

## **Inconsistencies in the “database on available health information on lifestyle determinants of obesity in children”**

Within the project the country subcontractors collated data about children's and adolescent's nutrition and physical activity to complete the “database on available health information on lifestyle determinants of obesity in children”. The information shown in this paragraph can be seen as additional statements illuminating some identified discrepancies in the database. Two major facts focus these inconsistencies.

Europe consists of various international studies measuring nutrition and physical activity among children and adolescents, which were implemented by several countries to give an overview about the European situation in this field. At first, difficulties in data measurement within Europe concern the lack of consistency in including multi-national studies as data sources in the database. An international study was included in the database by many project member states, whereas other countries known as participating in the project did not include this source in the database.

Another discrepancy in measurement deals with the inconsistency in including research and one-off studies as data sources in the database; in this case some countries inserted one-off and research studies, other considered a small number or none at all.

Additionally, another difficulty in measurement refers to the difference in categories specification, which means the use of indicators categories. Thus, for one indicator several cut-off points are used by the countries, as an example, countries measure watching TV daily  $\geq 3$  hours. While some of these countries included these data in the database, even though the database asked for watching TV daily  $\geq 4$  hours; others did not include this information if so.

The second point concerning the discrepancies is about the date specification as one presented information for each project. In certain cases the date for start/end of project and accordingly the date for start/end of data collection are not stated. Instead of these dates the date of introducing the project in the database is shown there.

In other cases the date 1900 can be found, which means that the date for start/end of project and accordingly the date for start/end of data collection is unknown.

In the last case, inconsistencies between the date for start/end of project and the date for start/end of data collection are available, which will become obvious if the project was finished before the data collection started.

Within the project the country subcontractors are responsible for the given information and inserted surveys or one-off and research studies in the database. In addition, the database contains a number of sources, but it is unknown if there are sources absent.