

Washington City Group on Disability Statistics

RESEARCH PROJECT:

**“GENERAL MEASURE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN THE EUROPEAN
STATISTICAL SYSTEM (E.S.S.)”**

**Comparative Analysis of Minimum European Health Module and
Questions Used in Europe**

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2003

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1. Introduction

The Minimum European Health Module

The increasing need for information and knowledge of the progress made in the domains of health, health related and social indicators (Commission Health Monitoring Programme of the European Statistical System: ESS), have made it necessary to establish a proposal for an EU programme on the coherent development of consistent disability statistics.

During a meeting of experts from the MS, held in Brussels on 31 January and 1 February 2002, the following aim was formulated: “the program of the ESS should aim at a minimum set of items with reference questions and data to be available in the EU (all MS and Eurostat) by 2006, at least for supporting in a regular way disability and disability related programmes and public health programmes of the Community.”

The emphasis is on population-based surveys as the backbone of a statistical information system for disability and related matters. Therefore disability items and questions/instruments have been proposed for their use into **a census or general nation wide surveys**. This is the first priority of the Washington City Group on Disability Statistics.

A set of three general disability/health items and questions have been proposed to be use in surveys at a European level. This set is called the **Minimum European Health Module (MEHM)**. The three MEHM questions should be used as one entity and not as separate questions. The MEHM is already included in the “Survey on Income and Living Conditions”(SILC) questionnaire.

The MEHM (reference instrument) is:

1. How is your health in general?	<i>Very good / Good / Fair / Bad / Very bad.</i>
2. Do you have any long-standing illness or health problem?	<i>Yes / No.</i>
3. For at least the past 6 months, have you been limited in activities people usually do because of a health problem?	<i>Yes, strongly limited / Yes, limited / No, not limited.</i>

The SILC questionnaires have been accepted by the appropriate Working group of Eurostat and as such are a formally accepted reference instrument at EU level for use in the European Statistical System (ESS).

This also means that Member States (MS) should justify the possible adaptations of national (operational) instruments.

It was stressed that due to differences in culture and language the emphasis should not be on common instruments but rather on common items and agreed related reference questions or instruments, leaving the operationalization of the reference questions and /or instruments at national level.

The MEHM is based upon a Euro-REVES recommendation and it takes into account the results of several research projects particularly on the development of common instruments, e.g. EuroHis of WHO-Euro (financed by BIOMEDII programme), REVES etc.

This report presents the main results of a comparative analysis between MEHM and questions used in surveys and census in State members of the European Statistical System. The main goal of this analysis was to see how many surveys and which ones had already used one or more of the MEHM questions, and their similarities and differences in comparison with the MEHM instruments proposed.

The research activity was carried out by ISTAT (Italian National Institute of Statistics) in collaboration with M. De Smedt, J. Bonte, M. de Klein, as preparatory work at a European level for further activities of the Washington City Group.

Selection of Surveys and Questions

For our purpose it was decided to focus only on population-based surveys (administrative data sources were not taken into account). The fully harmonized EU-wide surveys (European Community Household Panel -ECHP, European Labour Force Survey -LFS, Survey on Income and Living Conditions -SILC) were included and analyzed using the questions given as reference instruments to the MS.

To have an overview of all surveys carried out in Europe and those related to health/disability issues, it was necessary to collect information by using reference documents (HIS/HES database) and by sending a letter to all Member States (MS) asking them to submit questions used as general measures to identify persons with disabilities.

Hungary, an EU Candidate Country, was also included because it is represented by Eva Gardos at the Ottawa meeting.

As a result, an Inventory was done (*see Appendix 1*) with a total of n. 86 surveys.

As a reference the following documents were used:

- "EUROSTAT Disability Project: Survey data on disability" (1999)¹
- "Inventory of survey data on disability in EU member state" (2002)²
- European Commission's "European Health Interviews & Health Examination Surveys" (HIS/HES) database³ (version of July and of November 2002).

Because of the large number of surveys available, it was decided to adopt the following criteria to select surveys for an analysis of the General Measure Questions on disability:

1. **Survey typology:** all types of survey - census, health interview, health examination with a self-completed questionnaire component, social surveys, designated disability surveys - were included if they were carried out at national level.
2. **Period of time:** from 1998 to 2002. Some exceptions were made for countries which did not have surveys in the identified period such as Greece (EL01,1991) or Luxembourg (L01, 1996), Portugal (P01, 1995; P02, 1994) and Switzerland (Ch01,1997).

Following these criteria, a total of 54 surveys were selected. Details on these surveys, where available, are included in Appendix 2

¹ "EUROSTAT Disability Project:: Survey Data on Disability", Final Project Report (15 October 1999), prepared by: Claire Gudex, Stine Hvitved Christensen, Niels Rasmussen, National Institute of Public Health, Copenhagen (DK)

² "Inventory of survey data on disability in EU member state" (2002), prepared by: Denise M. Sanderson, Niels Kr. Rasmussen, National Institute of Public Health, Copenhagen (DK)

³ The European Commission's "European Health Interviews & Health Examination Surveys (HIS/HES)database.

In some cases the same survey has more than one question on the topic and both of them were taken into account (e.g.: I04, N01). Furthermore, the same survey which was carried out more than once in the defined period of time (e.g.: I03 and I04; IRL01 and IRL03, IRL02 and IRL04) was taken into consideration.

For an overview of surveys using questions related to MEHM see *Appendix 3a*, and for an overview of the questions see *Appendix 3b*.

Criteria for analysing similarity and difference in the instruments used were identified. (see *Appendix 4*).

To present the results of the comparison between MEHM questions and the other questions three tables were developed, one for each MEHM question (see *Appendix 5, 6, 7*).

In the following pages, the results of this analysis will be presented for each question related to MEHM. Each analysis will be introduced by a brief description of the MEHM question and the criteria used for the analysis.

2. Analysis of surveys and main results

First question of MEHM – “Perceived Health: General Question”

A simple question on the self-perception of health status (SPH) is one of the most commonly used in health interview surveys.

How is your health in general?

Very good / Good / Fair / Bad / Very bad.

Self Perceived Health (SPH) is a global measure that includes the different dimensions of health, i.e. physical, social and emotional function and biomedical signs and symptoms. Where as with many health indicators we get only a partial indication of health, SPH appears to be an effective summary of health.

Its “holistic” approach and its generalization of the health concept, as well as the comprehensiveness of the population responses, allows it to be used when comparing different populations (Euro-REVES, 2002)

The instrument is based on the existing recommendations; the question chosen is that already recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO-Europe,1996). Its importance has been also acknowledged by the Euro-REVES project on “Setting up of a coherent set of health expectancies for the European Union”, carried out under the European Health Monitoring Programme .

A systematically reviewed research on the self-perceived health measurement instrument (with particular reference to the essential characteristics and quality assessment when measurement of perceived health are used cross nationally) has been presented in the Final Report of the Euro-REVES project (Coherent Set of Health Indicators for the European Union, Chapter 6, (Euro-REVES, 2002).

Context / Brief Summary

In recognition of the need to elicit an individual's own assessment of his/her health and of the considerable advantages of measuring overall health through the use of a simple question, the notion of 'self-perceived health' (SPH) has become popular.

SPH is considered to be one of the best health indicators at both, an individual and population level. *Several cross-sectional and longitudinal studies have demonstrated its relationship with other health status variables, thus reinforcing its validity as a global indicator of health.*

SPH has consistently been shown to be a good predictor of general and specific mortality, by selected causes, over both a short and long term period, as well as of the future functional capacity of individuals. This characteristic has stimulated the increased use of SPH in clinical and public health surveys as a key indicator of individual health status. It has become a commonly used indicator available in many countries. Furthermore, the association between SPH and physical symptoms, limitations on daily activities and the use of health services has also been well documented. The level of perception of bad health in the population is a clear indication on the needs, services and health care requirements of a community.

Question Characteristics

Domain	<i>The reference domain is a general state of health.</i>
Format	<i>The proposed indicator is an absolute, single-item measure of SPH.</i>
Age reference	<i>The question is not age related.</i>
Time reference	<i>The question is not time limited.</i> <i>The exact wording of the question is absolute in that it omits any reference to either an age or time comparison.</i> <i>WHO argues that the inclusion of such comparisons would prevent the monitoring of progress in the average health of a population.</i>
General wording	<i>The reference is to 'health in general' rather than 'present state of health'.</i> <i>The question is not intended to measure temporary health problems.</i> <i>Short-term disturbances should ideally not influence answers to the question (WHO-Europe, 1996).</i>
Response categories	<i>Five: Very good / Good / Fair / Bad / Very bad.</i>

Main Results

The following criteria have been used in the analysis process and in filling out the related table (see also *Appendix 5*)

Absolute format	<i>It refers to questions that do not specifically ask the respondents to compare their health with others of the same age or with their own previous or future health state.</i> <i>Answers categories: Yes / No (when comparison is asked).</i>
Age reference	<i>When the respondent is specifically asked to compare their health with others of the same age.</i> <i>Answers categories: Yes / No.</i>

Time reference	<i>When the wording includes a reference time. Answers categories: Yes (with detail on the time reference) / No.</i>
Verbs used (What respondents are asked to do with respect to SPH)	<i>What respondents are asked to do with respect to self-perceived-health. It reports the verb used.</i>
What the respondent must analyse	<i>It relates to the object of the analysis. The different expressions used referring to "health" are reported.</i>
Use of generalising words	<i>It reports whether a general word is used. Answers categories: Yes / No.</i>
Response categories	<i>The response categories are reported (nominal or numerical).</i>

A total of 42 European surveys, out of the surveys analyzed, containing questions on SPH were identified, however two surveys (I04 and N01) included more than one SPH question. As a result, 44 questions have been examined.

If we take into consideration the instrument as a whole (question-wording and answer categories), only 5 surveys (B02, B03, Bc02, I01, I04 –in both questions) out of 42 surveys have identical wording proposed by MEHM.

It must be underlined that among the others surveys in some cases differences are minimal such as in F09 "How is your general state of health?", or in P01 "What is your general state of health?" or in S01 and S02 "In your opinion, how is your state of health?" or in UK02 "How is your health in general? Would you say it was...?", or in H01 "What do you think about your health in general?".

In other cases the wording is quite different (such as for example in E02 "In the last twelve months, i.e. since February 2000, would you consider your health as being very good, good, normal, bad or very bad?", in F03 "Can you indicate, between 0 and 10, your state of health?" or in IS02 "In general, how do you evaluate your physical health? Do you find it very good, good, fair or poor?" or in IS03 "Are you generally in good or poor health? Do you find it very good, good, fair or poor?").

If we take into consideration only answer categories, the number of surveys using exactly MEHM answer-categories is higher (13 surveys, plus at least another 3 in which the difference seems to be related to English translation).

Differences in wording among the selected ones appear according to:

Absolute format	<i>Only two surveys use a not absolute format, as described above: F08 and F12. Same survey carried out in two different years: 1999 and 2001 ask "Compared with other people of your age, would you describe your state of health as...". They use an age-related format to measure SPH.</i>
Time reference	<i>28 out of 42 surveys do not refer to any time frame and use the verb in the present tense. 14 surveys out of 42 use a time-limited format, as they include a reference towards time in their questions when measuring SPH. In the majority of these surveys (11 out of 14), respondents are asked, in particular, about their 'present' or 'current' state of health using the follows expressions: "Now" (CH01, CH02), "Present" (D02, Dk02, FIN01, FIN06, FIN09), "At present" (F05, F07, F11), "Now days" (FIN03). While the others 3 surveys refer to the past: "In the last 12 months" (E02), "Over 12 months" (UK11, UK15).</i>

Verbs used (What respondents are asked to do with respect to SPH)	<i>For instance, several verbs were present in the wordings as follows:</i>	
	<i>To be (“...how is your...”)</i>	<i>11 surveys: B02, B03, Bc02, F09, FIN03, I01, I04 (in both questions), NL03, P01, S01, S02.</i>
	<i>To say</i>	<i>10 surveys: D05, EL02, IRL01, IRL02, IRL03, IRL04, N01 (in only one question), UK02, UK11, UK15.</i>
	<i>To assess / to evaluate</i>	<i>5 surveys: A01, FIN01, FIN06, FIN09, IS02.</i>
<p><i>Verbs such as to describe and to consider were both used in only one question in 4 surveys, i.e. in D02, F08, F12, N01 respectively; also in E02, F05, F07, F11. While CH01, CH02, L01 surveys use ‘to feel’ and DK02, E04 uses ‘to rate’.</i></p> <p><i>Each of the following verbs were used in only 1 survey: ‘to find’ (FIN07), ‘to indicate’ (F03), ‘to think about’ (H01).</i></p> <p><i>Nevertheless, more than one verb is used in several wordings. The most common combination in a wording is ‘to say’ and ‘to be’ e.g. “In general, would you say your health is...” (D05, IRL01, IRL03, N01); “Would you say that your health, during the last 12 months was..” (EL02); “In general, how good would you say your health is? Would you say it is...” (IRL02, IRL04), or “How is your health in general? Would you say it was” (UK02); “Over the last twelve months would you say your health has on the whole been good, fairly good, or No good?” (UK11); “Over the last twelve months would you say your health has on the whole been?” (UK15).</i></p>		
What the respondent must “analyse”	<p><i>This refers to different expressions used for concept of health.</i></p> <p><i>The majority of the surveys (21 out of 42) use only the word “Health”: B02, B03, Bc02, D05, E02, E04, EL02, I01, I04 (in both questions), IRL01, IRL02, IRL03, IRL04, IS03, L01, N01 (in both questions), NL03, UK02, UK11, UK15, H01.</i></p> <p><i>These surveys are followed by 14 (A01, D02, Dk02, F03, F05, F07, F08, F09, F11, F12, FIN01, P01, S01, S02) using “State of health”.</i></p> <p><i>Only 4 surveys (FIN03, FIN06, FIN07, FIN09) use the expression “Health status”.</i></p> <p><i>Survey IS01 specifically focuses on the respondents physical health, while surveys Ch01 and Ch02 do not introduce directly the concept of health, in fact the wording is “How do you feel now?”</i></p>	
Use of generalizing words	<p><i>Referring to this aspect there are 19 surveys (CH01, CH02, D02, E02, EL02, F03, F05, F07, F08, F11, F12, FIN01, FIN03, FIN06, FIN07, FIN09, L01, S01, S02) that do not use this kind of word, while 23 surveys do it: A01, B02, B03, Bc02, D05, DK02, E04, F09, I01, I04 (in both questions), IRL01, IRL02, IRL03, IRL04, IS02, IS03, N01 (in both questions), NL03, P01, UK02, UK11, UK15, H01.</i></p>	

Response categories	<p><i>In addition to the specific wording of the questions, major differences also appear in the response categories.</i></p> <p><i>Five answer categories have been used in 33 surveys out of 42: A01, B02, B03, Bc02, CH01, CH02, D02, D05, DK02, E02, E04, F05, F09, FIN01, FIN03, FIN06, FIN07, FIN09, I01, I04 (in only one question), IRL01, IRL02, IRL03, IRL04, IS03, L01, N01 (in both questions), NL03, P01, S01, S02, UK02, H01. It must be underlined that among these, 13 surveys use the exact five MEHM response categories recommended (Very good / Good / Fair / Bad / Very bad). These surveys are: B02, B03, Bc02, Ch01, Ch02, E04, I01, I04 (in only one question), IRL02, IRL04, S01, S02, UK02.</i></p> <p><i>Differences seem to be related with translation in the following cases: DK02 (very good = really good), H01 (very bad = very poor), P01 (fair = reasonable).</i></p> <p><i>The other 17 surveys also include five response categories but the wording of these categories does not correspond to the MEHM recommendation. There are variations in the distribution of positive, neutral and negative response categories. So, although a number of surveys include the same number of response categories, slight deviations in the wording of the responses makes it impossible to compare results: A01, D02, D05, E02, F05, F09, FIN01, FIN03, FIN06, FIN07, FIN09, IRL01, IRL03, IS03, L01, N01 (in both questions), NL03.</i></p> <p><i>A different number of categories is used in 8 surveys as follows: 3 categories in UK11 and UK15; 4 categories in EL02, F08, F12 and IS02; 6 categories in F07 and F11.</i></p> <p><i>Two surveys use rating scales ranging from 1 to 10 (F03) or from 1 to 5 (I04, only for one question). These differences, of course, have strong implications on the score systems as well as on the possibility to make international comparisons.</i></p>
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Second Question of MEHM: Chronic Morbidity

The second global instrument of the MEHM is an open-ended question used to measure the global indicator on chronic morbidity.

Do you have any long-standing illness or health problem?	Yes / No.
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Chronic diseases represent, as well known, one of the most relevant problems for health-related quality of life, especially for the elderly, and are one of the main causes of utilisation of health services. Often, chronic diseases play a key role, altering an individual's ability to be self-sufficient and affect his/her psychic and motor skills for long periods of time or indefinitely. These reasons allow for the acknowledgement of the diffusion of chronic diseases in a population.

The instrument has been developed by ISTAT for Euro-HIS and has also been accepted by Euro-REVES. The exact wording of the question depends on the cross-cultural applicability and validity. For this reason the instrument proposed by EuroREVES was a conceptual translation of the Chronic Disease question developed by ISTAT for EuroHIS

Context / Brief Summary

According to the functional approach, which was developed in the last twenty years mainly to assess the consequences of the emerging poor health-status on daily life activities, chronic morbidity is strongly related to disability indicators, since many impairments or disorders which are usually part of the "diseases process" can result in long term disability; more exactly, the

consequences of the diseases can cause an individual to suffer from functional limitations and activity restrictions as a result of interaction between physical conditions and social environment.

Chronic morbidity indicators have been officially adopted to policy by the Member States of the WHO for the evaluation of national health policies, and they have been included as a field of actions in the EuroHIS project (WHO-Euro, granted by the Union, BIOMED 2).

The Euro-HIS project

The project aims to select the common instruments and methodology to be used in the European Region by all Member States in the context of health interview surveys. Common instruments proposed for chronic conditions are the result of a two year research on this topic by the Euro-HIS project. The stages undertaken were:

Concept exploration	<i>What do we mean by chronic condition?</i>
Analysis of some important methodological aspects	<i>What is the correct methodological approach for the surveying of chronic conditions? What is the correct reference period? What are the criteria for reporting?</i>
Analysis of the instruments adopted by the European countries	<i>Based on the main results from the analysis of surveys.</i>
Development of a preliminary common instrument to survey chronic physical conditions	<i>Based on an international review on chronic diseases, comparability of questions and methodological aspects in different surveys have been analysed.</i>
Pre-test and Field-test	<i>To assess the applicability of the instrument, the quality of transfer into national environment and the comprehension of questions proposed.</i>
Draft proposal of common instrument to survey chronic physical conditions,	<i>Based on the Italian pre-test and field-test experience and on the pre-testing results of other European countries.</i>

Very few countries have indicated an explicit criteria for defining chronic conditions. Usually these criteria refer to the nature of the disease and to its duration. Most countries have reported the question (open ended and/or specific disease) used by them to survey chronic conditions. There is a general agreement on the following characteristics of chronic condition: that they are permanent and may be expected to require a long period of supervision, observation or care.

In surveying chronic conditions, two types of questions can be used: open-ended questions and disease-specific questions. The open-ended question inquires whether respondents have a chronic condition and, eventually, which one. The disease-specific question includes a checklist of conditions or diseases (or a card that has to be shown) and respondents are questioned whether or not they are affected by one or more of them.

Open-ended questions used by different countries rarely refer explicitly to physical and/or mental conditions. They generally refer to "any chronic condition, defect or injury". In most cases open-ended questions include explicitly described handicaps and/or disabilities.

Similar problems are found in the disease-specific questions. The checklist includes different type of conditions: physical and/or mental and/or disabilities.

The prevalence of chronic diseases resulting from the global question is generally underestimated if compared with the prevalence arising from the specific questions. The higher prevalence for female and the increasing trend with age are consistent with the knowledge of the phenomenon.

Question characteristics

ICF Domain	<i>BS – BF.</i>
Duration (long term / short term)	<i>Long-standing.</i>
Dichotomous / Multiple response categories	<i>Dichotomous (Yes / No).</i>
Terminology	<i>Neutral.</i>
Reference / Norm	<i>No.</i>
Complexity	<i>No.</i>
Age-oriented	<i>No.</i>
How the question addresses mental functioning	<i>Not directly, it is included in “illness/health problems”.</i>

Main Results

A total of 39 out of the European Surveys selected have questions related to long-standing illness or health problems. Survey B02 has two questions.

As already pointed out, two types of questions are used in surveys: open-ended questions and disease-specific questions. Following the criteria of these two approaches the 39 surveys can be divided into two groups:

- *24 Surveys with global approach:* B02 (in both questions), B03, Bc02, CH01, CH02, DK02, EL01, EL02, F08, F09, F12, FIN03, FIN06, IRL02, IRL04, IrlC02, N01, NL03, S01, S02, UK02, UK11, UK15, H01.
- *15 Surveys with specific approach:* A01, D02, D05, E02, E04, F03, FIN07, FIN09, I01, I04, IRL01, IRL03, IS02, NL02, H01.

Out of the 24 surveys using a global approach question, 7 surveys (B02, Ch01, Ch02, EL02, FIN03, FIN06, NL03) also have a question with a specific approach by using a list. Only the “global approach” questions were analyzed following these criteria (see also Appendix 6).

Global approach	<i>A question is considered as using ‘global approach’ when it simply asks if the person is suffering/has a chronic disease. Answer categories: Yes / No.</i>
Specific approach	<i>It refers to the questions asking which is the disease (with or without reference list). Answer categories: Yes / No. If yes, it also specifies whether the answer categories are open or have a list.</i>
Time reference	<i>This relates to the reference time given in the wording. Answer categories: present, past, future.</i>
Long-standing / chronic	<i>It refers to concepts present in the wording. Answer categories: Yes / No.</i>
Illness condition or health problem	<i>This refers to concepts present in the wording. Answer categories: Yes / No.</i>
Other concepts	<i>It refers to other concepts specifically included in the wording. Here the words used are reported.</i>
Use of neutral terminology	<i>This relates to the use of word-neutral connotation. Answer categories: Yes / No.</i>

Response categories (dichotomous / multiple)	<i>In some cases differences are related to the introduction of others concepts such as cause of health problems or typologies of health or to underline that this/these illnesses limit the respondent in carrying out activities.</i>
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Differences in wording among selected surveys appear according to:

Time reference	<i>No time reference in 17 surveys: B02 (in both questions), B03, Bc02, DK02, EL01, EL02, F09, FIN03, FIN06, IRL02, IRL04, IrIC02, NL03, S01, S02, UK15, H01.</i>	
	<i>Time reference is given in 7 surveys as follows:</i>	
	<i>Future</i>	<i>F08 and F12 (“that will continue to affect you in the future?”)</i>
	<i>Past and future</i>	<i>N01 (“it has lasted or is expected to last for 6 months or more”); UK02 and UK11 (“has troubled you over a period of time or that is likely to affect you over a period of time”)</i>
	<i>Past</i>	<i>CH01 and CH02 (“you have had for more than one year”)</i>
Long-standing / Chronic	<i>Only 4 surveys (CH01, Ch02, EL02, Fin06, H01) do not refer in their wording directly to a long standing/chronic illness but Ch01 and Ch02 specify that the problem or illness should have “more than one year” duration. A total of 20 surveys out of 24 use “long-standing” or “chronic” in their wording.</i>	
Other concepts	<i>Some surveys add other concepts to indicate cause of health problems or typologies of health or to underline that this/these illnesses limit the respondent in carrying out activities. For example, Dk02, FIN03, N01, S01 and S02 refer respectively to an “after effect from injury”, “Some defect, trouble or injury”; “disorder congenital, disease or effect of an injury”; “after effect from an accident”, while EL02, F08 and F12, IRL02 and IRL04 refer respectively to “physical disease”, “physical infirmity” and “physical and mental problem”. IrIC02 refers to specific type of disability such as “blindness, deafness, or a severe vision or hearing impairment”. Furthermore, 5 surveys (FIN03, FIN06 IrIC02, UK15, H01) include references to the concept that the respondent can be affected by this/these illnesses in a working capacity, in functional ability or that they can be limited in usual activities. The introduction of other concepts quite often also includes the use or non-use of neutral terminology.</i>	
Neutral Terminology	<i>18 surveys out of 24 do not use neutral terminology. The word “disability” is used by 10 Surveys: DK02, FIN06, IRL02, IRL04, IrIC02, S01, S02, UK02, UK11, UK15. The word “handicap” is used by 8 surveys: B02 – in only one question, B03, Bc02, EL01, EL02, F08, F12, NL03.</i>	
Response categories	<i>All of the 24 surveys with a ‘global approach’ use a dichotomous answer category. Only B02, B03, Bc02, F08, F09, F12 also add “doesn’t know”.</i>	

Third question of MEHM: Limitation in usual activities ⁴

For at least the past 6 months, have you been limited in activities people usually do because of a health problem?	<i>Yes, strongly limited / Yes, limited / No, not limited.</i>
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⁴ (The following information is based on Cap. 5 “Limitation in usual activities, a global approach” - Contributors: Rom Perenboom, Herman Van Oyen, Loes van Herten-, enclosed in “Selection of a Coherent Set of Health Indicators for the European Union. Phase II- Fianl Report, Edited by J-M Robine, C. Jagger and I. Romieu)

Context / Brief Summary

A Global Activity Limitation Indicator (GALI, previously referred to as Global Disability Indicator (Verbrugge, 1997) is defined as an instrument that is able to identify subjects, in both general and/or specific populations, who perceive themselves as having long-standing, health-related limitations (restrictions) in their usual activities.

There are two main reasons to develop a GALI for public health policy.

First, due to the ageing of populations and the change in the morbidity-profile regarding chronic health conditions, simple information on health has to be extended with a concise instrument which provides policy makers with easily obtainable information on the *perception of activity limitations* that could result in a need for support. Further activity limitations may lead to disadvantages in social participation.

Instruments to measure limitations in usual activities are normally complex (multi-item) instruments. The output of these instruments depends on the specific activities included. In different countries or surveys different instruments are used making comparisons almost impossible.

Secondly, similar to the concept of perceived health, there is a search for developing a global single-question instrument to measure these activity limitations, independent of the type of activity, the specific life situations; the kind of health problems causing the activity limitation, specific age groups, sexes or other subgroups.

A single question instrument should make it more acceptable for countries and researchers to include it in their different surveys, making comparison between countries and subgroups possible.

The proposed instrument is a global single item instrument.

The following steps were taken in developing the proposal for a GALI:

- The conceptual framework of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF), and previous work in the framework of REVES were used to develop a set of criteria for evaluation of candidate GALI instruments;
- Instruments were collected for evaluation by a Medline search, over the time period 1990-1999 and by using key words such as disability/measurement/activity limitations, also by an extensive E-mail survey among experts in the field of disability research;
- Instruments were qualitatively screened for a set of criteria;
- Selection of existing or the creation of a new instrument to be proposed.

Validation

A standard procedure was set up to develop the GALI-instrument in the different languages of the European Member States (MS). In a first attempt, a translation procedure was developed which focused on the concept rather than on the technical translation. The formulation into another language was done by both a linguist and a public health scientist independently; another linguist and public health scientist were then responsible for a back translation. All were provided with technical information explaining the concept of the GALI. After the control through back-translation, the proposed version was evaluated against the major concept within the instrument:

Activity limitations or restriction

- Caused by a health problem or condition
- Duration of the limitation: at least 6 months before the interview

- Population norm : activities people usual do

The GALI-instrument is currently translated in 10 languages.

Purpose

The instrument will allow estimation of the number of people in a population who perceive themselves as having limitations in their activities, estimating the prevalence of the perceived activity limitations of that population.

Depending on the type or the objectives of the survey and the need for more information, the GALI instrument can be extended by additional questions providing information on the life situations in which the activities are limited, on the causes of the activity limitation and on the use of personal assistance and/or devices.

Question characteristics

ICF Domain	<i>Activities.</i>
Capacity / Performance	<i>This measure addresses Performance.</i>
Duration (long term/short term)	<i>Six months but it is related to activity limitation and not to health problems / disability.</i>
Dichotomous / Multiple response categories	<i>Nominal Scale responses. Answer categories: Yes, strongly limited / Yes, limited / No, not limited.</i>
Causes of disability	<i>General health-related problems as cause limitations.</i>
Terminology	<i>Neutral words.</i>
Reference / Norm	<i>No, in the definition of the GALI, the term “usual activities” refers to the fact that the limitations in the execution of actions and tasks are assessed against a generally accepted population standard, relative to cultural and social expectations. This is consistent with the self-perceived health instrument and gives no restrictions by culture, age, gender or the subjects own ambition.</i>
Complexity	<i>No.</i>
Age-oriented	<i>No, there is no reference to specific type of activities. The same instrument can be used for subgroups in a population: age, gender, cultural. All of these specific subgroups have their own usual activities. In order to provide good estimates of the perceived activity-limitations of a population, this instrument should be administered to a general population of all ages or to special groups within a population. The wording of the proposed instrument does not relate to any age group in particular. The simple wording should also allow administration in institutionalized populations and can be used in different survey methods.</i>
How the question addresses mental functioning	<i>Not directly. This is enclosed in the concept of health problems.</i>
Instructions	<i>Defines ‘long-standing’ as a time period of 6 months or more. The time period refers to the duration of the activity limitation and not of the health condition, as the focus of a GALI instrument is on the activity-limitations and not so much on the health problems.</i>

The GALI should refer to health-related problems as cause of the limitations. The indicator is not meant to measure limitations due to financial, cultural or other none health-related causes.

As a rule, specification of health concepts (e.g. physical and mental health) should be avoided. Existing instruments sometimes refer only to physical health problems, while other instruments refer to physical and mental health problems and a few of them to additional problems mainly combined in one question, but often in up to three specific questions. This makes comparison more difficult.

According to the ICF an activity is defined as: *'the execution of a task or action by an individual'* and thus activity limitations are defined as *'the difficulties the individual experiences in executing an activity'* (World Health Organization, 2001) Within the framework of the ICF, limitations should be due to a health condition.

In the definition of the GALI, the term "usual activities" refers to the fact that the limitations in the execution of actions and tasks are assessed against a generally accepted population standard, relative to cultural and social expectations.

Main Results

A total of 26 European surveys containing questions on activities limitation (as global approach) were identified. Surveys A01 and B02 which have two questions on the same topic were both included. The total of questions analyzed is 28.

It must be underlined that several surveys investigate "activities limitation" with more than one or two questions and usually they refer to ADL, IADL scale or similar. The surveys which use such scale and they are without a global approach to the topic were not taken into account.

Furthermore, several surveys adopt a global approach question followed by more detailed question on type of activities limitation.

All questions selected were analyzed (see Appendix 7) using the following criteria:

Time reference for activities limitation	<i>It relates to time reference used in the question. If Yes, it is reported.</i>
Norm reference	<i>It refers whether it is asked to compare with what people of the same age can do. Answers categories: Yes / No.</i>
Attribution to health conditions	<i>This address the issue whether the wording encloses a reference to health problem as caused of the limitation in activities and participation. Answer categories: Yes (words used are reported) / No.</i>
Limited in activities	<i>It relates to whether the question does or doesn't indicate specific activities. Answer categories: Yes (if it is a specific reference to activities or environment, thus words are reported) / No.</i>
Need of help	<i>It refers to whether in the wording it is also asked if the person needs assistance in doing activities. Answer categories: Yes / No.</i>
Use of neutral terminology	<i>It relates to the use of word with neutral connotation. Answer categories: Yes / No.</i>
Response categories	<i>The response categories are reported.</i>

In some cases, differences are related to the introduction of details regarding the type of activities or context; type of health conditions; or the introduction of other concepts such as “need of help”. In other cases, differences are connected to the omission of a time reference for activities limitation.

Differences in wording among the selected surveys appear according to:

Time reference for activities limitation	<p>Almost all surveys (23 out of 26 surveys) do not use expression to give a time reference related to activities limitation.</p> <p>Only B02 (“for the last past 6 months or more”) and F09 (“during at least six months”) give a time reference related with the past. H01 indicates “today” as a time reference.</p> <p>It must be underlined that B02 survey has two questions and only one gives a time reference.</p>
Norm reference	<p>In the European surveys analysed, the questions never use a norm reference.</p>
Attribution to health conditions	<p>22 surveys out of 26 attribute in the wording how activities limitation is related to health conditions: A01 (in both questions), B02 (in both questions), B03, Bc02, D02, DK02, E02, F02, F09, I01, I03, I04, IRL01, IRL02, IRL03, IRL04, IrIC02, N01, NL02, NL03, UK02, UL11.</p> <p>Only 4 surveys (F1999, FIN06, IS02, H01) do not ask if the activities limitation is due to health conditions.</p>
Activity restriction	<p>8 surveys refer to activity with any other specification in the wording/instruction: B02 (in both questions), B03, Bc02, F09, IRL02, IRL04, UK02, UK11).</p> <p>17 surveys refer not only to “usual activities” or “everyday life” but also to context or example of activities: A01 (in both questions), D02, DK02, E02, F1999, FIN06, I01, I03, I04, IRL01, IRL03, IrIC02, IS02, N01, NL02, NL03, H01.</p> <p>F02 does not ask about activities limitation but refer to “physical, sensorial, intellectual or mental difficulties”.</p>
Need of help	<p>The majority of surveys (21 surveys out of 26) do not include this concept in the question (B02 – in both questions, B03, Bc02, D02, DK02, F02, F09, F1999, FIN06, IRL01, IRL02, IRL03, IRL04, IrIC02, IS02, N01, NL02, NL03, UK02, UK11, H01).</p> <p>5 surveys: A01 (in both questions), E02, I01, I03, I04 ask the respondent if he/she needs help in doing everyday life activities.</p> <p>Examples of wordings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - [I01, I03, I04] “Are you affected by a long-standing illness or a permanent disability that reduces your personal freedom till requiring help from other people for daily needs inside and outside the home? NO / YES, intermittently, for some needs / YES, continuously, or for important needs”; - [E02] “Does some of people of the household need some type of special dedication for the fact of suffering a handicap or some limitation (not being able to be alone at nights, to need help to go out in the street, personal hygiene, etc.) to carry out with normality the activities of the family, social and labour life? YES / NO”
Use of neutral terminology	<p>14 surveys use neutral terminology: A01 (in both questions), D02, DK02, F02, F09, F1999, FIN06, I03, I04, IrIC02, IS02, NL02, NL03, H01.</p> <p>11 surveys (B03, Bc02, E02, I01, IRL01, IRL02, IRL03, IRL04, N01, UK02, UK11) use “handicap” or “disability” which are not considered as being neutral words.</p> <p>B02 survey uses neutral terminology in one question and does not use neutral terminology in another bit instead uses “handicaps”.</p>

Response categories	<p>A total of 26 surveys can be divided in two groups by following the response categories used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - multiple (17 surveys) - dichotomous (7 surveys: E02, F02, F09, F1999, IrlC02, UK02, UK11). To these surveys IRL01 e IRL03 should be added as they use a unique type of answer category: "Yes / No, Do not have any of the above". <p>The 17 surveys using multiple response categories can also be split in two groups taking into account that answer categories are based on "degree of restrictions / limitations / difficulties" or on the "frequency" of limitations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10 surveys refer to the degree of limitations: D02, Dk02, FIN06, IRL02, IRL04, IS02, N01, NL02, NL03, H01 - 6 surveys refer to the "time" dimension: A01 (for both questions), B03, Bc02, I01, I03, I04 - B02 utilizes both aspects of the limitation, one for each question. <p>Examples of answer categories regarding the "degree" of limitations are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Yes, strongly limited / Yes, limited / No, not limited" (B02, in only one question) - "Not at all / A little / Considerably" (D02) - "Yes, very much / Yes, a little / No" (DK02) - "No difficulty coping / Slight difficulty coping / A great deal of difficulty coping / I cannot cope on my own" (Fin06) - "Yes, severely / Yes, to some extent / No" (IRL02, IRL04) - "Very difficult / Rather difficult / Slightly difficult / Not at all difficult" (IS02) - "Not possible / Extremely difficult / Somewhat difficult / Not difficult" (N01) - "No difficulties / Some difficulties / Unable to carry out" (NL02) - "Severely limited / Moderately limited / Not limited" (NL03) - "I have no problems with performing my usual activities / I have some problems with performing my usual activities / I am unable to perform my usual activities" (H01). <p>Examples of answer categories regarding the "frequency" of limitations are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Never / Sometimes / Frequently / Always" (A01); - "Continually / At intervals / Not or seldom" (B02 in only one question, B03, Bc02); - "Yes, Intermittently or occasionally for some needs / Yes, continuously or for important needs / No" (I01, I03, I04). <p>Among the surveys using multiple-answer categories, 17 surveys out of 26 adopt 3 or 4 categories as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 answer categories are used in 14 surveys: B02 (in both questions), B03, Bc02, D02, Dk02, Fin06, I01, I03, I04, IRL02, IRL04, NL02, NL03, H01; - 4 answer are used in 3 surveys: A01 (in both questions), IS02, N01.
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3. Final Remarks

The following conclusions can be drawn from this review of questions used in European surveys and from a comparison with the proposed MEHM questions:

At least 48 out of the surveys selected have at least one question that can be related to the MEHM. (For some other surveys the full questionnaire, or the full wording, was not available. Furthermore, for some of the 48 surveys more information and documents are needed to have a better, more complete picture of the questions used).

Among the 48 surveys (*see appendix 3a*):

- 50% (24 of 48 surveys) cover all three topics of the MEHM questions.
- Only 5 surveys (EL01, F02, F1999, IrlC02, NL02) seem not to ask questions on Self perceived health.
- F08 and F12 surveys use a “not absolute format” (“compared with other people your age”) and IS02 asks specifically regarding physical health.
- Only 9 surveys (F02, F05, F07, F11, F1999, FIN01, IS03, L01, P01) seem not to have any questions about long standing / chronic illness.
- 24 surveys use a global approach to investigate about chronic morbidity while 16 surveys prefer a specific approach.
- 7 surveys have a question that refers both to long standing illness/disability and to limitations of activity (e.g. Ch01, Ch02, FIN03, FIN06, IrlC02, UK15, H01). Among these surveys only 4 surveys (FIN06, IrlC02, UK15, H01) use another question on activity restriction with global approach.
- 30 surveys have a general question (global approach) on activity limitations.
- 18 surveys (Ch01, Ch02, E04, EL01, EL02, F03, F05, F07, F08, F11, F12, FIN01, FIN07, FIN09, IS03, L01 S01, S02) seem not to use a global approach.
- 14 surveys include all three questions, with global approach in the second (B02, B03, Bc02, Dk02, F09, FIN03, FIN06, IRL02, IRL04, N01, NL03, UK02, UK11, H01).
- 10 surveys (A01, D02, D05, E02, I01, I03, I04, IRL01, IRL03, IS02) include all three questions, with specific approach in the second.

Differences with respect to the instruments proposed by MEHM are due to greater specification of health condition or to activity restriction. The instruments used are generally quite similar to those proposed in the MEHM; differences may also be due to translation in English.

Appendix 1

Inventory of Available Surveys

No.	Code	Country	Year	Title Survey
1	A01	Austria	1999	Microcensus
2	A02	Austria	1995	Disabled Persons
3	no code	Austria	2002	Austrian Survey on Disabilities
4	B01	Belgium	1997	Health Interview Survey
5	B02	Belgium	2001	Health Interview Survey
6	B03	Belgium	2001	General Socio-Economic Survey
7	no code ¹ (Bc02)	Belgium	2002	Census
8	CH01	Switzerland	1997	Swiss Health Survey
9	CH02	Switzerland	2002	Swiss Health Survey
10	D01	Germany	1999	Questions on Health-Microcensus
11	D02	Germany	1998	Survey on Living Conditions, Health and Environment
12	D03	Germany	2003	Questions on Health-Microcensus
13	D05	Germany	1998	German National Health Examination and Interview Survey
14	DK01	Denmark	1994	Danish Health and Morbidity Survey
15	DK02	Denmark	2000	Danish Health and Morbidity Survey
16	E01	Spain	1995	National Health Survey
17	E02	Spain	2001	Health Interview Survey
18	E04	Spain	1999	Impairments, Disabilities and Health Status Survey
19	no code	Spain	2001	Census
20	EL01	Greece	1991	Population Census
21	EL02	Greece	1998	National Greek Survey: Psychological Factors and Health
22	F01	France	1996	Health and Care Interview Survey
23	F02	France	1999	Handicaps, Disabilities and Dependency Survey
24	F03	France	1998	Health and Social Protection Survey
25	F04	France	2002-03	Health and Care Interview Survey
26	F05	France	2001	Handicaps, Disabilities and Dependency Survey
27	F07	France	2000	Continuous Survey on Living Conditions
28	F08	France	1999	French Survey on Living Conditions And Aspirations
29	F09	France	2002	Health and Social Protection Survey
30	F11	France	2001	Continuous Survey on Living Conditions
31	F12	France	2001	French Survey on Living Conditions and Aspirations
32	no code ¹ (F1999)	France	1999	Everyday Life and Health Survey
33	FIN01	Finland	2000	Health Behaviour

No.	Code	Country	Year	Title Survey
34	FIN02	Finland	1997	The National Finrisk Study
35	FIN03	Finland	2000	Health Survey on Capability and National Health
36	FIN04	Finland	1986	Living Conditions Survey
37	FIN05	Finland	1996	Finnish Health Care
38	FIN06	Finland	2001	Health Behaviour Survey Among the Adult Population
39	FIN07	Finland	2002	The National Finrisk Study
40	FIN09	Finland	2001	Health Behaviour Survey Among the Elderly Population
41	I01	Italy	1999-00	Health Conditions and Recourse To Health Services
42	I02	Italy	1994	Aspects of Daily Life
43	I03	Italy	2000	Aspects of Daily Life
44	I04	Italy	2000	Aspects of Daily Life
45	IRL01	Ireland	1998	Survey of Lifestyle, Attitudes and Nutrition (SLÁN)
46	IRL02	Ireland	2000	Living in Ireland Survey
47	IRL03	Ireland	2002	Survey of Lifestyle, Attitudes and Nutrition (SLÁN)
48	IRL04	Ireland	2001	Living in Ireland Survey
49	no code ¹ (<i>IrlC02</i>)	Ireland	2002	Census
50	IS01	Iceland	1996	Omnibus Survey
51	IS02	Iceland	1989-99	Health and Living Conditions in Iceland
52	IS03	Iceland	2001	Health and Lifestyle
53	L01	Luxembourg	1996	Panel Living in Luxembourg
54	L02	Luxembourg	2001	Socio-Economic Panel Living in Luxembourg
55	N01	Norway	1998	Survey on Living Conditions
56	N02	Norway	2002	Survey on Living Conditions & Health, Care and Social Relations
57	NL01	The Netherlands	1998	Continuous Survey on Living Conditions
58	NL02	The Netherlands	2001	Second National Study on Morbidity and Use of Health Services
59	NL03	The Netherlands	2001	Continuous Survey on Living Conditions
60	P01	Portugal	1995	National Health Survey
61	P02	Portugal	1996	National Survey on Disabilities
62	P03	Portugal	1998-99	National Health Survey
63	P04	Portugal	2001	General Census
64	S01	Sweden	1999	Living Conditions Survey
65	S02	Sweden	2001	Living Conditions Survey
66	UK01	United Kingdom	2000	The General Household Survey

No.	Code	Country	Year	Title Survey
67	UK02	United Kingdom	1998	Health Education Monitoring Survey
68	UK03	United Kingdom	1991-92	Health and Lifestyle Survey
69	UK04	United Kingdom	1996-97	Disability Survey
70	UK05	United Kingdom	1993-94	Survey of Psychiatric Morbidity
71	UK06	United Kingdom	2002	The General Household Survey
72	UK08	United Kingdom	2000	Survey of Psychiatric Morbidity
73	UK09	United Kingdom	1998	Health Survey for England
74	UK10	United Kingdom	1995	The Scottish Health Survey
75	UK11	United Kingdom	2001	The General Household Survey
75	UK12	United Kingdom	2000	Health Survey for England
77	UK13	United Kingdom	1998	The Scottish Health Survey
78	UK14	United Kingdom	2001	The Scottish Health Survey
79	UK15	United Kingdom	2001	Census
80	no code	United Kingdom		OPCS Survey of Disability
81	no code	United Kingdom		National Travel Survey:
82	no code	United Kingdom		Family Resources Survey:
83	no code	United Kingdom		English Housing Conditions Survey
84	no code ¹ (H01)	Hungary	2000	National Health Interview Survey
85	no code ¹ (H02)	Hungary	2001	Population Census
86	no code ¹ (H03)	Hungary	2002	Labour Force Survey
86	no code ¹ (H04)	Hungary	1999-01	Time-Use Survey

¹ This survey is not enclosed in the HIS/HES database; the code given is not an official one.

Appendix 2

Information on Selected Surveys

No.	Survey code	Country	Year	Survey title	Type of survey	Frequency	Survey design	Mode data collection	Age group restriction	Sample size: households	Sample size: persons	Proxy	Survey languages	Institution conducting survey
1	A01	Austria	1999	Microcensus	HIS	Irregular	cross-sectional with follow-up	FTF	no restriction	31.000	60.000	Yes	German	Statistics Austria
2		Austria	2002	Austrian Survey on Disabilities	Disability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	B02	Belgium	2001	Health Interview Survey	HIS	4-yearly	cross-sectional with follow-up	FTF + SA	no restriction	5.525	12.100	Yes	French, Dutch, German	Institute of Public Health IPH
4	B03	Belgium	2001	General Socio-Economic Survey 2001	General Social Survey	Once	cross-sectional without follow-up	SA	no restriction	4.289.445	10.296.350	Yes	French, Dutch, German	Nationaal Instituut voor de Statistiek NIS
5	No code (Bc02)	Belgium	2002	Census	Census									
6	CH01	Switzerland	1997	Swiss Health Survey	HIS	5-yearly	cross-sectional without follow-up	FTF + TEL + SA	15+	13.004	13.004	Yes	German, French, Italian	Bundesamt für Statistik / Office fédérale de la Statistique
7	CH02	Switzerland	2002	Swiss Health Survey 2002	HIS	5-yearly	cross-sectional without follow-up	FTF + TEL + SA	15+	19.600	-	Yes	German, French, Italian	Bundesamt für Statistik / Office fédérale de la Statistique
8	D01	Germany	1999	Questions on Health	HIS	4-yearly	cross-sectional without follow-up	FTF + SA	no restriction	-	400.000	Yes	German	Statistisches Bundesamt - Dienstort Bonn
9	D02	Germany	1998	Survey on Living Condition, Health and Environment	General Social Survey	Irregular	combination cross-sectional / panel	SA	minimum age 45	-	4.843	No	German	Bundesinstitut für Bevölkerungsforschung / BiB

No.	Survey Code	Country	Year	Title Survey	Type of survey	Frequency	Survey design	Mode data collection	Age group restriction	Sample size: households	Sample size: persons	Proxy	Survey languages	Institution conducting survey
10	D05	Germany	1998	German National Health Examination and Interview Survey	HIS / HES	6/7-yearly	cross-sectional without follow-up	FTF + SA	18-79	-	7.124	No	German	Robert Koch Institute RKI
11	DK02	Denmark	2000	Health and Morbidity in Denmark	HIS	6/7-yearly	cross-sectional with follow-up	FTF + SA	16+	-	16.690	Yes	Danish	National Institute of Public Health
12	E02	Spain	2001	National Health Survey	HIS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo
13	E04	Spain	1999	Impairments, Disabilities and Health Status Survey	Disability	Irregular	unknown	FTF + SA	no restriction	79.000	230.000	Yes	Spanish	National Institute of Statistics
14	EL01	Greece	1991	Population Census	Census	10-yearly	cross-sectional without follow-up	FTF	no restriction	-	-	No information	Greek	National Statistical Service of Greece
15	EL02	Greece	1998	National Greek Survey: Psychosocial Factors and Health	HIS	5-yearly	cross-sectional with follow-up	FTF	12 to 64 only	-	3.759	No	Greek	University Mental Health Research Institute
16	F02	France	1999	Handicaps, Disabilities and Dependency Survey	Disability	Unknown	unknown	FTF	no restriction	-	16.900	Yes	French	INSEE Institut National de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques
17	F03	France	1998	Health and Social Protection Survey	Other	2-yearly	combination cross-sectional / panel	FTF + TEL + SA	no restriction	23.000	-	Yes	French	CREDES

No.	Survey code	Country	Year	Survey title	Type of survey	Frequency	Survey design	Mode data collection	Age group restriction	Sample size: households	Sample size: persons	Proxy	Survey languages	Institution conducting survey
18	F05	France	2001	The INSEE Survey on Handicaps, Disabilities and Dependency	Disability	10-yearly	cross-sectional with follow-up	FTF	no restriction	-	16.945	Yes	French	INSEE Institut National de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques
19	F07	France	2000	Continuous Survey on Households Living Conditions	Other	Yearly	combination cross-sectional / panel	FTF	15+	5.780	11.000	Yes	French	INSEE Institut National de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques
20	F08	France	1999	French Survey on Living Conditions and Aspirations	General Social Survey	Yearly	unknown	FTF	18+	-	2.001	No information	French	CREDOC
21	F09	France	2002	Health and Social Protection Survey	HIS	2-yearly	cross-sectional with follow-up	FTF + TEL + SA	no restriction	7.000	20.000	Yes	French	CREDES
22	F11	France	2001	Survey on Households Living Conditions	General Social Survey	Yearly, in 3 waves	combination cross-sectional / panel	FTF	15+	8.000	5.500	Yes	French	INSEE Institut National de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques
23	F12	France	2001	French Survey on Living Conditions and Aspirations	General Social Survey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	French	CREDOC
24	No code (F1999)	France	1999	Everyday Life and Health Survey	HIS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

No.	Survey code	Country	Year	Survey title	Type of survey	Frequency	Survey design	Mode data collection	Age group restriction	Sample size: households	Sample size: persons	Proxy	Survey languages	Institution conducting survey
25	FIN01	Finland	2000	Survey on Health Behaviour	Other	Yearly	cross-sectional without follow-up	SA	15-64	-	5.000	No	Finnish, Swedish	KTL
26	FIN03	Finland	2000	Health 2000	HIS / HES	Irregular	cross-sectional with follow-up	FTF + TEL + SA	18+	-	10.000	Yes	Finnish, Swedish	National Public Health Institute / KTL
27	FIN06	Finland	2001	Health Behaviour Survey among the Adult Population	HIS	Yearly	cross-sectional with follow-up	SA	15-64	5.000	-	No	Finnish, Swedish	KTL
28	FIN07	Finland	2002	The National Finrisk Study	HIS / HES	5-yearly	cross-sectional without follow-up	SA	unknown	9.000	-	No	Finnish	KTL
29	FIN09	Finland	2001	Health Behaviour Survey among the Elderly Population	HIS	Irregular	cross-sectional without follow-up	SA	65-84	-	2.400	No	Finnish, Swedish	KTL
30	I01	Italy	1999-2000	Health Conditions and the Use of Health Services	HIS	4-yearly	cross-sectional without follow-up	FTF	no restriction	60.000	180.000	Yes	Italian	National Institute of Statistics
31	I04	Italy	2001	Aspects of Daily Living	General Social Survey	Yearly	cross-sectional without follow-up	FTF	no restriction	21.800	56.000	Yes	Italian	National Institute of Statistics

No.	Survey code	Country	Year	Survey title	Type of survey	Frequency	Survey design	Mode data collection	Age group restriction	Sample size: households	Sample size: persons	Proxy	Survey languages	Institution conducting survey
32	IRL01	Ireland	1998	Survey of Lifestyle, Attitudes and Nutrition	HIS / HES	4-yearly	cross-sectional without follow-up	SA	18+	-	6.539	Yes	English	National University of Ireland, Galway
33	IRL02	Ireland	2000	Living in Ireland Survey	General Social Survey	Yearly	panel study	FTF	no restriction	3.387	10.013	Yes	English	Economic and Social Research Institute / ESRI
34	IRL03	Ireland	2002	Survey of Lifestyle, Attitudes and Nutrition (SLAN)	HIS / HES	4-yearly	cross-sectional without follow-up	SA	18+	-	6.539	Yes	English	National University of Ireland, Galway
35	IRL04	Ireland	2001	Living in Ireland Survey, 2001	General Social Survey	Yearly	panel study	FTF	16+	-	-	Yes	English	Economic and Social Research Institute / ESRI
36	No code (IIRC02)	Ireland	2002	Census	Census	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
37	IS02	Iceland	1989-1999	Health and Living Conditions in Iceland	HIS	Irregular	panel study	FTF + TEL + SA	18-75	-	1.924	No	Icelandic	University of Iceland
38	IS03	Iceland	2001	Health and Lifestyle of the Icelandic Population	General Social Survey	Yearly	cross-sectional without follow-up	SA	20-80	-	1.010	No	Icelandic	IMG - Gallup - Iceland
39	L01	Luxembourg	1996	Panel Living in Luxembourg	General Social Survey	Yearly	combination cross-sectional / panel	FTF	no restriction	2.554	6.605	Yes	Luxembourg, French	CEPS / INSTEAD

No.	Survey code	Country	Year	Survey title	Type of survey	Frequency	Survey design	Mode data collection	Age group restriction	Sample size: households	Sample size: persons	Proxy	Survey languages	Institution conducting survey
40	L02	Luxembourg	2001	Socio-Economic Panel Living in Luxembourg	General Social Survey	Yearly	combination	FTF	no restriction	2.431	6.242	Yes	French	CEPS / INSTEAD
41	N01	Norway	1998	Survey on Living Conditions	General Social Survey	3/4-yearly	cross-sectional without follow-up	FTF + TEL + SA	16+	-	7.125	No information	Norwegian	Statistik Sentralbyrå ^o
42	NL02	The Netherlands	2001	Patient Survey - Second Dutch National Survey of General Practice	HIS	Irregular	cross-sectional without follow-up	FTF	no restriction	-	13.000	Yes	Dutch, Marrocan, Turkish	Rijksinstituut Volksgezondheid en Milieu / RIVM
43	NL03	The Netherlands	2001	Continuous Survey on Living Conditions	HIS / HES	Continuous	cross-sectional without follow-up	FTF + SA	no restriction	-	-	Yes	Dutch	Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek / CBS
44	P01	Portugal	1995-1997	National Health Survey	HIS	3-yearly (if possible)	cross-sectional without follow-up	FTF	no restriction	17.420	49.718	Yes	Portu-guese	Instituto Nacional de Saude Dr Ricardo Jorge
45	P02	Portugal	1994	National Survey on Disabilities, Impairments and Handicaps	Disability	Irregular	cross-sectional without follow-up	FTF	no restriction	70.000	150.000	Yes	Portu-guese	Instituto Nacional de Estatistica / INE
46	P04	Portugal	2001	Census	Census	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Instituto Nacional de Estatistica / INE

No.	Survey code	Country	Year	Survey title	Type of survey	Frequency	Survey design	Mode data collection	Age group restriction	Sample size: households	Sample size: persons	Proxy	Survey languages	Institution conducting survey
47	S02	Sweden	2001	Living Conditions Survey	General Social Survey	Yearly	combination cross-sectional / panel	FTF	16-84	-	5.800	Yes	Swedish	Statistika Centralbyrå ⁿ / SCB
48	UK02	United Kingdom	1998	Health Education Monitoring Survey	Other	Irregular	cross-sectional with follow-up	FTF	16+	-	5.800	No	English	Office for National Statistics / ONS
49	UK11	United Kingdom	2001	The General Household Survey	General Social Survey	Continuous	cross-sectional without follow-up	FTF + TEL	no restriction	13.248	-	Yes	English	Office for National Statistics / ONS
50	UK15	United Kingdom	2001	Census	Census	10 years	-	SA	no restriction	-	-	-	English	Office for National Statistics / ONS
51	No code (H01)	Hungary	2000	National Health Interview Survey	HIS	Ad hoc		FTF + SA	18+		5.503	No	Hungarian	National Center for Epidemiology ¹
52	No code (H02)	Hungary	2001	Population Census	Census	10 years		FTF + SA		32.321			Hungarian	Hungarian Central Statistical Office
53	No code (H03)	Hungary	2002	Labour Force Survey	Other	Ad hoc		FTF	15-64		54.800	Yes	Hungarian	Hungarian Central Statistical Office
54	No code (H04)	Hungary	1999-2001	Time-Use Survey	Other	10 years		FTF	15-84	cca. 11.000	cca. 11.000	No	Hungarian	Hungarian Central Statistical Office

¹ Its name at the time of the survey: Health Promotion Research Institute

Appendix 3a

Overview of Surveys in Europe which use MEHM-related Questions

No.	Code	Country	Year	Title Survey	1.st Question MEHM: Self-perceived health	2.nd Question MEHM: Chronic and Long standing health problem	3.rd Question MEHM: Activities Limitation
1	A01	Austria	1999	Microcensus	X	Specific Approach	X (2)
2	B02	Belgium	2001	Health Interview Survey	X	Global Approach	X
3	B03	Belgium	2001	General Socio-economic Survey	X	Global Approach	X
4	No code (Bc02)	Belgium	2002	Census	X	Global Approach	X
5	CH01	Switzerland	1997	Swiss Health Survey	X	Global Approach	No Question
6	Ch02	Switzerland	2002	Swiss Health Survey	X	Global Approach	No Question
7	D02	Germany	1998	Survey on Living Condition, Health and Environment	X	Specific Approach	X
8	D05	Germany	1998	German National Health Examination and Interview Survey	X	Specific Approach	Specific / physical
9	DK02	Denmark	2000	Danish Health and Morbidity Survey	X	Global Approach	X (specific for each illness is the person suffering)
10	E02	Spain	2001	National Health Survey	X	Specific Approach	X
11	E04	Spain	1999	Impairments, Disabilities and Health Status Survey	X	Specific Approach	No Question
12	EL01	Greece	1991	Population Census	No Question	Global Approach	No Question
13	EL02	Greece	1998	National Greek Survey: Psychological Factors and Health	X	Global Approach	No Question
14	F02	France	1999	Handicaps, Disabilities and Dependency Survey	No Question	No Question	X
15	F03	France	1998	Health and Social Protection Survey	X	Specific Approach	No Question

No.	Code	Country	Year	Title Survey	1.st Question MEHM: Self-perceived health	2.nd Question MEHM: Chronic and Long standing health problem	3.rd Question MEHM: Activities Limitation
16	F05	France	2001	The INSEE Survey on Handicaps, Disabilities and Dependency	X	No Question	No Question
17	F07	France	2000	Continuous Survey on Households Living Conditions	X	No Question	No Question
18	F08	France	1999	French Survey on Living Conditions and Aspirations	X (compared)	Global Approach	No Question
19	F09	France	2002	Health and Social Protection Survey	X	Global Approach	X
20	F11	France	2001	Continuous Survey on Households Living Conditions	X	No Question	No Question
21	F12	France	2001	French Survey on Living Conditions and Aspirations	X (compared)	Global Approach	No Question
22	No code (F1999)	France	1999	Everyday Life and Health Survey	No ¹	No ¹	X
23	FIN01	Finland	2000	Survey on Health Behaviour	X	No Question	No Question
24	FIN03	Finland	2000	Health-Survey on Capability and National Health	X	X ² (connected with activity limitation)	X ² (connected with long standing / chronic)
25	FIN06	Finland	2001	Health Behaviour Survey among the Adult Population	X	X (connected with work and functional ability)	X
26	FIN07	Finland	2002	The National FINRISK Study	X	Specific Approach	No question
27	FIN09	Finland	2001	Health Behaviour Survey among the Elderly Population	X	Specific Approach	No Question

No.	Code	Country	Year	Title Survey	1.st Question MEHM: Self-perceived health	2.nd Question MEHM: Chronic and Long standing health problem	3.rd Question MEHM: Activities Limitation
28	I01	Italy	1999-2000	Health Conditions and Recourse to Health Services	X	Specific Approach	X ³ (connected with long standing / chronic)
29	I03	Italy	2000	Aspects of Daily Life	X	Specific Approach	X ³ (connected with long standing / chronic)
30	I04	Italy	2001	Aspects of Daily Life	X	Specific Approach	X ³ (connected with long standing / chronic)
31	IRL01	Ireland	1998	Survey of Lifestyle, Attitudes and Nutrition	X ²	Specific Approach	X (related with long term illness)
32	IRL02	Ireland	2000	Living in Ireland Survey	X	Global Approach	X (as follow up question to question on long-standing illness)
33	IRL03	Ireland	2002	Survey of Lifestyle, Attitudes and Nutrition	X	Specific Approach	X (related with long term illness)
34	IRL04	Ireland	2001	Living in Ireland Survey	X	Global Approach	X (as follow up question to question on long-standing illness)
35	No code (IrC02)	Ireland	2002	Census	No ¹	Global Approach ⁴	X
36	IS02	Island	1989-99	Health and Living Conditions in Iceland	X (physical)	Specific Approach	X
37	IS03	Island	2001	Health and Lifestyle	X	No Question	No Question
38	L01	Luxembourg	2000	Panel Living in Luxembourg	X	No Question	No Question
39	N01	Norway	1998	Survey on Living Conditions	X	Global Approach	X
40	P01	Portugal	1995	National Health Survey	X	No Question	X (but problem in the translation)
41	NL02	The Netherlands	2001	Second National Study on Morbidity and Use of Health Services	No question	Specific Approach	X
42	NL03	The Netherlands	2001	Continuous Quality of Life Survey	X	Global Approach	X
43	S01	Sweden	1999	Living Conditions Survey	X	Global Approach	No Question

No.	Code	Country	Year	Title Survey	1.st Question MEHM: Self-perceived health	2.nd Question MEHM: Chronic and Long standing health problem	3.rd Question MEHM: Activities Limitation
44	S02	Sweden	2001	Living Conditions Survey	X	Global Approach	No Question
45	UK02	United Kingdom	1998	Health Education Monitoring Survey	X	Global Approach	X
46	UK11	United Kingdom	2001	The General Household Survey	X	Global Approach	X
47	UK15	United Kingdom	2001	Census	X	Global Approach ² (connected with activity limitation)	X ² (connected with long standing illness / chronic)
48	No code (H01)	Hungary	2000	National Health Interview	X	Global Approach	X

¹ It is not in the database. More information are needed to be sure it is not enclosed in other part of the survey

² The question enquires on long-standing/chronic illness related with activities limitation. This question is considered for MEHM 2 and MEHM 3 questions

³ The question enquires on long-standing/chronic illness related with activities limitation

⁴ The question enquires on specific typologies of health problem and on activities and participation restriction

Appendix 3b

Overview of the Questions used in the European Surveys

No.	Code	Country	Year	Title of Survey	Question 1 – MEHM (health)	Question 2 – MEHM (chronic)	Question 3 – MEHM (Activity Limitations)
1	A01	Austria	1999	Microcensus	<p>B26. [to all persons aged 15 and above] How do you assess your state of health in general?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very good - Good - Moderate - Poor - Very poor 	Specific approach	<p>B36. Are you unable, for health reasons, i.e. as a result of a chronic illness, permanent incapacity or old age, to carry out important personal functions yourself (e.g. eating, washing / bathing, going to the toilet....), and are you therefore sometimes, frequently or always dependent on the help of others, or is this not applicable? (If the answer is "frequently or always" or in the case of persons under 15 years of age, then go on to B.38)</p> <p>B37. [to all persons of 15 years or older, who have answered question B.36 with "never" or "sometimes"] Are you unable, for health reasons, i.e. as a result of a chronic illness, permanent incapacity or for reasons of old age, to perform important activities of daily life (e.g. going shopping, preparing meals, doing the washing...) yourself and are you therefore sometimes, frequently or always dependent on the help of others, or is this not applicable?</p>
2	B02	Belgium	2001	Health Interview Survey	<p>PE01. How is your health in general?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very good - Good - Fair (reasonable) - Bad - Very bad 	<p>MB01. [Face to face] Do you suffer from one or more long-standing illnesses, chronic conditions or handicaps ?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No - Don't know - No answer <p>PE03. [Self-administrated] Do you suffer from (have) any chronic (long-standing) illness or condition (health problem)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No 	<p>MB03. [face to face] Are you restricted in you daily activities due to this (these) illness(es), chronic condition(s) or handicaps?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continually - At intervals - Not or seldom - Don' know - No answer <p>SAPE04. [self-administrated] For the past 6 months or more have you been limited in activities people usually do because of health problem?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes, strongly limited - Yes limited - No, not limited
3	B03	Belgium	2001	General Socio-Economic Survey 2001	<p>2. How is your health in general ?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very good - Good - Moderate - Bad - Very bad 	<p>3a. Do you suffer from one or more long-standing illnesses, chronic conditions or handicaps?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No 	<p>3b. Are you restricted in your daily activities due to these illnesses, chronic conditions or handicaps?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continually - At intervals - Not or seldom <p>[This question is asked if yes to the previous - 3a]</p>

No.	Code	Country	Year	Title of Survey	Question 1 – MEHM (health)	Question 2 – MEHM (chronic)	Question 3 – MEHM (Activity Limitations)
4	No code (Bc02)	Belgium	2002	Census	How is your health in general? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very good - Good - Fair (reasonable) - Bad - Very bad 	Do you suffer from one or more long-standing illnesses, chronic conditions or handicaps ? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No - Don't know - No answer 	Are you restricted in you daily activities due to this (these) illness(es), chronic condition(s) or handicaps? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continually - At intervals - Not or seldom - Don' know - No answer
5	CH01	Switzerland	2002	Swiss Health Survey	12.00. How do you feel now? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very well - Well - Fair - Badly - Very badly - No response 	13.00. Today there are a number of people who have a physical or a psychological problem that limits their daily activities. Do you have such a problem or an illness of this type which you have had for more than one year? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No 	No Question
6	CH02	Switzerland	2002	Swiss Health Survey -	12.00. How do you feel now? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very well - Well - Fair - Badly - Very badly - No response 	13.00. Today there are a number of people who have a physical or a psychological problem that limits their daily activities. Do you have such a problem or an illness of this type which you have had for more than one year? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No 	No Question
7	D02	Germany	1998	Survey on Living Conditions, Health and Environment	43. How would you describe your present state of health? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very good - Good - Satisfactory - Not very good - Poor 	Specific Approach	44. Apart from short illnesses: does your state of health prevent you from carrying out your day-to-day activities, for example, in the home, at work or in your training? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not at all - A little - Considerably

No.	Code	Country	Year	Title of Survey	Question 1 – MEHM (health)	Question 2 – MEHM (chronic)	Question 3 – MEHM (Activity Limitations)
8	D05	Germany	1998	German National Health Examination and Interview Survey	<p>12. In general, would you say your health is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Excellent - Very good - Good - Fair - Poor 	Specific Approach	No Question
9	DK02	Denmark	2000	Danish Health and Morbidity Survey	<p>21. How do you rate your present state of health in general?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Really good - Good - Fair - Bad - Very bad 	<p>24. Do you suffer from any long-standing illness, long- standing after effect from injury, any disability or other long-standing condition?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No <p>24a1. Illness: Which illness or ailment do you suffer from? Write which illness: ...</p>	<p>Are you restricted by the illness in your work/usual activities?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes, very much - Yes, a little - No <p>[This question is asked for each illness the respondent suffers (max 4)]</p>
10	E02	Spain	2001	National Health Survey	<p>Q9. We would now like to ask you a few questions on the health of your household. In the last twelve months, i.e. since February 2000, would you consider your health as being very good, good, normal, bad or very bad?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very good - Good - Normal - Bad - Very bad 	Specific Approach	<p>Q5. Do any of the members of the household require particular attention due to a physical or other type of handicap (must be accompanied at night, requires help to go out, separate toilet facilities, etc.) on a day to day basis either for work or social activities?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No - Don't know

No.	Code	Country	Year	Title of Survey	Question 1 – MEHM (health)	Question 2 – MEHM (chronic)	Question 3 – MEHM (Activity Limitations)
11	E04	Spain	1999	Impairments, Disabilities and Health Status Survey	<p>5.1. How would you rate the state of your health generally?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very good - Good - Fair - Poor - Very poor 	Specific Approach	No Question
12	EL01	Greece	1991	Population Census	No Question	<p>5. Are there any persons with long-standing illnesses or handicaps living with you?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No <p>If yes, please indicate which person this concerns: ...</p> <p>Please indicate the category of this long-standing illness or handicap : ...</p>	No Question
13	EL02	Greece	1998	National Greek Survey: Psychosocial Factors and Health	<p>A27. Would you say that your health, during the last 12 months, was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very good - Good - Not so good - Bad 	<p>A28. Do you suffer from a physical disease or handicap?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No - Yes <p>Describe the disease [list]</p>	No Question
14	F02	France	1999	Handicaps, Disabilities and Dependency Survey	No Question	No Question	<p>HAND1. In everyday life, are you faced with either physical, sensorial, intellectual or mental difficulties? (resulting from an accident, a chronic disease, a problem at birth, an invalidity, ageing)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No - Will not answer - Does not know
15	F03	France	1998	Health and Social Protection Survey	Can you indicate, between 0 and 10, your state of health?	What illness, health problems or disabilities are you currently suffering from?	No Question

No.	Code	Country	Year	Title of Survey	Question 1 – MEHM (health)	Question 2 – MEHM (chronic)	Question 3 – MEHM (Activity Limitations)
16	F05	France	2001	The INSEE Survey on Handicaps, Disabilities and Dependency	At present, given your age, how do you consider your state of health? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very good - Good - Average - Mediocre - Frankly bad 	No Question	No Question
17	F07	France	2000	Continuous Survey on Households Living Conditions	At present, do you consider your state of health to be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very good - Good - Average - Moderate - Poor - Very Poor 	No Question	No Question
18	F08	France	1999	French Survey on Living Conditions and Aspirations	Compared with other people of your age, would you describe your state of health as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very good - Good - Not very good - Not very good at all 	Do you suffer from a physical infirmity, handicap or chronic disease which will continue to affect you in the future? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No 	No Question
19	F09	France	2002	Health and Social Protection Survey	56. How is your general state of health? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very good - Good - Average - Poor - Very poor 	57. Do you suffer from a chronic disease or health problem? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No 	58. During at least six months, have you been limited in activities which people normally carry out due to a health problem? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No

No.	Code	Country	Year	Title of Survey	Question 1 – MEHM (health)	Question 2 – MEHM (chronic)	Question 3 – MEHM (Activity Limitations)
20	F11	France	2001	Continuous Survey on Households Living Conditions	A1. At present, do you consider your state of health to be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very good - Good - Average - Moderate - Poor - Very poor 	No Question	No Question
21	F12	France	2001	French survey on living conditions and aspirations	I19. Compared with other people of your age, would you describe your state of health as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very good - Good - Not very good - Not very good at all 	I1. Do you suffer from a physical infirmity, handicap or chronic disease which will continue to affect you in the future? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No 	No Question
22	No code (F1999)	France	1999	Everyday Life and Health Survey	No Question	No Question	Is he/she restricted in the kind or amount of exercise he/she can do (at home, work or school or in any other occupation of his/her age such as travelling, games, sports, leisure activities)? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No
23	FIN01	Finland	2000	Survey on Health Behaviour	18. What is your own assessment of your present state of health? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good - Reasonably good - Average - Rather poor - Poor 	No Question	No Question

No.	Code	Country	Year	Title of Survey	Question 1 – MEHM (health)	Question 2 – MEHM (chronic)	Question 3 – MEHM (Activity Limitations)
24	FIN03	Finland	2000	Health Survey on Capability and national Health	<p>BA01. I would next like to inquire about matters concerning your health and illnesses. Is your health status nowadays:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good - Rather good - Moderate - Rather poor - Poor? 	<p>A02. Do you have some permanent or chronic illness or some defect, trouble or injury, which diminishes your working capacity or functional ability? [All chronic illnesses diagnosed by a doctor and all troubles which have lasted at least three months, which a doctor has not diagnosed, but which affect on the capability shall be mentioned]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No <p>If yes to AO2 (see next column)</p> <p>BA03. What or what kind is this illness or injury?</p> <p>Specific approach</p>	No Question
25	FIN06	Finland	2001	Health Behaviour Survey among the Adult Population	<p>18. How would you assess your present state of health?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good - Rather good - Average - Rather poor - Poor 	<p>Do you have an illness or disability that affects your work and functional ability ?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No - Yes 	<p>21. Do you have difficulty coping with everyday chores, job tasks or other demands of everyday life?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No difficulty coping - Slight difficulty coping - A great deal of difficulty coping - I cannot cope on my own
26	FIN07	Finland	2002	The National Finrisk Study	<p>49. How do you find your health status? Is it</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Excellent - Quite good - Average - Quite bad - Very bad 	Specific approach	No Question

No.	Code	Country	Year	Title of Survey	Question 1 – MEHM (health)	Question 2 – MEHM (chronic)	Question 3 – MEHM (Activity Limitations)
27	FIN09	Finland	2001	Health Behaviour Survey among the Elderly Population	11. How would you assess your present state of health ? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good - Rather good - Average - Rather poor - Poor 	Specific approach	No Question
28	I01	Italy	1999-2000	Health Conditions and the Use of Health Services	How is your health in general? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very good - Good - Fair - Bad - Very bad 	Specific approach	1. [face to face] Are you affected by a long-standing illness or a permanent disability that reduces your personal freedom till requiring help from other people for daily needs inside and outside the home? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No - Yes, intermittently, for some needs - Yes, continuously, or for important needs
29	I03	Italy	2000	Aspects of Daily Life	5.1 [face to face] How is your health in general? (Give a score from 1 to 5, where 1 is the worst state and 5 is the best one) 1.1. How is your health in general? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very good - Good - Fair - Bad - Very bad 	Specific approach	Are you suffering from a chronic disease or a permanent disablement which reduces your personal freedom to the extent of requiring the assistance of other people for everyday needs at home or away from home? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No - Yes, occasionally for some needs - Yes, continuously or for important needs

No.	Code	Country	Year	Title of Survey	Question 1 – MEHM (health)	Question 2 – MEHM (chronic)	Question 3 – MEHM (Activity Limitations)
30	I04	Italy	2001	Aspects of Daily Life	<p>5.1 [face to face] How is your health in general? (Give a score from 1 to 5, where 1 is the worst state and 5 is the best one)</p> <p>1.1. How is your health in general?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very good - Good - Fair - Bad - Very bad 	Specific approach	<p>Are you suffering from a chronic disease or a permanent disablement which reduces your personal freedom to the extent of requiring the assistance of other people for everyday needs at home or away from home?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No - Yes, occasionally for some needs - Yes, continuously or for important needs
31	IRL01	Ireland	1998	Survey of Lifestyle, Attitudes and Nutrition (SLÁN)	<p>A1. [self-administrated] In general, would you say your health is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Excellent - Very good - Good - Fair - Poor 	Specific approach	<p>A3. Is your daily activity or work limited by a long term illness, health problem or disability?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No - Do not have any of the above
32	IRL02	Ireland	2000	Living in Ireland Survey	<p>L1. In general, how good would you say your health is? Would you say it is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very Good - Good - Fair - Bad - Very Bad 	<p>L2. Do you have any chronic, physical or mental health problem, illness or disability?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No 	<p>If yes to L.2 [see previous column]</p> <p>L3c. Are you hampered in your daily activities by this physical or mental health problem, illness or disability?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes, severely - Yes, to some extent - No

No.	Code	Country	Year	Title of Survey	Question 1 – MEHM (health)	Question 2 – MEHM (chronic)	Question 3 – MEHM (Activity Limitations)
33	IRL03	Ireland	2002	Survey of Lifestyle, Attitudes and Nutrition (SLÁN)	A1. [self-administrated] In general, would you say your health is <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Excellent - Very good - Good - Fair - Poor 	Specific approach	A3. Is your daily activity or work limited by a long term illness, health problem or disability? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No - Do not have any of the above
34	IRL04	Ireland	2001	Living in Ireland Survey	L1. In general, how good would you say your health is? Would you say it is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very Good - Good - Fair - Bad - Very Bad 	L2. Do you have any chronic, physical or mental health problem, illness or disability? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No 	If yes to L.2 [see previous column] L3c. Are you hampered in your daily activities by this physical or mental health problem, illness or disability? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes, severely - Yes, to some extent - No

No.	Code	Country	Year	Title of Survey	Question 1 – MEHM (health)	Question 2 – MEHM (chronic)	Question 3 – MEHM (Activity Limitations)
35	No code (IrlC02)	Ireland	2002	Census	No Question	<p>14. Do you have any of the following long-lasting conditions:</p> <p>a) Blindness, deafness or a severe vision or hearing impairment?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No <p>b) A condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting or carrying?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No 	<p>15. Because of a physical, mental or emotional condition lasting 6 months or more, do you have any difficulty in doing any of the following activities?</p> <p><i>Answer (a) and (b) if aged 5 years or over</i></p> <p>a) Learning, remembering or concentrating?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No <p>b) Dressing, bathing or getting around inside the home?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No <p><i>Answer (c) and (d) if aged 15 years or over</i></p> <p>c) Going outside the home alone to shop or visit a doctor's surgery?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No <p>d) Working at job or business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No

No.	Code	Country	Year	Title of Survey	Question 1 – MEHM (health)	Question 2 – MEHM (chronic)	Question 3 – MEHM (Activity Limitations)
36	IS02	Iceland	1989-99	Health and Living Conditions in Iceland	<p>1. In general, how do you evaluate your physical health? Do you find it very good, good, fair or poor?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very good - Good - Fair - Poor 	Specific Approach	<p>10. How difficult is it usually for you to carry out these activities?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very difficult - Rather difficult - Slightly difficult - Not at all difficult - Eat - Get dressed - Start moving around - Go up stairs - Leave the house - Handle work - Handle work of the home
37	IS03	Iceland	2001	Health and Lifestyle	<p>01. Are you generally in good or poor health?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very good health - Rather good health - Fair health - Rather poor health - Very poor health 	No Question	No Question
38	L01	Luxembourg	1996	Panel Living in Luxembourg	<p>D36. Do you feel that you enjoy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very good health - Good health - More or less good health - Poor health - Very poor health 	No Question	No Question

No.	Code	Country	Year	Title of Survey	Question 1 – MEHM (health)	Question 2 – MEHM (chronic)	Question 3 – MEHM (Activity Limitations)
39	N01	Norway	1998	Survey on Living Conditions	<p>H1. How would you describe your own general health? Would you say it is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very good - Good - Neither good nor bad, average - Poor - Very poor <p>1. In general will you say your health is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Excellent - Very good - Good - Fair - Poor 	<p>H2.a. Do you suffer for any illness or disorder of a more long-term nature, any congenital disease or effect of an injury? We are referring to difficulties/limitations of a more long-term nature. The term 'long-term nature' refers to a situation that has lasted or is expected to last for 6 months or more.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes? What kind ... - No 	<p>29. Owing to permanent health problems or disabilities, have you had trouble:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - getting out of your dwelling on your own (not possible / extremely difficult / somewhat difficult / not difficult) - participating in recreational activities (not possible / extremely difficult / somewhat difficult / not difficult) - using public transportation (not possible / extremely difficult / somewhat difficult / not difficult) - establishing contact with or talking to other people (not possible / extremely difficult / somewhat difficult / not difficult) - doing your job (not possible / extremely difficult / somewhat difficult / not difficult)
40	P01	Portugal	1995	National Health Survey	<p>What is your general state of health?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very good - Good - Reasonable - Poor - Very poor 	No Question	Translation problem
41	NL02	The Netherlands	2001	Second National Study on Morbidity and Use of Health Services	No Question	Specific approach	<p>And what about your day -to-day activities?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I have no difficulties in my day -to-day activities - I have some difficulties in my day-to-day activities - I am unable to carry out in my day-to-day activities

No.	Code	Country	Year	Title of Survey	Question 1 – MEHM (health)	Question 2 – MEHM (chronic)	Question 3 – MEHM (Activity Limitations)
42	NL03	The Netherlands	2001	Continuous Survey on Living Conditions	<p>How is your health in general?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very good - Good - Fair - Bad - Very Bad 	<p>Do you suffer from any long-standing illness, disorders or handicaps?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No 	<p><i>If the respondent is under 12 years old:</i></p> <p>Is your child because of this limited in activities in school, in other activities which are normal for a child of his age?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Severely limited - Moderate limited - Not limited <p><i>If the respondent is over 12 years old:</i></p> <p>To what degree are you limited because of this in daily activities at home?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Severely limited - Moderate limited - Not limited <p><i>For all respondents</i></p> <p>To what degree are you limited because of this at school or at work?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Severely limited - Moderate limited - Not limited <p>To what degree are you limited because of this in leisure time activities, sports or travelling?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Severely limited - Moderate limited - Not limited

No.	Code	Country	Year	Title of Survey	Question 1 – MEHM (health)	Question 2 – MEHM (chronic)	Question 3 – MEHM (Activity Limitations)
43	S01	Sweden	1999	Living Conditions Survey	<p>In your opinion, how is your state of health? Is it</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very good - Good - Fair - Bad - Very bad 	<p>42. Do you suffer from any long-term illness, after-effects from an accident, disability or other ailment?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No 	No Question
44	S02	Sweden	2001	Living Conditions Survey	<p>1. In your opinion, how is your state of health? Is it</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very good - Good - Fair - Bad - Very bad 	<p>42. Do you suffer from any long-term illness, after-effects from an accident, disability or other ailment?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No 	No Question
45	UK02	United Kingdom	1998	Health Education Monitoring Survey	<p>15. How is your health in general? Would you say it was</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very good - Good - Fair - Bad - Or very bad? 	<p>16. Do you have any long-standing illness, disability or infirmity? By long-standing I mean anything that has troubled you over a period of time or that is likely to affect you over a period of time?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No 	<p>8. Does this illness or disability (do any of these illnesses or disabilities) limit your activities in any way?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No
46	UK11	United Kingdom	2001	The General Household Survey	<p>01. Over the last 12 months would you say your health has on the whole been good, fairly good, or no good?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good - Fairly good - Not good 	<p>02. Do you have any long-standing illness, disability or infirmity? (By long-standing, I mean anything that has troubled you over a period of time or that is likely to affect you over a period of time)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No 	<p>07. Does this illness or disability (Do any of these illnesses or disabilities) limit your activities in any way?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No

No.	Code	Country	Year	Title of Survey	Question 1 – MEHM (health)	Question 2 – MEHM (chronic)	Question 3 – MEHM (Activity Limitations)
47	UK15	United Kingdom	2001	Census	Over the last 12 months would you say your health has on the whole been: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good - Fairly good - Not good 	Do you have long-term illness, health problem or disability which limits your daily activities or the work you can do? Include problems which are due to old age. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No 	No Question
48	No code (H01)	Hungary	2000	National Health Interview Survey	What do you think about your health in general? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very good - Good - Fair - Poor - Very poor - Don't know - Refused 	14. Do you have any condition or disease that limits you in your usual activities, such as working, shopping, taking care of day-to-day things, exercising, meeting other people? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No - Does not know / Not sure - Refused 	[Only in the self-administered questionnaire] Please choose the statement that best describes your own health TODAY! 3. Usual activities (e.g. work, studies, housework, family or recreational activities) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I have no problems with performing my usual activities - I have some problems with performing my usual activities - I am unable to perform my usual activities

Appendix 4

Legend of Criteria Used for Analyzing MEHM-related Questions

Questions 1 – Self-perceived Health

Code:	Database HIS/HES survey number code
Country:	Name of the Country
Year:	Year of the survey
Title Survey:	Title of the survey
Wording:	The exact wording is reported. Some surveys have more than one question on this topic; each one was under analysis.
Absolute format:	When the respondents are not specifically asked to compare their health with others of the same age or with their own previous or future health state. Answers categories: Yes, No
Age reference:	When the respondent are specifically asked to compare their health with others of the same age. Answers categories: Yes, No
Time reference:	When the wording includes a time. reference Answers categories: Yes (the time reference is specified), No
Verbs used	(What the respondents have to do): What respondents are asked to do with respect to self-perceived health. The verb used is reported.
What the respondent must analyse:	It is related to the object of the analysis. The different expressions used referring to “health” are reported.
In general:	If a generalizing word is used it is reported. Answers categories: Yes, No
Response categories:	The response categories are reported. (nominal or numerical)

Questions 2 – Chronic and Long-standing Illness

The analysis is done only for the questions that are considered related to “global approach”.

Code:	Database HIS/HES survey number code
Country:	Name of the Country
Year:	Year of the survey
Title Survey:	Title of the survey
Wording:	The exact wording is reported. In some cases there is more than one, for each one analysis is done
Global approach:	‘Global approach’ is used to refer to questions which simply ask if the person is suffering/has a chronic disease. Answer categories: Yes, No.
Specific approach:	‘Specific approach’ refers to when a question alludes to type of disease (with or without reference list). Completed analysis is not done for this type of question. Answer categories: Yes, No. If yes, it is also specified if the answer categories is open or has a list.
Time reference:	It relates to time reference given. Answer categories: Yes (time is reported), No
Long-standing/chronic:	It refers to concepts present in the wording. Answer categories: Yes, No
Illness, condition or health problem:	It refers to concepts present in the wording. Answer categories: Yes, No
Other concepts:	It refers to other concepts specifically included in the wording. Here the words used are reported.
Use of neutral terminology:	It refers to using words with neutral connotation. Answer categories: Yes, No
Response categories:	Dichotomous, Multiple.

Questions 3 – Activities Limitations

Code:	Database HIS/HES survey number code
Country:	Name of the Country
Year:	Year of the survey
Title Survey:	Title of the survey
Wording:	The exact wording is reported. In some cases there is more than one, for each one analysis is was made.
Time reference:	It relates to time reference used in the question, if Yes, it is reported.
Norm reference:	It refers whether it is asked to compare with what people of the same age can do. Answers categories: Yes, No
Attribution to health:	This addresses the issue whether the wording encloses a reference to health problems as cause of limitation in activities and participation. Answer categories: Yes (words used are reported), No
Limited in activities:	It refers to whether the question indicates specific activities. Answer categories: Yes (if it is a specific reference to activities or environment), words are reported), No.
Need of help:	It refers to whether in the wording it is also asked if the person need assistance in doing activities. Answer categories: Yes, No
Use of neutral terminology:	It refers to using words with neutral connotation. Answer categories: Yes, No
Response categories:	The response categories are reported.

Appendix 5

Analysis of Questions Related to MEHM 1

No.	Code	Country	Year	Title Survey	Wording	Absolute Format	Age Reference	Time Reference	Verbs used	What the respondent must analyse	In general	Response categories
		MEHM			<i>How is your health in general?</i>	Yes	No	No	To be	Health	Yes	Nominal 5 <i>Very good / Good / Fair / Bad / Very bad</i>
1	A01	Austria	1999	Microcensus	<i>How do you assess your state of health in general?</i>	Yes	No	No	To assess	State of health	Yes	Nominal 5 <i>Very good / Good / Moderate / Poor / Very poor</i>
2	B02	Belgium	2001	Health Interview Survey	<i>How is your health in general?</i>	Yes	No	No	To be	Health	Yes	Nominal 5 <i>Very good / Good / Fair (reasonable) / Bad / Very bad</i>
3	B03	Belgium	2001	General Socio-Economic Survey	<i>How is your health in general?</i>	Yes	No	No	To be	Health	Yes	Nominal 5 <i>Very good / Good / Fair (reasonable) / Bad / Very bad</i>
4	no code (Bc02)	Belgium	2002	Census	<i>How is your health in general?</i>	Yes	No	No	To be	Health	Yes	Nominal 5 <i>Very good / Good / Fair (reasonable) / Bad / Very bad</i>
5	CH01	Switzerland	1997	Swiss Health Survey	<i>How do you feel now?</i>	Yes	No	Now	To feel	Themselves	No	Nominal 5 <i>Very good / Good / Fair (reasonable) / Bad / Very bad</i>
6	CH02	Switzerland	2002	Swiss Health Survey	<i>How do you feel now?</i>	Yes	No	Now	To feel	Themselves	No	Nominal 5 <i>Very good / Good / Fair (reasonable) / Bad / Very bad</i>
7	D02	Germany	1998	Survey on Living Conditions, Health and Environment	<i>How would you describe your present state of health?</i>	Yes	No	Present	To describe	State of health	No	Nominal 5 <i>Very good / Good / Satisfactory / Not very good / Poor</i>
8	D05	Germany	1998	German National Health Examination and Interview Survey	<i>In general, would you say your health is:</i>	Yes	No	No	To say	Health	Yes	Nominal 5 <i>Excellent / Very good / Fair / Poor</i>
9	DK02	Denmark	2000	Danish Health and Morbidity Survey	<i>How do you rate your present state of health in general?</i>	Yes	No	Present	To rate	State of health	Yes	Nominal 5 <i>Really good / Good / Fair / Bad / Very bad</i>

No.	Code	Country	Year	Title Survey	Wording	Absolute Format	Age Reference	Time Reference	Verbs used	What the respondent must analyse	In general	Response categories
10	E02	Spain	2001	National Health Survey	<i>We would now like to ask you a few questions on the health of your household. In the last twelve months, i.e. since February 2000, would you consider your health as being very good, good, normal, bad or very bad?</i>	Yes	No	In the last 12 months	To consider	Health	No	Nominal 5 <i>Very good / Good / Normal / Bad / Very bad</i>
11	E04	Spain	1999	Impairments, Disabilities and Health Status Survey	<i>How would you rate the state of your health generally?</i>	Yes	No	No	To rate	Health	Yes	Nominal 5 <i>Very good / Good / Fair / Poor / Very poor</i>
12	EL02	Greece	1998	National Greek Survey: Psychological Factors and Health	<i>Would you say that your health, during the last 12 months was:</i>	Yes	No	Last 12 months	To say	Health	No	Nominal 4 <i>Very good / Good / Not so good / Bad</i>
13	F03	France	1998	Health and Social Protection Survey	<i>Can you indicate, between 0 and 10, your state of health ?</i>	Yes	No	No	To indicate	State of health	No	Numerical 0-10
14	F05	France	2002	The INSEE Survey on Handicaps, Disabilities and Dependency	<i>At Present, given your age, how do you consider your state of health?</i>	Yes	No	At present	To consider	State of health	No	Nominal 5 <i>Very good / Good / Average / Mediocre / Frankly bad</i>

No.	Code	Country	Year	Title Survey	Wording	Absolute Format	Age Reference	Time Reference	Verbs used	What the respondent must analyse	In general	Response categories
15	F07	France	2000	Continuous Survey on Households Living Conditions	<i>At present, do you consider your state of health to be:</i>	Yes	No	At present	To consider	State of health	No	Nominal 6 <i>Very good / Good / Average / Moderate / Poor / Very poor</i>
16	F08	France	1999	French Survey on Living Conditions and Aspirations	<i>Compared with other people your age, would you describe your state of health as:</i>	No	Yes	No	To describe	State of health	No	Nominal 4 <i>Very good / Good / Not very good / Not very good at all</i>
17	F09	France	2002	Health and Social Protection Survey	<i>How is your general state of health?</i>	Yes	No	No	To be	State of health	Yes	Nominal 5 <i>Very good / Good / Average / Poor / Very poor</i>
18	F11	France	2001	Continuous Survey on Households Living Conditions	<i>At present, do you consider your state of health to be:</i>	Yes	No	At present	To consider	State of health	No	Nominal 6 <i>Very good / Good / Average / Moderate / Poor / Very poor</i>
19	F12	France	2001	French Survey on Living Conditions and Aspirations	<i>Compared with other people your age, would you describe your state of health as:</i>	No	Yes	No	To describe	State of health	No	Nominal 4 <i>Very good / Good / Not very good / Not very good at all</i>
20	FIN01	Finland	2000	Survey on Health Behaviour	<i>What is your own assessment of your present state of health?</i>	Yes	No	Present	To assess	State of health	No	Nominal 5 <i>Good / Reasonably good / Average / Rather poor / Poor</i>
21	FIN03	Finland	2000	Health – Survey on Capability and National Health	<i>Is your health status nowadays:</i>	Yes	No	Nowadays	To be	Health status	No	Nominal 5 <i>Good / Rather good / Moderate / Rather poor / Poor</i>

No.	Code	Country	Year	Title Survey	Wording	Absolute Format	Age Reference	Time Reference	Verbs used	What the respondent must analyse	In general	Response categories
22	FIN06	Finland	2001	Health Behaviour Survey among the Adult Population	<i>How would you assess your present state of health?</i>	Yes	No	Present	To assess	Health status	No	Nominal 5 <i>Good / Rather good / Average / Rather poor / Poor</i>
23	FIN07	Finland	2002	The National Finrisk Study	<i>How do you find your health status? It is</i>	Yes	No	No	To find	Health status	No	Nominal 5 <i>Excellent / Quite good / Average / Quite bad / Very bad</i>
24	FIN09	Finland	2001	Health Behaviour Survey among the Elderly Population	<i>How would you assess your present state of health?</i>	Yes	No	Present	To assess	Health status	No	Nominal 5 <i>Good / Rather good / Average / Rather poor / Poor</i>
25	I01	Italy	1999-2000	Health Conditions and Use of Health Services	<i>How is your health in general?</i>	Yes	No	No	To be	Health	Yes	Nominal 5 <i>Very good / Good / Fair / Bad / Very bad</i>
26	I04	Italy	2001	Aspects of Daily Life	<i>How is your health in general?</i>	Yes	No	No	To be	Health	Yes	Numerical 1-5
26bis				Aspects of Daily Life	<i>How is your health in general?</i>	Yes	No	No	To be	Health	Yes	Nominal 5 <i>Very good / Good / Fair / Bad / Very bad</i>
27	IRL01	Ireland	1998	Survey of Lifestyle, Attitudes and Nutrition (SLÁN)	<i>In general, would you say your health is:</i>	Yes	No	No	To say	Health	Yes	Nominal 5 <i>Excellent / Very good / Good / Fair / Poor</i>
28	IRL02	Ireland	2000	Living in Ireland Survey	<i>In general, how good would you say your health is? Would you say it is:</i>	Yes	No	No	To say	Health	Yes	Nominal 5 <i>Very good / Good / Fair / Bad / Very bad</i>

No.	Code	Country	Year	Title Survey	Wording	Absolute Format	Age Reference	Time Reference	Verbs used	What the respondent must analyse	In general	Response categories
29	IRL03	Ireland	2002	Survey of Lifestyle, Attitudes and Nutrition (SLÁN)	<i>In general, would you say your health is:</i>	Yes	No	No	To say	Health	Yes	Nominal 5 <i>Excellent / Very good / Good / Fair / Poor</i>
30	IRL04	Ireland	2001	Living in Ireland Survey	<i>In general, how good would you say your health is? Would you say it is:</i>	Yes	No	No	To say	Health	Yes	Nominal 5 <i>Very good / Good / Fair / Bad / Very bad</i>
31	IS02	Iceland	1989-99	Health and Living Conditions in Iceland	<i>In general, how do you evaluate your physical health? Do you find it very good, good, fair or poor?</i>	Yes	No	No	To evaluate	Physical health	Yes	Nominal 4 <i>Very good / Good / Fair / Poor</i>
32	IS03	Iceland	2001	Health and Lifestyle	<i>Are you generally in good or poor health? Do you find it very good, good, fair or poor?</i>	Yes	No	No	To find	Health	Yes	Nominal 5 <i>Very good health / Rather good health / Fair health / Rather poor health / Very poor health</i>
33	L01	Luxembourg	1996	Panel Living in Luxembourg	<i>Do you feel that you enjoy</i>	Yes	No	No	To feel	Health	No	Nominal 5 <i>Very good health / Good health / More or less good health / Poor health / Very poor health</i>
34	N01	Norway	1998	Survey on Living Conditions	<i>How would you describe your own general health? Would you say it is:</i>	Yes	No	No	To describe	Health	Yes	Nominal 5 <i>Very good / Good / Neither good nor bad, average / Poor / Very poor</i>
34bis					<i>In general will you say your health is:</i>	Yes	No	No	To say	Health	Yes	Nominal 5 <i>Excellent / Very good / Good / Fair / Poor</i>

No.	Code	Country	Year	Title Survey	Wording	Absolute Format	Age Reference	Time Reference	Verbs used	What the respondent must analyse	In general	Response categories
35	NL03	The Netherlands	2001	Continuous Quality of Life Survey	<i>How is your health in general?</i>	Yes	No	No	To be	Health	Yes	Nominal 5 <i>Excellent / Very good / Good / Moderate / Bad</i>
36	P01	Portugal	1995	National Health Survey	<i>What is your general state of health?</i>	Yes	No	No	To be	State of health	Yes	Nominal 4 <i>Very good / Good / Reasonable / Poor</i>
37	S01	Sweden	1999	Living Conditions Survey	<i>In your opinion, how is your state of health? Is it</i>	Yes	No	No	To be	State of health	No	Nominal 5 <i>Very good / Good / Fair / Bad / Very bad</i>
38	S02	Sweden	2001	Living Conditions Survey	<i>In your opinion, how is your state of health? Is it</i>	Yes	No	No	To be	State of health	No	Nominal 5 <i>Very good / Good / Fair / Bad / Very bad</i>
39	UK02	United Kingdom	1998	Health Education Monitoring Survey	<i>How is your health in general? Would you say it was:</i>	Yes	No	No	To say	Health	Yes	Nominal 5 <i>Very good / Good / Fair / Bad / Very bad</i>
40	UK11	United Kingdom	2001	The General Household Survey	<i>Over the last twelve months would you say your health has on the whole been good, fairly good, or No good?</i>	Yes	No	Over the last 12 months	To say	Health	On the whole	Nominal 3 <i>Good / Fairly good / Not good</i>
41	UK15	United Kingdom	2001	Census	<i>Over the last twelve months would you say your health has on the whole been?</i>	Yes	No	Over the last 12 months	To say	Health	On the whole	Nominal 3 <i>Good / Fairly good / Not good</i>
42	no code (H01)	Hungary	2000	National Health Interview Survey	<i>What do you think about your health in general?</i>	Yes	No	No	To think about	Health	Yes	Nominal 5 <i>Very good / Good / Fair / Poor / Very poor</i>

Appendix 6

Analysis of Questions Related to MEHM 2

No.	Code	Country	Year	Title Survey	Wording	Global approach	Specific approach	Time reference	Long-standing / chronic	Illness, condition or health problem	Other concepts	Use of neutral terminology	Response categories
		MEHM			Do you have any long-standing illness or health problem? Yes/No	Yes		No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Dichotomous Yes / No
1	A01	Austria	1999	Microcensus	Hand over list A (Diseases).Are you a chronic sufferer of any of the illnesses indicated on this list?		Yes, list						
2	B02	Belgium	2001	Health Interview survey	<i>Face to Face:</i> Do you suffer from one or more longstanding illnesses, chronic conditions or handicaps?	Yes	2a, 3a Yes, Open/ List	No	Yes	Yes	Handicaps	No	Yes / No / Don't know
2bis					<i>Self-administrated</i> PE.03. Do you suffer from (have) any chronic (long-standing) illness or condition (health problem)?	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Dichotomous Yes / No
3	B03	Belgium	2001	General Socio-economic Survey	Do you suffer from one or more longstanding illnesses, chronic conditions or handicaps?	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Handicaps	No	Yes / No / Don't know
4	No code (Bc02)	Belgium	2002	Census	Do you suffer from one or more longstanding illnesses, chronic conditions or handicaps?	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Handicaps	No	Yes / No / Don't know

No.	Code	Country	Year	Title Survey	Wording	Global approach	Specific approach	Time reference	Long-standing / chronic	Illness, condition or health problem	Other concepts	Use of neutral terminology	Response categories
5	Ch01	Switzerland	1997	Swiss Health Survey	<i>Today there are a number of people who have a physical or a psychological problem that limits their daily activities. Do you have such a problem or an illness of this type which you have had for more than one year?</i>	Yes	Yes, list	More than one year	No	Yes	No	No	Dichotomous Yes / No
6	Ch02	Switzerland	2002	Swiss Health Survey	<i>Today there are a number of people who have a physical or a psychological problem that limits their daily activities. Do you have such a problem or an illness of this type which you have had for more than one year?</i>	Yes	Yes, list	More than one year	No	Yes	No	No	Dichotomous Yes / No
7	D02	Germany	1998	Survey on living conditions, health and environment	Do you have or have you ever had any of these illnesses?		Yes, list						
8	D05	Germany	1998	German National Health Examination and Interview Survey	Have you ever had any of the following illnesses / diseases?		Yes, list						
9	DK02	Denmark	2000	Danish Health and Morbidity Survey	Do you suffer from any long-standing illness, long-standing after effect from injury, any disability or other long-standing condition? Yes/No	Yes	2a Yes, Open	No	Yes	Yes	After effect from injury, Disability	No	Dichotomous Yes / No

No.	Code	Country	Year	Title Survey	Wording	Global approach	Specific approach	Time reference	Long-standing / chronic	Illness, condition or health problem	Other concepts	Use of neutral terminology	Response categories
10	E02	Spain	2001	National Health Survey	On the card shown you can see a list of chronic illnesses. Have you been informed by a medical specialist that you suffer from any of them? (Note all illness mentioned by the interviewee) (show card B).		Yes, list						
11	E04	Spain	1999	Impairments, Disabilities and Health Status Survey	Specify whether or not you suffer from the following chronic problems or illnesses and, if so, your age at their onset.		Yes, list						
12	EL01	Greece	1991	Population Census	Are there any persons with longstanding illnesses or handicaps living with you?	Yes	2a, Yes, Open	No	Yes	Yes	Handicaps	No	Dichotomous Yes / No
13	EL02	Greece	1998	National Greek Survey: Psychosocial factors and Health	Do you suffer from a physical disease or handicap?	Yes	Yes, List	No	No	No	Physical disease, handicap	No	Dichotomous Yes / No
14	F03	France	1998	Health and Social Protection Survey	What illnesses, health problems or disabilities are you currently suffering from?		Yes, Open						

No.	Code	Country	Year	Title Survey	Wording	Global approach	Specific approach	Time reference	Long-standing / chronic	Illness, condition or health problem	Other concepts	Use of neutral terminology	Response categories
15	F08	France	1999	French survey on living conditions and aspirations	Do you suffer from a physical infirmity, handicap or chronic disease which will continue to affect you in the future?	Yes	No	Future	Yes	No	Physical infirmity, handicap	No	Yes / No / Doesn't know
16	F09	France	2002	Health and Social Protection Survey	Do you suffer from a chronic disease or health problem?	Yes	Yes (diabetes)	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes / No / Doesn't know
17	F12	France	2001	French survey on living conditions and aspirations	Do you suffer from a physical infirmity, handicap or chronic disease which will continue to affect you in the future?	Yes	No	Future	Yes	No	Physical infirmity, handicap		Yes / No / Doesn't know
18	Fin03	Finland	2000	Health –Survey on Capability and national Health	Do you have some permanent or chronic illness or some defect, trouble or injury, which diminishes your working capacity or functional ability?	Yes	Yes, list	No	Yes, Permanent	Yes	Some defect, trouble or injury, which diminishes your working capacity or functional ability	Yes	Dichotomous Yes / No
19	Fin06	Finland	2001	Health Behaviour Survey among the Adult Population	Do you have an illness or disability that affects your work and functional ability?	Yes	Yes, list	No	No	Yes	Affects your work and functional ability - Disability	No	Dichotomous Yes / No
20	Fin07	Finland	2002	The National FINRISK Study			Yes, list						

No.	Code	Country	Year	Title Survey	Wording	Global approach	Specific approach	Time reference	Long-standing / chronic	Illness, condition or health problem	Other concepts	Use of neutral terminology	Response categories
21	Fin09	Finland	2001	Health Behaviour Survey among the Ederly Population			Yes, list						
22	I01	Italy	1999-2000	Health conditions and recourse to health services	Have you had one or more of the following illness or pathological conditions in the past? If you have, was it diagnosed by a physicians? Do you take drugs or are you under therapy? Have you ever been hospitalised for this problem? Did the problem first occur within in the past 12 months?		Yes, list						
23	I04	Italy	2001	Aspects of daily life	Do you suffer from one of the following chronic diseases?		Yes, list						
24	IRL01	Ireland	1998	Survey of Lifestyle, Attitudes and Nutrition (SLÁN)	In the past year (12 months), have you been diagnosed with or treated for the following illnesses by a doctor?		Yes, list						
25	IRL02	Ireland	2000	Living in Ireland Survey	Do you have any chronic, physical or mental health problem, illness or disability?	Yes	Yes, open	No	Yes	Yes	Physical and Mental problem, disability	No	Dichotomous Yes / No

No.	Code	Country	Year	Title Survey	Wording	Global approach	Specific approach	Time reference	Long-standing / chronic	Illness, condition or health problem	Other concepts	Use of neutral terminology	Response categories
26	IRL03	Ireland	2002	Survey of Lifestyle, Attitudes and Nutrition (SLÁN)	In the past year (12 months), have you been diagnosed with or treated for the following illnesses by a doctor? Yes, No		Yes, list						
27	IRL04	Ireland	2001	Living in Ireland Survey	Do you have any chronic, physical or mental health problem, illness or disability?	Yes	Yes, open	No	Yes	Yes	Physical or mental health, disability	No	Dichotomous Yes / No
28	No code (IrlC02)	Ireland	2002	Population Census	Do you have any of the following long-lasting conditions: a) Blindness, deafness or a severe vision or hearing impairment? b) A condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting or carrying?	Yes, ¹	Yes, ¹	No	Yes		typologies of disability and Activities limitation	No	Dichotomous Yes / No
29	IS02	Iceland	1989-99	Health and Living Conditions in Iceland	Here is a list of various symptoms and diseases. Have you had any of these symptoms or diseases during the past 12 months? Has a doctor diagnosed or confirmed the symptoms?		Yes, list						

No.	Code	Country	Year	Title Survey	Wording	Global approach	Specific approach	Time reference	Long-standing / chronic	Illness, condition or health problem	Other concepts	Use of neutral terminology	Response categories
30	N01	Norway	1998	Survey on Living Conditions	Do you suffer for any illness or disorder of a more long-term nature, any congenital disease or effect of an injury? We are referring to difficulties/limitations of a more long-term nature. <i>The term 'long-term nature' refers to a situation that has lasted or is expected to last for 6 months or more.</i>	Yes	Yes, Open	has lasted or is expected to last for 6 months or more.	Yes		Disorder, congenital disease or effect of an injury	Yes	Dichotomous Yes / No
31	NL02	The Netherlands	2001	Second National Study on Morbidity and use of health services	Specific approach		Yes, list						
32	NL03	The Netherlands	2001	Continuous survey on households living conditions	Do you suffer from any longstanding illness, disorders or handicaps?	Yes	Yes, list	No	Yes	Yes	Disorders, handicap(s)	No	Dichotomous Yes / No
33	S01	Sweden	1999	Living Conditions Survey	Do you suffer from any long-term illness, after-effects from an accident, disability or other ailment?	Yes	Yes, open	No	Yes	Yes	After-effects from an accident, disability	No	Dichotomous Yes / No
34	S02	Sweden	2001	Living Conditions Survey	Do you suffer from any long-term illness, after-effects from an accident, disability or other ailment?	Yes	Yes, open	No	Yes	Yes	After-effects from an accident, disability	No	Dichotomous Yes / No

No.	Code	Country	Year	Title Survey	Wording	Global approach	Specific approach	Time reference	Long-standing / chronic	Illness, condition or health problem	Other concepts	Use of neutral terminology	Response categories
35	UK02	United Kingdom	1998	Health Education Monitoring Survey	Do you have any long-standing illness, disability or infirmity? <i>By long-standing I mean anything that has troubled you over a period of time or that is likely to affect you over a period of time?</i>	Yes	Yes, open	over a period of time or that is likely to affect you over a period of time	Yes	Yes	Infirmity, Disability	No	Dichotomous Yes / No
36	UK11	United Kingdom	2001	General Household Survey	Do you have any long-standing illness, disability or infirmity? <i>By long-standing, I mean anything that has troubled you over a period of time or that is likely to affect you over a period of time?</i>	Yes	Yes, open	over a period of time or that is likely to affect you over a period of time	Yes	Yes	Infirmity, disability	No	Dichotomous Yes / No
37	UK15	United Kingdom	2001	Populations Census	Do you have long-term illness, health problem or disability which limits your daily activities or the work you can do? <i>Include problems which are due to old age.</i>	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Disability/limitation in the activities	No	Dichotomous Yes / No
38	No code (H01)	Hungary	2000	National Health Interview Survey	Do you have any condition or disease that limits you in your usual activities, such as working, shopping, taking care of day-to-day things, exercising, meeting other people?	Yes		No	No	Yes	Limits you in usual activities	Yes	Dichotomous Yes / No

No.	Code	Country	Year	Title Survey	Wording	Global approach	Specific approach	Time reference	Long-standing / chronic	Illness, condition or health problem	Other concepts	Use of neutral terminology	Response categories
39	No code (H02)	Hungary	2001	Population census	Specific approach		Yes						

¹The question asked only about: blindness, deafness or a severe vision or hearing impairment.

Appendix 7

Analysis of Questions Related to MEHM 3

No.	Code	Country	Year	Title Survey	Wording	Time reference for activity limitation	Norms reference	Attribution to health condition	Activity Restriction	Need of help	Use of neutral terminology	Response categories
		MEHM			For the past 6 months or more, have you been limited in activities people usually do because of a health problem?	For the past 6 months or more	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes, strongly limited - Yes, limited - No, not limited
1	A01	Austria	1999	Microcensus	B36. Are you unable, for health reasons, i.e. as a result of a chronic illness, permanent incapacity or old age, to carry out important personal functions yourself (e.g. eating, washing/ bathing, going to the toilet...), and are you therefore sometimes – frequently or always dependent on the help of others, or is this not applicable?	No	No	Yes	Important personal functions yourself (e.g. eating, washing/ bathing, going to the toilet...)	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Never - Sometimes - Frequently - Always - Not applicable
1bis	“	“	“	“	B37. <i>To all persons of 15 years or older, who have answered question B 36 with "never" or "sometimes".</i> Are you unable, for health reasons, i.e. as a result of a chronic illness, permanent incapacity or for reasons of old age, to perform important activities of daily life (e.g. going shopping, preparing meals, doing the washing...) by yourself and are you therefore sometimes – frequently or always dependent on the help of others, or is this not applicable?	No	No	Yes	(E. g. going shopping, preparing meals, doing the washing...)	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Never - Sometimes - Frequently - Always - Not applicable
2	B02	Belgium	2001	Health Interview survey	Are you restricted in you daily activities due to this (these) illness(es), chronic condition(s) or handicaps?	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continually - At intervals - Not or seldom
2bis	“	“	“	“	For the past 6 months or more have you been limited in activities people usually do because of health problem?	For the past 6 months or more	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes, strongly limited - Yes, limited - No, not limited
3	B03	Belgium	2001	General Socio-economic Survey 2001	1. Are you restricted in your daily activities due to this (these) illness(es), chronic condition(s) or handicaps?	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continually - At intervals - Not or seldom

No.	Code	Country	Year	Title Survey	Wording	Time reference for activity limitation	Norms reference	Attribution to health condition	Activity Restriction	Need of help	Use of neutral terminology	Response categories
4	no code (Bc02)	Belgium	2002	Census	Are you restricted in your daily activities due to this (these) illness(es), chronic condition(s) or handicaps?	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	- Continually - At intervals - Not or seldom
5	D02	Germany	1998	Survey on living conditions, health and environment	Apart from short illnesses: does your state of health prevent you from carrying out your day-to-day activities, for example, in the home, at work or in your training?	No	No	Yes	(For example, in the home, at work or in your training?)	No	Yes	- Not at all - A little - Considerably
6	DK02	Denmark	2000	Danish Health and morbidity Survey	Are you restricted by the illness in your work/usual activities?	No	No	Yes	Work/usual activities	No	Yes	- Yes, very much - Yes, a little - No
7	E02	Spain	2001	National Health Survey	Do any of the members of the household require particular attention due to a physical or other type of handicap (must be accompanied at night, requires help to go out, separate toilet facilities, etc.) on a day to day basis either for work or social activities?	No	No	Yes	Work or social activities	Yes	No	- Yes - No
8	F02	France	1999	Handicaps, disabilities and dependency survey	In everyday life, are you faced with either physical, sensorial, intellectual or mental difficulties? (resulting from an accident, a chronic disease, a problem at birth, an invalidity, ageing)	No	No	Yes	Physical, sensorial, intellectual or mental difficulties	No	Yes	- Yes - No
9	F09	France	2002	Health and Social Protection Survey	During at least six months, have you been limited in activities which people normally carry out due to a health problem?	At least six months	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	- Yes - No

No.	Code	Country	Year	Title Survey	Wording	Time reference for activity limitation	Norms reference	Attribution to health condition	Activity Restriction	Need of help	Use of neutral terminology	Response categories
10	No code (F1999)	France	1999	Everyday life and health survey	Is he/she restricted in the kind or amount of exercise he/she can do (at home, work or school or in any other occupation of his/her age such as travelling, games, sports, leisure activities)?	No	No	No	Kind/amount - (at home, work or school or in any other occupation of his/her age such as travelling, games, sports, leisure activities)	No	Yes	- Yes - No
11	FIN06	Finland	2001	Health Behaviour among the Adult population	Do you have difficulty coping with everyday chores, job tasks or other demands of everyday life?	No	No	No	Everyday chores, job tasks or other demands of everyday life	No	Yes	- No difficulty coping - Slight difficulty coping - A great deal of difficulty coping - I cannot cope on my own
12	I01	Italy	1999-2000	Health conditions and use of health services	Are you affected by a longstanding illness or a permanent disability that reduces your personal freedom till requiring help from other people for daily needs inside and outside the home?	No	No	Yes	Daily needs inside and outside the home	Yes	No	- Yes, Intermittently or occasionally for some needs - Yes, continuously or for important needs - No
13	I03	Italy	2000	Aspects of daily life	Are you suffering from a chronic disease or a permanent disablement which reduces your personal freedom to the extent of requiring the assistance of other people for everyday needs at home or away from home?	No	No	Yes	Everyday at home and away from home	Yes	Yes	- YES, occasionally for some needs - YES, continuously or for important needs - No

No.	Code	Country	Year	Title Survey	Wording	Time reference for activity limitation	Norms reference	Attribution to health condition	Activity Restriction	Need of help	Use of neutral terminology	Response categories
14	I04	Italy	2001	Aspects of daily life	Are you suffering from a chronic disease or a permanent disablement which reduces your personal freedom to the extent of requiring the assistance of other people for everyday needs at home or away from home?	No	No	Yes	Everyday needs at home and away from home	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - YES, occasionally for some needs - YES, continuously or for important needs - No
15	IRL01	Ireland	1998	Survey of Lifestyle, Attitudes and Nutrition (SLÁN)	Is your daily activity or work limited by a long term illness, health problem or disability?	No	No	Yes	Work	No	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No - Do not have any of the above
16	IRL02	Ireland	2000	Living in Ireland Survey	Are you hampered in your daily activities by this physical or mental health problem, illness or disability? <i>(specific for each disease - max 4 diseases)</i>	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes, severely - Yes, to some extent - No
17	IRL03	Ireland	2002	Survey of Lifestyle, Attitudes and Nutrition (SLÁN)	Is your daily activity or work limited by a long term illness, health problem or disability?	No	No	Yes	Work	No	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No - Do not have any of the above
18	IRL04	Ireland	2001	Living in Ireland Survey	Are you hampered in your daily activities by this physical or mental health problem, illness or disability? <i>(specific for each disease - max 4 diseases)</i>	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes, severely - Yes, to some extent - No

No.	Code	Country	Year	Title Survey	Wording	Time reference for activity limitation	Norms reference	Attribution to health condition	Activity Restriction	Need of help	Use of neutral terminology	Response categories
19	No code (IrIC02)	Ireland	2002	Population Census	<p>15. Because of a physical, mental or emotional condition lasting 6 months or more, do you have any difficulty in doing any of the following activities?</p> <p><i>Answer (a) and (b) if aged 5 years or over:</i></p> <p>a) Learning, remembering or concentrating?</p> <p>b) Dressing, bathing or getting around inside the home?</p> <p><i>Answer (c) and (d) if aged 15 years or over:</i></p> <p>c) Going outside the home alone to shop or visit a doctor's survey?</p> <p>d) Working at job or business ?</p>	No (Illness: 6 months or more)	No	Yes	<p><i>If aged 5 years or over:</i></p> <p>a) Learning, remembering or concentrating?</p> <p>b) Dressing, bathing or getting around inside the home?</p> <p><i>If aged 15 years or over:</i></p> <p>c) Going outside the home alone to shop or visit a doctor's survey?</p> <p>d) Working at job or business ?</p>	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No
20	IS02	Iceland	1989-99	Health and Living Conditions in Iceland	<p>How difficult is it usually for you to carry out these activities?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eat - Get dressed - Start moving around - Go up stairs - Leave the house - Handle work - Handle work of the home 	No	No	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eat - Get dressed - Start moving around - Go up stairs - Leave the house - Handle work - Handle work of the home 	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very difficult - Rather difficult - Slightly difficult - Not at all difficult

No.	Code	Country	Year	Title Survey	Wording	Time reference for activity limitation	Norms reference	Attribution to health condition	Activity Restriction	Need of help	Use of neutral terminology	Response categories
21	N01	Norway	1998	Survey on Living Conditions	Owing to permanent health problems or disability, have you: 1) Had trouble getting out of your dwelling on your own 2) Had trouble participating in recreational activities 3) Had trouble using public transportation 4) Had trouble establishing contact with or talking to other people 5) Had trouble doing your job	No	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Getting out of your dwelling on your own - Participating in recreational activities - Using public transportation - Establishing contact with or talking to other people - Doing your job 	No	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not possible - Extremely difficult - Somewhat difficult - Not difficult
22	NL02	The Netherlands	2001	Second National Study on Morbidity and use of health services	And what about your day -to-day activities? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I have no difficulties in my day -to-day activities - I have some difficulties in my day-to-day activities - I am unable to carry out in my day-to-day activities 	No	No	Yes	A card is showed (no information available)	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No difficulties - Some difficulties - Unable to carry out

No.	Code	Country	Year	Title Survey	Wording	Time reference for activity limitation	Norms reference	Attribution to health condition	Activity Restriction	Need of help	Use of neutral terminology	Response categories
23	NL03	The Netherlands	2001	Continuous Survey households living conditions	<p><i>If the respondent is under 12 years old</i></p> <p>Is your child because of this limited in activities in school, in other activities which are normal for a child of his age?</p> <p><i>If the respondent is over 12 years old</i></p> <p>To what degree are you limited because of this in daily activities at home?</p> <p><i>All respondents</i></p> <p>To what degree are you limited because of this at school or at work?</p> <p>To what degree are you limited because of this in leisure time activities, sports or travelling?</p>	No	No	Yes	<p>Limited in activities in school and other activities</p> <p>Daily activities at home, at work</p> <p>Leisure time activities, sports or travelling</p>	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Severely limited - Moderate limited - Not limited
24	UK02	United Kingdom	1998	Health Education Monitoring Survey	Does this illness or disability (Do any of these illnesses or disabilities) limit your activities in any way?	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No
25	UK11	United Kingdom	2001	General Household Survey	Does this illness or disability (Do any of these illnesses or disabilities) limit your activities in any way?	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes - No
26	No code (H01)	Hungary	2000	National Health Survey	<p>Please choose the statement that best describes your own health TODAY!</p> <p>3. Usual activities (e.g. work, studies, housework, family or recreational activities)</p>	Today	No	No	(E.g. work, studies, housework, family or recreational activities)	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I have no problems with performing my usual activities - I have some problems with performing my usual activities - I am unable to perform my usual activities

¹ This question is asked to whom have answered Yes to the previous question "Do you suffer from one or more longstanding illness, chronic conditions or handicaps?"