the University of Deusto deals mainly with the macrolevel indicators of positive mental health (which describe some feature of a community or society). His project aims to utilise the DELPHI-methodology in its future developments. As the project in some of its aspects comes close to the one carried out by Radboud University Nijmegen (IMHPA) the mutual benefits need to be discussed further between these two partnership project leaders.

The project of the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute has proceeded very far at this stage. This project explores the mental health service use in six member states and has found that there are large differences in numbers which are provided by different sources. The persistent problem of defining a psychiatric bed was highlighted. In the discussion it was noted that common denominator concerning service use data seems to be very small and that normally the financing systems are the ones that dominate. An important deliverable of this project is expected to be the recommendations through which the systems may be improved.

The project of the Radboud University Nijmegen investigates the infrastructures which are available and link these with MINDFUL. The project also gathers the quality indicators and delivers the training (by a cascade model - training the trainers). It also links to the project on European Masters on Health Promotion (EUMAHP), and aims to "bring the indicators into the real world".

In the following discussion it was noted that there is a lot of common ground in the projects of Agustin, Tom and Eva, and the outcomes should be integrated, hence the potential for synergistic benefits needs to be explored and exploited. One means of doing this is to strengthen the communication between the respective project leaders.

### **Future plans**

The working lunch served as a brainstorming session with regard to the Call for Proposals 2005 and in view of the prospects for MINDFUL 2. The Call for Proposals is expected at the beginning of 2005 with a timeframe of 2 months for submitting a proposal. Kristian noted that in order to ensure the continuation of MINDFUL, an application needs to be submitted to the next call, and hence, the planning of the contents of the application needs to be started soon (one possibility for an informal planning session is in connection to the WHO ministerial conference in Helsinki in January in which most of the partners are participating). It is possible, that some changes in the consortium may take place. Kristian mentioned the urgency of taking into account the micro/meso/macro levels when drawing up the plan.

MINDFUL 2 could focus on the gaps in current indicators; e.g. social services and mental health of children. Possibilities for data-mining from electronic patient records, electronic health cards and insurance databases should be explored. Country partners for harmonisation of data collection should be identified. A quality control system should be developed and the mental health information system evaluated. A special emphasis on less developed indicators, such as inequalities, promotion and prevention activities and mental health policy, could be included in MINDFUL 2.

### **Financial and contractual issues**

The general situation concerning the financial and contractual issues was reviewed by Ulla Katila-Nurkka (see Attachment). The principles were outlined and details discussed based on the questions raised by the partners. The subcontracts with the "third parties" were discussed. There was the e.g. need to clarify how the unexpected costs can be utilised. This was to be found out directly from the official at the financial department of the Commission after the meeting.

### **The interim report**

Juha presented the principles and contents (see Attachment) of the interim report which is due to be delivered no later than 15<sup>th</sup> of May 2005 to the Commission. In order to produce a coherent report STAKES will need to receive the contributions of the partnership projects at least one and a half months in advance (no later than 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2005).

### **EPREMED**

Dr. Jordi Alonso gave a presentation on EPREMED (European Policy Information Research for Mental Disorders), a three-year project which starts in January 2005 (the project has been accepted for funding and the negotiations with the Commission are underway). In short, the project focuses on improving the understanding of the indicators of mental health and on bridging the gap between research and policymaking. As it is foreseen that MINDFUL and EPREMED share the same ground to a certain extent (especially with regard to indicators on positive mental health) it is of great importance that the project officers will communicate with each other and exchange information on a regular basis.

### **Next meetings**

It was decided that the next meeting will be held in Helsinki on 10–11 June 2005 and the one after that in Vienna on 18–19 November 2005. Other subsequent events foreseen in this context are bilateral teleconferences with STAKES and the partnership project leaders in February, in order to work on the interim report and an informal meeting between those who will attend the WHO Ministerial Conference in Helsinki on 12–15 January 2005.

### **The MINDFUL report**

The draft contents of the "MINDFUL report", which will be the joint outcome of the project were introduced next. It was agreed that the length of this report should not exceed some 150 pages (meaning about 10-15 pages - 3000-5000 words per partnership project). Other comments were that the quality indicators need to be discussed in the report and that Eva's project will also be described in the report in the same way as the others (the corrected version as attachment). Each project will produce its own report which will then be edited and integrated into the MINDFUL report by STAKES. The next step is to start outlining the contents of the individual chapters.

### **Closing of the meeting**

Ville Lehtinen thanked the participants for their participation and contributions and closed the meeting at 17:27.

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