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 final six months of its three years of funding and while a lot of progress has been made the last six months will be very busy. In this issue we provide updates on a number of project activities and deliverables including conference presentations of TACTICS results made to date. The issue ends with a look at the activities planned for the final six months of the project.

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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

Final TACTICS Scientific Committee Meeting held

The fourth and final TACTICS Scientific Committee Meeting was held in Gothenburg, Sweden at the Nordic School of Public Health from October 15-16, 2013. The Scientific Committee members in attendance discussed progress to date on the regional work piloting assessment tools based on the reference frameworks (covering road safety, home safety, water safety and intentional injury prevention) and on the feasibility work around the child safety survey. They also presented and discussed the initial results and further plans for the analyses of the mapping and national case study activities, next steps for the intentional injury assessment results, the Child Injury & Inequity report and the final project products - targeted good practice tools aimed at three life stages: infants, preschool and school age. With many of the project deliverables due in the next six months, the meeting was also key to making plans to maximise communication/dissemination activities and to looking forward at possible next steps post TACTICS funding. As always the Nordic School were excellent hosts, and the TACTICS Project Secretariat would like to take this opportunity to thank the school, and particularly Lennart Koelher, for the support of these meetings over the last two years.

TACTICS workshop at 2013 EUPHA conference

A workshop at the upcoming European Public Health Association (EUPHA) Conference on Saturday November 16th, 2013 at 9:00-10:30 AM will focus on TACTICS results to date. Co-hosted by two EUPHA sections - the Child and Adolescent Public Health and Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion - the workshop forms part of the TACTICS Evaluation work package work, led by Dr. Anthony Staines at Dublin City University (DCU) in Ireland. The workshop will start with presentations on two distinct approaches to solving the problem of getting local data for local action, top-down (Cascading Injury Data from National to Local Level) and bottom-up (Collection of individual/community child safety data to develop a ‘Child Safety Index’) and then move on to presentations of two distinct approaches to benchmarking services – using national level report cards (Benchmarking policy action on child safety using evidence based indicators in 31 countries) and reference frameworks (Reference frameworks to assess uptake of child injury prevention measures at the regional level). In addition, two other presentations on the national case study work and mapping responsibility are also part of the workshop programme. More information on the conference can be found at http://www.eupha.org/site/upcoming_conference.php

Participating countries:

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom (England, Scotland & Wales)
Update on child intentional injury assessments and resulting deliverable


Although the initial plan had been to combine intentional and unintentional injury into one report card, discussions with TACTICS partners made it clear that if the intent was to create useful advocacy tool to encourage uptake, implementation and monitoring of evidence based practices that it would be best to address the two areas in separate documents.

The TACTICS team therefore moved forward and engaged additional collaborative partners to achieve a more well rounded intentional injury report card, which after much consultation were to be called Violence Against Children Report Cards. The broader assessment and report development activities were proceeding well with a launch target of May 2013, until early drafts of the documents were circulated for review at which time two issues came to light.

First there were concerns regarding the results of the country level assessments, where external reviewers in a number of cases indicated that they thought draft report cards inaccurately captured the situation with policies recorded as fully implementation when they felt it was clear that implementation was only in progress. The challenge for assessment in this area is that while policy is often set at a national level, in many cases it is implemented locally without the aid of nationally standardised guidelines. And unlike a number of the more clear cut interventions in the area of unintentional injury, such as laws and product safety standards where monitoring and enforcement are involved, intentional injury interventions are less well defined, in many cases involving piecemeal policy development over years with little or no built in monitoring of the implementation itself - thus assessing the degree of implementation is more difficult.

The second issue was that DG Justice, the key department within the European Commission working on violence against children, raised concerns regarding how TACTICS was framing the issue. DG Justice frames violence against children from the perspective of children’s rights, while we have taken an injury prevention framework and tried to align it with child rights. As there were concerns that the differences between these perspectives might result in more harm than good.

After discussions with both TACTICS partners and DG Justice and DG Sanco a decision was made to delay the launch of the report cards, to revisit and reframe the work in a way that would not create confusion with DG Justice’s efforts and address the question of level of implementation and look at launching in early 2014.

The reframing of the work involved discussions with DG Justice and the TACTICS Scientific Committee and involved issues related to sensitivity of the issue and how confident we were in calculating summary scores given the less robust evidence base. In the end it was recommended that rather than individual report cards with overall grades and sub-area scores it made more sense to prepare a report that included country action profiles that just indicated whether a policy existed or not and if it did whether it was partially or fully implemented.

Partners have therefore been working at updating their assessments updating to July 2013, paying particular attention to those policies that were reported to be fully implemented. If evidence of monitoring of implementation (e.g., whether monitoring happening, indicators use, who is responsible, etc.) is not available, then the policies will be coded as partially implemented.

Drafting of the report including the country action profiles will occur in November and December and the launch of the final deliverable is anticipated for early 2014 with further details becoming available following discussions with country partners at the ECSA Fall Steering Group meeting to be held in Vilnius in early December.
Update on Mapping Responsibility for Child Safety in Europe

Initially anticipated in June 2013, delays in completion of organigraphs and the analysis mean that the final mapping tool and child safety mapping report will be launched in early 2014.

As reported in the last TACTICS Newsletter, organigraphs are a new and more revealing tool the project is using to map responsibility for child injury prevention. Organigraphs come from the business world and go beyond the traditional ‘organisational chart’ to map the organisation structure and the functions and relationships between the various stakeholders involved in a given organisational structure. The aim of the work in TACTICS is to develop a useful tool to help decision makers understand the multi-sectoral nature of injury prevention, to guide action at the national and sub-national levels to identify ‘actors’ that should be engaged to ensure effective action and enhanced use of limited resources and to support the EC’s priority for child health in the context of Health in all Policies.

A process and tool for constructing organigraphs have been developed and piloted by regional partners and used by national partners to develop an organigraph, in most cases based on the intervention highlighted in their national case study. In addition, European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) has used the tool to do more comprehensive organigraphs at the EU level for road, home and water safety and intentional injury. The team at Maastricht University are therefore currently working on analysis of 40 organigraphs covering interventions from 24 countries focussed at a local, regional or national level, plus the four comprehensive maps of the EU level. Initial results from that work highlight the breadth of governance for child injury prevention; both vertically, from the local to international levels and horizontally, across sectors. The challenge now is how best to present the results to illustrate the usefulness of this tool for planning, implementing and evaluating prevention activities, particularly with respect to fostering collaborations among relevant stakeholders in the field.

TACTICS results presented at several conferences

In addition to the upcoming presentations at the 2013 EUPHA conference reported on page 2, TACTICS results have been presented at a number of other conferences over the last few months.

Initial results of the national case studies were presented by Beatrice Scholtes, a TACTICS team member from Maastricht University at the Public Health England conference in Coventry, England on September 10, 2013.

The 2012 Child Safety Report Card results were presented with a focus on the results of the school related policies included at the European Conference on Health Promoting Schools in Odense, Denmark on October 8, 2013 by Morag MacKay, a TACTICS team member from ECSA.

Joanne Vincenten, also from ECSA made a second presentation of the Report Card results this time with a focus on the water safety policies at the World Conference on Drowning Prevention in Potsdam, Germany on October 21, 2013.

Results were well received at all conferences and it is good to have dissemination opportunities for TACTICS results across such diverse audiences. Additional opportunities in the coming months that the TACTICS team hopes to take advantage of include the International Conference on Urban Health to be held in Manchester, UK in March 2014 and the 3rd European Regional Safety Community Conference in Falköping, Sweden in June 2014.

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

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Update on reference frameworks to support rapid appraisal of regional child injury prevention

The reference frameworks of evidence-based good practices in each of the four broad areas of child injury covered under TACTICS: road safety, home safety, water safety and intentional injury were completed in early 2013. Once complete rapid appraisal tools examining management of child injury prevention at the regional level were developed and reviewed by regional partners in each of the six countries (Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Spain and Sweden). There were delays at this stage as it was important to ensure common understanding of the measures being asked.

Once finalised in June 2013, the partners began to collect data using the questionnaires for a specified sub-national area - in some cases this was a region and in others a municipality. The fact that data collection began in the summer caused further delays, and it is still on-going in some countries but is anticipated to be completed in November, with analysis and report write-up to follow. The final step will be to adjust the reference frameworks and tools as needed before putting them together with other TACTICS deliverables into a toolbox to support uptake of evidence-based good practice at the national and sub-national levels. The report on the work is now anticipated to released at the end of the project in April 2014.

TACTICS work plan for the final 6 months...

The following list breaks down the project activities for the last six months of the project.

November - December 2013
- Country partners complete enhanced child intentional injury assessments
- Project Secretariat drafts report on National Action on Child Intentional Injury including country action profiles.
- Planning for launch of National Action on Child Intentional Injury continues
- Project secretariat sends final versions of national case study write-ups to partners for final sign off
- Team at Maastricht University conducts analysis and writes final report
- Piloting a bottom up approach to a Child Safety Index begins
- National partners provide an update on Child Safety Action Plan development / implementation at biannual Alliance meeting
- Drafting of Child Injury and Inequity report and targeted good practice tools continues
- Workshop at 2013 EUPHA conference held as part of TACTICS evaluation activities

January - April 2014
- Piloting of bottom up approach to Child Safety Index completed and Swansea University completes analysis and writes final report
- Child Injury and Inequity report completed
- Targeted good practice tools completed
- Release (soft launch) of multiple TACTICS deliverables including final reports on national case studies (including national case study write-ups), final report on application of reference frameworks at regional level, final report on mapping responsibility
- Public launch of other TACTICS deliverables including National Action on Child Intentional Injury report, Child Injury & Inequity Report and targeted good practice tools
- Second evaluation survey conducted
- Final public document on TACTICS completed and released along with final TACTICS toolkit