

Pilot Comparison of European Health Interview Survey (EHIS) questions

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HIS • HES



Introduction

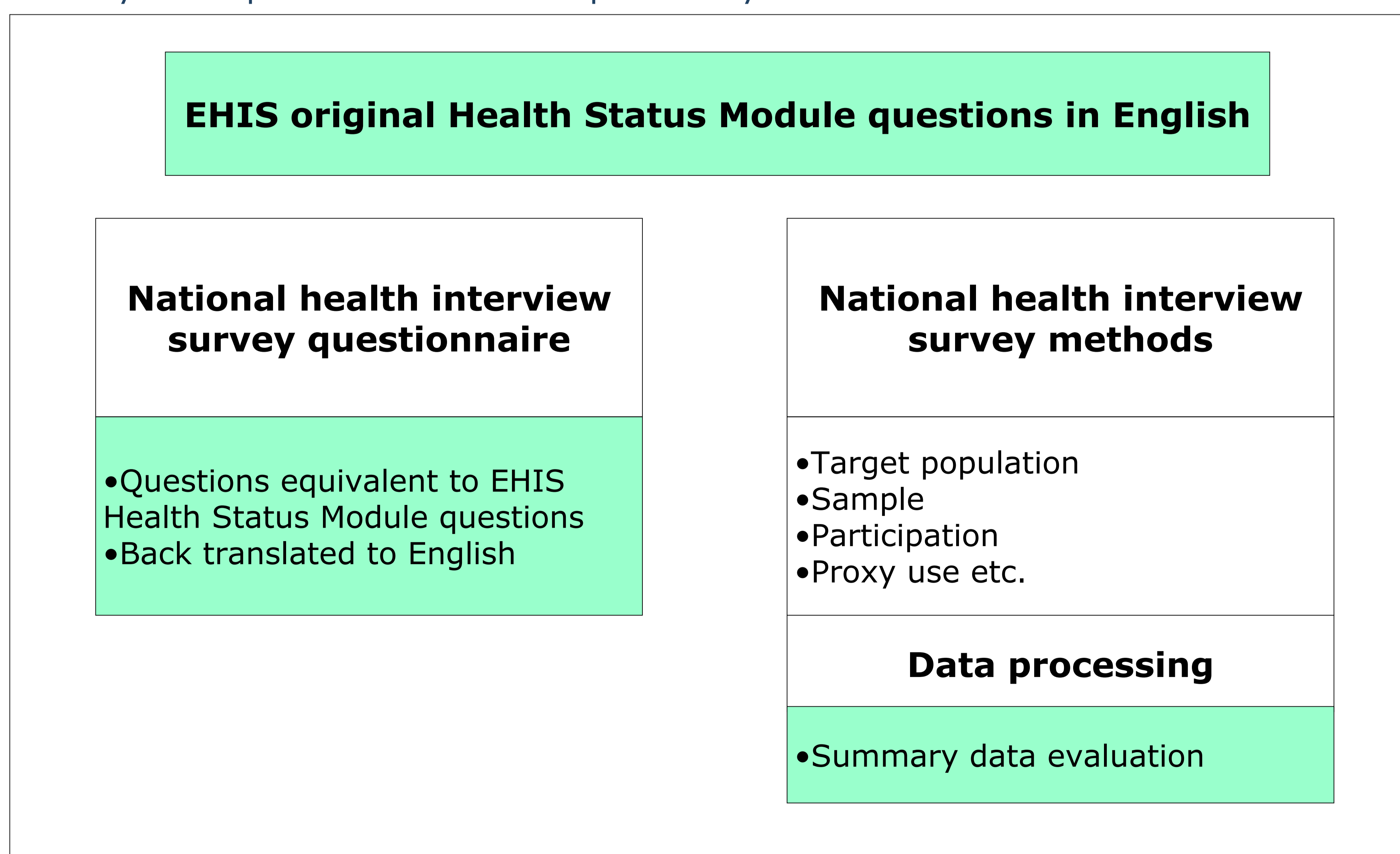
EHIS is a key source of data for several European Community Health Indicators (ECHI). Between the years 2006 and 2010 health surveys have been carried out in 20 EU Member States with standard (EHIS) questions. This study was carried out

- to assess how the comparability of wording of the original EHIS questions (in English) and the questions used in national surveys could be measured, and
- to estimate the feasibility and resources needed if an evaluation would cover all EHIS questions in surveys in all Member States.

Methods

The Health Status Module questions of the EHIS questionnaire were compared with the corresponding national questions of Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus and Czech Republic.

Table 1. The EHIS Health Status Module and the basic elements of national health surveys. The parts included in the pilot study are coloured.



A three level classification scale was created to rate the questions as comparable, or partially or not comparable. Questions and answer categories were examined separately.

In a second step summary data from the same countries were examined, to further evaluate how the differences in questions used might affect the comparability of the survey results.

Results

Of all questions, 91% were rated as comparable, 6% partially comparable and 3% non-comparable. For answer categories, the corresponding numbers were 72%, 28% and 0%.

Comparing summary data for some of the questions demonstrated that there are clear variations in the prevalence figures in the answer alternatives "Very good" to "Very bad". On the other hand, all prevalence figures for "Don't know/refusal" alternatives, that were

missing in some countries, were below 0,2%. Thus their impact on the overall comparability can be considered lesser than could be expected by comparing the questions only.

Conclusions

This comparison is a practical first step. With the procedures developed in this study it is feasible to compare all the EHIS questions between Member States and to rate questions with the selected criteria.

A detailed evaluation covering all national EHIS surveys will thus be performed. It will be valuable in the implementation of the ECHI shortlist indicators to be derived from the EHIS but also an important step in the revision process of the questions for the second round of the EHIS (2013–2014).

A fully detailed comparability study would require an evaluation of the data collection methods of the national surveys, i.e. sample sizes, participation rates, proxy use etc.

Future work

A more comprehensive evaluation is in process, including all four modules of the EHIS in 20 European countries. The final report will be published in Spring 2011.

More information

www.euhsid.org

- Latest news & releases, contact information etc.

<https://hishes.iph.fgov.be>

- National EHIS questionnaires in the HIS/HES Database

www.echim.org

- ECHI shortlist indicators for which EHIS is the data source