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**MEETING OF HEADS OF WHO COLLABORATING CENTRES
FOR THE CLASSIFICATION OF DISEASES**

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Annual report 2002 on classification activities in the Netherlands

Since February 1998, the National Institute of Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) is hosting the WHO Collaborating Centre for the ICIDH at its Department of Public Health Status and Forecasts (VTV). Although the Centre is called by WHO a WHO-FIC Collaborating Centre it is still awaiting its redesignation. The proposed terms of reference and work plan could not be started due to this delay in decision making. The Centre's activities are therefore restricted to the most urgent ones.

The position of the WHO Collaborating Centre, as an intermediary for international classifications between WHO and the Netherlands (ministry as well as health care sector) is still unquestioned. However, the renewed debate on the enhancement of standardization activities in health care information has led to a new organization, NICTIZ (Netherlands ICT institute for health care) that still has to decide if its core business also encompasses the classification activities of the Centre at the RIVM. Given the fact that officially WHO has not asked a redesignation to the Ministry of Health, the financial position of the Centre will be weak also in 2003. This will have undesired consequences for the financial, personnel and logistic contribution of the Centre to next HoC meeting. Nevertheless, both heads of the Centre will be available for the work of the Planning Committee.

The classification activities since September 2001 were aimed at

- participation in WHO activities;
- translation and publication of the ICF in the Dutch language;
- clearing house activities: newsletter worldwide, reference system, renewed website;
- other international activities;
- participation in national activities.

Participation in WHO activities

The Centre participated in meetings of the Planning Committee (Bethesda, Geneva retreat, Trieste), the Family Development Committee (Bethesda, Trieste) and the WHO-Wonca joint working group (Amsterdam, Copenhagen).

Translation and publication of the ICF

The translation of the Final Draft was started after the endorsement of the ICF by the WHA. The annual report 2001 mentioned already several decisions on the translation:

- Initially the title of the ICF in Dutch was restricted to International Classification of human Functioning (ICF), due to the lack of a Dutch term for disability, and the redundancy of the term "Health" in a classification of WHO; on the title page the full English title is mentioned in the copyrights note to avoid misunderstandings;
- footnotes of the translators are edited if translation was not possible or misconceptions would origin; an example is the note on the translation of the classification of *body structures* into *anatomical characteristics*. In the English ICF it is a classification of anatomical *parts*, however, by using these parts in combination with qualifiers they turn into anatomical characteristics of the individual.

The translation of the title was also explained in the September 2001 issue of the ICIDH Newsletter. The Centre informed WHO Geneva on the translation and the necessity to find a publisher outside the RIVM. According to the reply the copyright and publishing rights might

be a matter between the WHO Office of Publications and the publisher (BSL). BSL wrote a telefax on the conditions it was prepared to publish the ICF in Dutch.

The Centre heads wished to present the book with the Dutch translation and a CD-ROM inside in April in Trieste, but an unexpected reaction on the title translation from WHO Geneva restrained them from doing that. After two months of uncertainty it was decided in 2 July in Geneva by mutual agreement that an erratum on the title and a few remarks would be a solution for selling the first print run.

Clearing house activities

A special issue of Disability and Rehabilitation was prepared by ms dr M.W. de Kleijn-de Vrankrijker as guest editor. She also contributed with an article on ICIDH/ICF to a Dutch Handbook on possibilities (for people with disabilities) and with an article on Work Disability in the J of Occupational and Environmental Medicine. She presented an introduction on the ICF and possible applications at the request of the Slovenian government and another one at the request of the European Disability Forum (in Madrid).

Newsletter on the WHO-FIC

Two Newsletters (September 2001 and August 2002) were issued. The September 2001 issue was the last ICIDH Newsletter, the August 2002 issue was the first one covering the new terms of reference of the Centre, the WHO-FIC, still most of its contents were ICF related. It was decided to continue the free of charge low profile publication on paper, given the fact that the response was rather weak on the suggestion to issue the newsletter only on the internet.

Reference system

The Centre continued its documentation activities on the ICIDH literature, but decided to postpone a corresponding activity on the ICF literature until the need for such an activity is discussed with WHO Geneva and the other Collaborating Centres.

Renewed website

The website of the Centre is extended into a combined English/Dutch presentation of the Centre's products. A Power Point presentation of 62 sheets introduces the ICF to Dutch speaking website visitors if they click on the basic information set.

Other international activities

UN and Eurostat

Ms dr M.W. de Kleijn-de Vrankrijker participated in the work of the Washington City Group on Disability Statistics and the related Eurostat project on European Disability Measurement; both activities agree to the ICF as a base for the work to be done, see also the WHO-FIC Newsletter.

ISO 9999

She is chair of the Dutch committee and the international committee in charge with the revision of the international classification of technical aids for people with disabilities (ISO 9999). The next revision will take into account definitions, terms and structure of the ICF.

DISTAB and NACC

She participated in the activities of the DISTAB group in analyzing disability questions in several countries, incl. the Netherlands, by using the ICIDH/ICF. Following on, she participated also in the NACC meeting in Toronto.

Participation in national activities

The Centre contributed to an activity of the Department of Public Health Status and Forecasts, attempting to use existing data on 'participation' of the national health survey.

The consultation activities in the Netherlands on the ICD-10, ICPC-2 and classifications of medical procedures and external causes were continued at users' requests. Several presentations on these classifications and the ICF were given and several meetings were held where the Centre was represented. I.e. the Centre continued its advisory activities in the Dutch nursing projects on the development of applications for nursing care, based on the ICF.