Welcome to the TACTICS project!

TACTICS is a large scale, multi-year initiative of the European Child Safety Alliance that is working to provide better information and practical tools to increase capacity and support national and sub-national stakeholders in the adoption, implementation and monitoring of evidence-based good practices designed to prevent both unintentional and intentional injury to children and youth in Europe.

In addition, in order to make the lives of all children and youth in Europe safer TACTICS will explore inequalities as they relate to child and youth injury and work to more specifically target capacity building efforts at the regional and local levels. TACTICS will run from April 2011 through to April 2014. The project builds on the successful work of past European Commission funded projects such as the Child Safety Action Plan project (CSAP I and CSAP II), the CHILD indicators project, Ad Risk and PHASE and will seek synergies with other relevant processes such as the Marmot review of social determinants, Health 20/20 and CEHAPE.

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The TACTICS Communiqué is one of the tools the project will use to share information, progress and resources with project partners. In this first issue, we provide an overview of the project, including why it is such an important project, who is involved and a little more detail on what we hope to accomplish.
Why is the TACTICS project important?

• It addresses child injuries: the leading cause of child death, disability and inequalities in Europe

• It supports children’s right to safety as agreed to by all Member States’ signed commitment to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

• It examines intentional and unintentional child injuries nationally and sub-nationally

• It supports the development and implementation of Child Safety Action Plans for Member States

• Is developing practical tools and resources to be used by Member States to support uptake of child safety policies based on evidenced good practice solutions

Who is involved?

TACTICS is led by the European Child Safety Alliance (ECSA), an initiative of EuroSafe – the European Association for Injury Prevention and Promotion. The Alliance focuses on strategies aimed at bringing about reductions in injury related deaths and disability amongst children 0 -18 years of age in Europe. It works with a network of child injury expert partners and stakeholders from various disciplines involved in child injury prevention.

TACTICS is supported by the European Commission and has the participation of partners from more than 30 European countries, including national and international experts in the areas of in the areas of child injury, inequities, health indicators, benchmarking and indexing, and regional health policy analysis. For more information on TACTICS project partners go to www.childsafetyeurope.org/TACTICS

Who will benefit?

The direct target group for TACTICS is decision makers within and outside the health sector (e.g., EU, National and Regional level elected officials, government authorities, lead agencies for child health, public health, education, transport) who have responsibility for making policy and programming decisions with respect to actions to reduce childhood trauma and injury, increase childhood safety and monitor progress in achieving these goals. We hope to enhance their capacity to make informed decisions regarding the adoption, implementation and monitoring of evidenced good practices to address child injury and target and allocate resources by developing knowledge and tools. It is anticipated that this will result in positive outcomes for the project’s indirect target groups - children themselves, their families and the stakeholders working at the EU, national, regional and local levels to reduce child injuries.

Participating countries:
Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom (England, Scotland & Wales)
TACTICS process

The project activities can be roughly divided into three interrelated approaches that together will assist countries in adopting, implementing and monitoring evidence-based good practices to reduce injuries and support national child safety action plans.

1. Activities to benchmark and monitor child injury and related actions:
   - Monitor progress in child safety action through child safety report cards and profiles in all 27 EU Member States (plus Croatia, Iceland, Israel, Norway and Switzerland) and a European Summary Report Card
   - Explore the feasibility of a Child Safety Index - an easy to use measurement tool examining child safety at the sub-national (regional/local) level and based on what is feasible, develop and pilot an Index and a supporting tool kit to allow sub-national level decision makers do a quick self-assessment of key issues and to monitor their progress

2. Activities to support the uptake and implementation of what works in child injury prevention:
   - Develop case study examples of both successful and unsuccessful efforts to adopt, implement and monitor evidence-based child injury prevention actions at the national and sub-national levels; identify overarching key facilitators and barriers to successful action to guide Member States in their own efforts
   - Develop reference frameworks of evidence-based interventions at the sub-national level to allow rapid appraisal of current injury prevention actions to address child safety by decision makers at the regional level

3. Activities to explore the multi-sectoral and cross cutting nature of child injury:
   - Explore the effect of social inequities on child injury rates and the effectiveness of injury prevention strategies looking to address inequities in exposure to injury hazards and preventative interventions both within and between EU Member States
   - Map responsibility for child injury prevention at three levels: EU, national and sub-national to:
     a) provide illustrated examples of the complexity of actions required to address child injury and highlight the gains a coordinated multi-sectoral response provides
     b) build decision makers' understanding of the opportunities that a multi-sectoral response provides in terms of more effective use of scarce resources
   - Explore facilitators and barriers to multi-sectoral action at the at the national, regional and local levels, and communicate results in order to support development and/or implementation of national child safety action plans

This newsletter is a communication tool of the project TACTICS, which has received funding from the European Commission, in the framework of the EU Health Programme.
1st TACTICS National Workshop held

On October 5-6, 2011, the TACTICS national partners from 27 countries met in Rome, Italy for the first National Case Study workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to begin to explore facilitators and barriers to the adoption, implementation and monitoring of evidence-based practices in the 4 broad areas of child injury (road, water, home and intentional injury). Nine partners presented a case study illustrating either a successful or unsuccessful attempt to adopt, implement and/or monitor a good practice in their respective country and highlighted those factors that had been either facilitators of or barriers to success. The presentations achieved their purpose but were also valuable in facilitating exchange of examples of evidence-based practices between countries. The case studies and discussions also touched on cross-cutting linkages with issues such as obesity or alcohol use, and examples of interventions attempting to address inequities. The final report on facilitators and barriers is due after the remainder of partners have presented their case studies at a second workshop to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark in May 2012. A content analyses of those factors and write-up of the 30+ case studies should provide policy makers with both guidance on how to increase likelihood of success when adopting and implementing injury prevention measures and concrete examples.

Experts meet to discuss TACTICS in Sweden

The TACTICS Scientific Coordinating Committee is made up of public health experts in the areas of child injury, inequities, health indicators, benchmarking and indexing, and sub-national policy management from several European academic institutions. Together these experts are working with the Alliance to apply methodologies from other areas of public health to the child injury issue. The increased knowledge and user friendly tools that result will support efforts to develop and implement national child safety action plans and encourage the adoption, implementation and monitoring of evidence based good practices.

To date the Committee has met twice to discuss the methodologies and content of the different project activities. The initial meeting was held in April 2011 at the Maastricht University Campus in Brussels, Belgium and the second meeting was held in October at the Nordic School of Public Health (NHV) in Gothenburg. Both meetings involved face-to-face discussions to further the work on several of the tools being developed as part of the project including the expanded Child Safety Report Cards, mapping responsibility, reference frameworks to support the regional case studies and the Child Safety Index. Additional discussions addressed several background papers to support project work including the cross cutting nature of child injury and links to inequities.

For more information on TACTICS

Further information on the TACTICS project and progress updates and deliverables, as they become available, are available on the European Child Safety Alliance website at:
www.childsafetyeurope.org

OR

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Exploring potential synergies with the European Commission

On November 18, 2011 members of the TACTICS project team met with relevant Commission staff to provide an overview of TACTICS and its deliverables and to explore opportunities for building synergies across European Commission Directorates.

The workshop, a video conference between the European Commission Brussels and Luxembourg offices, was hosted by the European Commission Directorate General Health (DG SANCO) together with the Executive Agency for Health and Consumers (EAHC).

Participants included representatives of 3 units within DG SANCO (health information, product & service safety, and health determinants), as well as DG Education, Arts and Culture, DG Justice and DG MOVE. Presentations and discussions focused on the needs of decision makers at the European, national and sub-national levels that the project is designed to meet, the desired outcomes for each area of work being undertaken, and the proposed methods to achieve them.

A key point was illustrating that although Ministries of Health take the responsibility to treat child injuries, effective prevention requires the adoption, implementation/enforcement and monitoring of evidence-based solutions both within and across multiple ministries including health, transport, education, justice, environment and enterprise.

Participants’ responses indicated they saw relevance of TACTICS to both current activities and future strategies within their DGs and specific units. Follow up discussions will take place with each of the DG’s in the coming weeks to maximise the project processes and dissemination of results for each of the prevention tools that will be developed within the TACTICS project.

TACTICS work plan for the next 6 months...

The following list breaks down the project activities for the last quarter of 2011 and first quarter of 2012.

October/November/December 2011
- First country partner workshop in Rome, Italy – October 5-6 including Secretariat meeting with partners from Croatia, Romania, Slovakia and Switzerland to discuss CSAP development
- Second TACTICS Scientific Committee Meeting in Gothenburg, Sweden – October 17-19
- TACTICS cross cutting workshop for European Commission Directorates - November 18
- Enhanced Child Safety Report Card assessment tools finalised and country partners work to complete both assessments
- Routinely collected data for Child Safety Profiles and Report Cards analysed
- Draft guide for mapping responsibility assessment developed and pre-piloted in Israel
- Development of Reference frameworks for Regional Case Studies continues
- Literature reviews for cross-cutting nature of child injury paper and child injury and inequities started
- Case studies for second country partner workshop selected
- Work on feasibility of Child Safety Index begins
- Evaluation plan finalised and initial contact with potential evaluation panel members
- Communications plan finalised, web pages and project brochure launched

January/February/March 2012
- Secretariat reviews and codes completed assessments and drafts Child Safety Report Cards and Profiles
- Country partners review and validate Report Card and Profile drafts
- Trend analysis of Report Card Scores conducted and European Report Card drafted
- Planning for launch of Child Safety Report Cards initiated
- Pilot testing of mapping responsibility assessment begins in six regions in countries participating in regional work
- Work on feasibility of Child Safety Index continues
- Planning for first evaluation panel and survey initiated