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

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**Title: Annual Report 2003 on classification activities in the
Netherlands**

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Annual report 2003 on classification activities in the Netherlands

The WHO-FIC Collaborating Centre in the Netherlands is still awaiting its redesignation. Since February 1998, the National Institute of Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) is hosting the Centre at its Department of Public Health Status and Forecasts (VTV). The Centre is very grateful to host the Heads of Centres meeting together with the German Centre. Although lacking sufficient funds, the Centre has attempted to participate as a full partner in the preparation of the Heads of Centres meeting of this year.

The classification activities since September 2002 were aimed at

- participation in WHO activities
- implementation and use of ICF and ICD-10
- clearing house activities: newsletter worldwide, reference system, updating website
- other international activities
- participation in national activities (including Belgium)

Participation in WHO activities

The Centre was represented in meetings of the Planning Committee (Brisbane, Leiden, Geneva), the Family Development Committee (Leiden) and the WHO-Wonca joint working group (Amsterdam). Both Leiden (NL) meetings have been organized by the Centre.

Implementation and use of ICF and ICD-10

The contract for the publication of the ICF in Dutch is signed in August 2003.

The Centre organized a conference, entitled ‘Hoe gaat het ermee?’ (How are you doing?), asking users of ICF and ICD-10 their experiences with these classifications.

A number of the presentations/papers was also prepared in English for the meeting in Cologne:

- Dr Wout E.L. de Boer, ICF and social disability insurance
- Prof.dr Theo van Achterberg and H.A. Stallinga (Gonda) R.N., Using the International Classification of Functioning Disability and Health (ICF) in nursing practice
- Dr Yvonne F. Heerkens and dr C.D. van Ravensberg (Dorine), Use of the ICF by allied health professionals
- Theo Bougie, The use of the ICF for expressing intended use of assistive technology
- Dr Kees van Boven, The Dutch Family of International Classifications: ICPC-2, ICD-10, and ICF
- Huib Ten Napel, Dutch ICD-10 and ICF in a CEN Technical Standard Format for version control and maintenance
- Huib Ten Napel, Applicability of Dutch ICD-10 Electronic tool for publication of ICD-10 updates and control of derived and related classifications
- Huib Ten Napel, The Dutch ICF Electronic tool for following the ICF in applications (statistics, surveys, records)

The new Netherlands ICT institute for health care (NICTIZ) has asked for an evaluation study of SNOMED CT that is reported by Pieter E. Zanstra and Egbert J. van der Haring of the Dept of Medical informatics UMC Nijmegen (Introduction of a Clinical Terminology in the Netherlands).

The report of the conference summarized the wishes of the participants upon the availability and improvement of international classifications in the Netherlands.

Classifications, such as ICF and ICD-10, have to be available in usable formats for

- Peripheral maintenance: translated updates and new versions, lay versions and manuals
- Mapping of applications and cross walks to ICF and ICD-10
- The outline of the development and the use of these classifications and their applications.

Especially the ICF has to be improved and supplemented. There is a need for

- Advises on the development of applications
- A users' guide
- Clarification of terms and qualifiers, also for clients
- Documentation of missing terms and errors, synonyms and meronyms
- Other qualifiers for specific devices and assistance
- The data if it is an existing or a threatening problem
- A classification of personal factors
- A classification of the subjective dimension
- A selfassessment instrument (a WHO-DAS application?)

There is a problem in the Netherlands which version of ICD will be used. Very recently, a conversion is made between the DBC's (a kind of DRG's) and the 1980 translation of the ICD-9-CM that is in use for hospital discharge statistics, a conversion of the DBC's with ICD-10 is lacking. Furthermore the specificity of DBC's is often less detailed than the need of specialists who value more and more the advantages of describing the specific core of their activities. If the ICD-10 and ICF would be more user friendly, precise and dedicated to daily practice, they could be the backbone for the information supply on health status.

Communication is top priority in health care at present, classification lags far behind. The conference participants have shown in their presentations that classifications forms the basic condition for a clear communication without misunderstandings and classifications therefore should be top priority.

Clearing house activities

The special issue of Disability and Rehabilitation "The International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF): revision, content and use, prepared by dr Marijke W. de Kleijn-de Vrankrijker as guest editor, was published in June 2003. The issue includes 15 papers prepared by international experts.

Newsletter on the WHO-FIC

One Newsletter (16 p., April 2003) was issued. A second newsletter will be prepared after the Cologne meeting.

Reference system

The Centre continued its documentation activities on the ICIDH literature, and is still awaiting reactions that a corresponding activity on the ICF literature would be useful.

Renewed website

The website of the Centre is extended with the meeting papers for Cologne, the Centre's conference presentations of 2 May 2003 and the Dutch ICPC2-ICD10 thesaurus for primary care. Information on the ISO 9999 and a link to the ICECI website have been provided as well.

Other international activities

Surveys

One of the Centre heads is participating actively in international developments focussing at the use of the ICF in surveys: UN Washington City Group, Eurostat Disability Measurement and DISTAB.

ISO 9999 (international classification of technical aids for persons with disabilities)

One of the Centre heads is actively involved in the national and international development and revision of ISO 9999. Its relation with the ICF shall be improved and it is submitted to the Cologne meeting in order to be recognized as a related member of the WHO-FIC.

ICECI

On request of the group in charge one of the Centre heads is the coordinator for activities relating to the International Classification of External Causes of Injuries (ICECI). The classification is submitted to the Cologne meeting as part of the process to be recognized as a related member of the WHO-FIC.

NACC meeting

The Centre was represented at the NACC ICF meeting in St. Louis. Papers presented on the ICF activities in the Netherlands and the need for international work on certain issues related to the ICF implementation. Back-to-back to the NACC meeting an informal meeting has been chaired by one of the Centre heads in order to prepare a draft ICF workplan for the WHO-FIC implementation committee; the report will be presented at the Cologne meeting and the draft workplan will be discussed during breakout sessions.

Participation in national activities

The Heads of the Dutch Centre are participating in the new Norm Committee on Terminology and Classification in health care, chaired by Pieter Zanstra and also in the new Standardization Organization Consultation of the Netherlands Normalization Institute.

The consultation activities in the Netherlands on the ICF, ICD-10, ICPC-2 and classifications of medical procedures and external causes were continued at users' requests. Several presentations on these classifications were given and several meetings were held where the Centre was represented and presented papers.

The Centre is involved in work in order to develop an additional part of the ICPC-2 based on the ICF. The Centre continued its advisory activities in the Dutch nursing projects on the development of applications for nursing care, based on the ICF.