ICF-DIN Training for EU MHADIE project
European experience on ICF training

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Abstract
This poster presents the first experience of an European training program on ICF. The ICF DIN training was held within the EU 6 Framework Program’s Project MHADIE. The training course, held by Italian teachers and organized by DIN – Disability Italian Network – exported to members of 10 European countries the experience developed in the past three years within the ICF in Italy project. Preliminary results and training methodology for international settings are discussed.

Introduction
Measuring Health and Disability in Europe: supporting policy development. (MHADIE) is a research project financed for the years 2005 - 2007 by the European Commission’s Sixth Framework Programme. This wide working in collaboration with 10 partners from 10 countries, including WHO and EFNA (World Health Organization and the European Federation of Neurological Associations), coordinated by Dr. Leonardo Martinuzzi National Neurological Institute C. Besta, will develop a framework to influence and support new European policy guidelines on health and disability through statistical, clinical and experimental research, and will use the World Health Organization’s International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) as a cross-cutting universal framework and international standard.

Validity and reliability of ICF information are essential to design, implement or evaluate policies and legislation to combat discrimination and promote social integration, participation and enhance opportunities. Disability, a multi-dimensional phenomenon arising out of an interaction between the person’s health status and the physical and social environment. Disability data, and the instruments to measure them, must reflect this bio-psychosocial model of disability, which must be used to provide a framework for documenting the interaction between health status and environmental features, and the differential distribution of disability among different groups in different contexts. This Co-ordination action will demonstrate the feasibility and utility of the ICF model in the classification of types and prevalence of impairments, therefore using already existing measurement instruments.

The aim of the project is the development of a structure that data currently being collected, nationally and internationally, embody conceptual confusions, inconsistencies and ambiguities about disability in research, and will use the World Health Organization’s International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) in different countries cross-sectionally and measuring patterns of disability in clinical samples of selected conditions, in different countries. This research project will contribute to the standardization of methodology at international level. DIN’s training strategy has therefore been validated, and some preliminary results concerning its effectiveness are available. The comparison of correct answers percentage to the same questions, concerning ICF model and application, before and after the training, shows that mean percentage of correct answers is 91,6% (7,5) after basic course, and 97,2% (2,8) after advanced course. Although MHADIE distance learning training has not been implemented yet, some preliminary results are already available. With regard to MHADIE training, DIN had better responses than those coming from the Italian experience, due to the better knowledge and the different experience with ICF training courses.

Methods & Materials
Training on ICF, prepared by the Disability Italian Network, has been as reference model for the ICF-DIN project so as to provide an European perspective to disability issues and to adapt training on coding and classification to MHADIE project. The ICF-DIN basic course was held in Milan in June 2005, and is divided in two steps: ICF-DIN basic and ICF-DIN advanced courses. While learning WHO-DAS II is just a matter of learning a new international classification, comparable in all the world and easy to adapt to different contexts, the learning of ICF requires learning of contents at three levels.

Results
ICF is a complex tool: following the educational experience and the practical training provided on ICF, the following learning objectives have been achieved:

1. Knowledge and understanding of the core concepts and principles of the ICF and their role in the development of rehabilitation plans and in the organization of rehabilitation services.
2. Ability to understand and use the ICF framework to assist people with disabilities to achieve within a co-ordination action.
3. Ability to understand and use the ICF framework to assist people with disabilities to achieve functional improvement and to adapt their environment to their needs.
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Conclusions
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Acknowledgement
Acknowledged support from the EC contract number SP24-CT-2004-513708 (MHADIE) – thematic priority SSP

Figure 1 Home-Country of trainees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croatia</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ethical Committees
Distance learning (DL): 3 months. All MHADIE pupils are being followed by DIN’s tutors along the DL part of the training.

Disability Italian Network has achieved a considerable expertise in training on ICF. This expertise has been built over sixty training courses held in Italy and two dissemination training courses held in Madagascar. MHADIE training represented an unique opportunity to disseminate this unique training methodology at international level. DIN’s training strategy has therefore been validated, and some preliminary results concerning its effectiveness are available. The comparison of correct answers percentage to the same questions, concerning ICF model and application, before and after the training, shows that mean percentage of correct answers is 91,6% (7,5) after basic course, and 97,2% (2,8) after advanced course. Although MHADIE distance learning training has not been implemented yet, some preliminary results are already available. With regard to MHADIE training, DIN had better responses than those coming from the Italian experience, due to the better knowledge and the different experience with ICF training courses.