The TACTICS Communiqué is one of the tools the project uses to share information, progress and resources with project partners. In this issue, we provide an update on the various components of the project and outline activities for the upcoming six months.

**Update on the TACTICS project!**

TACTICS is a large scale, multi-year initiative of the European Child Safety Alliance in partnership with academic institutions and partners in over 30 countries. The project 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.

TACTICS is now into the second year of its three years of funding and progress has been made in a number of areas. In this issue we provide highlights on the Child Safety Report Card launch, give a brief report for several project related meetings that have taken place in the last six months and provide update on a number of project activities and deliverables. The issue ends with a look at the next exciting six months of the project.

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Tools to Address Childhood Trauma, Injury and Children’s Safety
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

• It 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

TACTICS country partners meet in Denmark

The second TACTICS Country Partner Workshop was held in Copenhagen from May 10-11, 2012. Hosted by our Danish TACTICS partner, the National Institute of Public Health at the University of South Denmark, the meeting had participation from more than 25 countries and included the second round of national case study presentations and update and discussions on the launch of the unintentional child safety report cards, development of the intentional report cards, results of the mapping responsibility for child injury pilot and progress on work towards regional case studies and assessing feasibility of a Child Safety Index. Sixteen partners presented their national case studies which covered issues related to road traffic, home safety, water safety and intentional injury. The case studies are being developed to provide policy makers with guidance on how to increase likelihood of success when adopting and implementing injury prevention measures. A format for write up was discussed and partners are working this autumn to write up their case studies for inclusion in the report on national case studies that will be released in autumn 2013 along with a synthesis of findings on facilitators and barriers.

The meeting also afforded the opportunity for the countries that have not previously been involved in developing Child Safety Action Plans (Croatia, Romania and Slovakia) to meet to discuss progress and challenges and for a side meeting for the partners from the six countries involved in the regional work to discuss next steps for regional case studies and the implications of the findings of the Child Safety Index feasibility study.

Evaluation work package underway

The Evaluation work package led by Dr. Anthony Staines at Dublin City University (DCU) in Ireland moved forward with the first evaluation panel in late April 2012. Representatives of stakeholder groups were brought together with TACTICS team members to hear about TACTICS and discuss progress to date. Participants also discussed and begin operationalising the draft evaluation plan developed based on the logic model the DCU team developed in autumn 2011. The evaluation panels are a core activity of the evaluation work package, the purpose of which is to verify that the project is being implemented as planned and that it achieves its objectives.

Plans are now underway to collect contact information for a broader group of stakeholders who will be surveyed using an on-line survey tool developed by DCU. The survey will elicit stakeholder feedback on TACTICS activities and deliverables. A second expanded evaluation panel is being planned for April 2013.
2012 Child Safety Report Cards launched in the European Parliament

On June 12, 2012, the European Child Safety Alliance launched the third round of unintentional child safety report cards in the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France. The launch, which was hosted by MEP Malcolm Harbour and former European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy John Dalli, was attended by many policy makers including MEPs from Germany, Ireland, Malta, Romania, Slovenia, and the United Kingdom.

Following the press conference, which was streamed live from Parliament on the Commission’s website, the front page of the report card for each of the 31 participating countries were exhibited in the Parliament Gallery. The display, which stayed up from June 11-14, presented a unique opportunity for MEPs to come by and discuss their country’s child safety report card results and needed action. Having all countries displayed allowed quick and easy comparisons of each country’s score and overall performance in the uptake of child safety policies.

Selected quotes from policy makers attending the launch

"Ireland can do more to save children’s lives. More safety policies need to be implemented and enforced."
– MEP Gay Mitchell, Ireland

"Ireland needs to also impress upon drivers to take responsibility for their own safety as well as others. Transport safety is a leading cause of deaths in Ireland."
– MEP Pat Gallagher, Ireland

"Children also need to be informed of their rights to safety and be included in the decisions to ensure their health and safety is a priority."
– MEP Minodora Cliveti, Romania

"Impact assessment of policy is crucial but it just isn’t happening. Monitoring needs to be incorporated before a policy is put in place to ensure that the necessary data for measuring impact are available. This will require the cooperation and commitment of many sectors, but it is a critical gap right now and without it we cannot demonstrate which child safety policies are having the most effect."
– MEP Malcolm Harbour, UK

"I believe we must do everything we can to ensure the safety of the youngest and most vulnerable members of our society across Europe. This is why the EU Health Programme supports initiatives to reduce accidents and injuries. The European Union and its Member States must cooperate and act to ensure the right of all children to safety. The uptake of evidenced based strategies shown in these report cards can help in improving child safety."
– former European Commissioner John Dalli

More information and copies of the report cards can be found on the on the European Child Safety Alliance website at: www.childsafetyeurope.org
Update on Mapping Responsibility for Child Safety in Europe

Regional partners on the TACTICS project completed a pilot test of the use of organigraphs to map responsibility for child safety in six participating countries in spring 2012 under the leadership of the TACTICS team members at the Department of International Health at Maastricht University.

Organigraphs are a new and more revealing tool examining organisational structure taken from the business world. They go beyond the traditional ‘org chart’ to map not only the structures, but also the functions and relationships between the various stakeholders involved in a given organisational structure. For TACTICS, partners are mapping all the organisations involved and their roles, responsibilities and interactions as they relate to specific interventions to reduce child injuries.

The results of the pilot were presented at the second TACTICS Country Partner Workshop in Copenhagen in May and were positively received although it was noted that careful thought would need to go into how best to communicate the resulting visual representations of responsibility for child safety in Europe. Since then the six regional partners have each completed three additional organigraphs of interventions with a regional component underway in their countries.

Based on the work of the regional partners, the team at Maastricht University has developed a manual and instructions for national partners and the remaining TACTICS country partners who did not participate in the pilot will each complete one organigraph, in many cases based on the intervention highlighted in their national case study. This should ensure the mapping exercise provides reasonable coverage for the four broad areas of child injury covered by TACTICS (road, home and water safety and intentional injury) and for interventions focussed at a local, regional or national level. In addition EPHA is working with the Alliance and the team at Maastricht University to map responsibility for child safety at the EU level using a similar approach.

Child Safety Report Card results presented at global conference

The results of the 2012 Child Safety Report Cards were presented at a session on child injury at the World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion in Wellington, New Zealand on October 2nd.

The session, which also included a presentation on the US CDC Child Safety Action Plan, provided several international examples of strategies to encourage update of evidence-based good practice and/or address current gaps in knowledge.

Morag MacKay presented on behalf of the Alliance, sharing the 2012 findings including the exciting outcome of the trend analysis examining overall performance scores for countries participating in the Child Safety Report Cards in 2007 and 2012. The finding of a statistically significant trend toward improved performance was extremely gratifying given that the report cards were developed to encourage uptake of evidence-based measures.

There was much international interest in the results, particularly given that TACTICS will also be producing a set of intentional injury report cards in early 2013.

The organigraphs resulting from the TACTICS activities will be analysed and a final mapping tool and child safety mapping report will be launched in June 2013. Having maps that coincide with the national case studies will add a layer of information to the case studies, making them more valuable for those looking at transferring practices between settings.

For more information on TACTICS

Check out our website

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Reference frameworks to support rapid appraisal of regional child injury prevention

Reference frameworks of evidence-based good practices typically adopted and/or implemented and enforced at a sub-national level are currently being developed by the team at Maastricht University using the structure and terminology of Haddon’s Matrix for each of the four broad areas of child injury covered under TACTICS: road safety, home safety, water safety and intentional injury.

Once complete the reference frameworks will be used to develop rapid appraisal tools examining management of child injury prevention at the regional level. The resulting tools will be piloted in at least six regions - at minimum in one region in each of the six countries participating in regional work (Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Spain and Sweden).

Based on previous work in the area of measles prevention conducted by the Maastricht University team, it is hoped that the child injury reference frameworks developed and piloted will raise awareness of evidence-based good practices, provide an opportunity to compare and contrast different regions management of child injury issues and ultimately result in uptake of good practice at the sub-national level in participating countries.

Following the pilot the frameworks and tools will be adjusted as needed before being put together with other TACTICS deliverables into a toolbox to support uptake of evidence-based good practice at the national and sub-national levels. A report on the work is slated for release in autumn 2013.

TACTICS work plan for the next 6 months...

The following list breaks down the project activities for the last quarter of 2012 and first quarter of 2013.

October/November/December 2012
- Country partners complete enhanced Child Violence Prevention Report Card assessments
- Project Secretariat drafts and works with partners to validate Child Violence Prevention Report Cards
- Planning for launch of Child Violence Prevention Report Cards starts
- Country partners write up national case studies for inclusion in the national case study report
- Team at Maastricht University completes drafts of reference frameworks to support development of rapid appraisal management tools for regional case studies.
- Team at Nordic School of Public Health writes up work on feasibility of Child Safety Index and develops ideas for tools to support a bottom up approach to a Child Safety Index
- National partners develop and write-up an organigraph based on either their national case study or another evidence-based intervention in their country
- EPHA maps responsibility for child safety at the level of the European Union
- National partners provide an update on Child Safety Action Plan development / implementation at biannual Alliance meeting
- Evaluation team begins enrolling respondents for on-line evaluation surveys

January/February/March 2013
- Joint meeting of Work Package Leaders and Scientific Coordinating Committee in Gothenburg Sweden
- Secretariat drafts European summary report card on Child Violence Prevention
- Planning for launch of Child Violence Prevention Report Cards continues
- Rapid appraisal management tools developed and piloted
- Work on regional case studies based on rapid appraisals begins in six regions in countries participating in regional work
- Report on mapping responsibility drafted
- Development of tools for piloting a bottom up approach to a Child Safety Index begins
- Work on Child Injury and Inequality Report begins
- Planning for second evaluation panel and evaluation survey initiated