

Report on the outcomes of a Short-Term Scientific Mission¹

Action number: CA18218

Grantee name: Periklis Charalampous

Details of the STSM

Title: Methodological advances in burden of disease studies & Calculation of Years of Life Lost

Start and end date: 23/05/2022 to 03/06/2022

Description of the work carried out during the STSM

Goal 1: Week 21 (May 23 – May 27, 2022)

The first week of this short-term scientific mission focused on the establishment of standardized reporting guidelines for burden of disease assessments. The European Burden of Disease Network (burden-eu) performed a series of systematic literature reviews aiming to explore and harmonize the methodological design choices that have been used in burden of disease studies across Europe and beyond. During this week, we went through those systematic reviews (published and unpublished) as well as through the burden-eu checklist materials to provide explanations and examples for each item that should be reported in future burden of disease studies. Overall, the checklist comprises about 25 items that should be reported in future burden of disease studies. Over this week, we provided supplementary descriptions and examples for about 15 items. The deliverable will be shared to the burden-eu checklist group around mid-June 2022.

Goal 2: Week 22 (May 20 – June 03, 2022)

The second week of this short-term scientific mission focused on years of life lost (YLL) calculations for COVID-19 using mortality data from Cyprus. We calculated COVID-19 YLL over the first calendar year of the COVID-19 pandemic (March 2020-March 2021); we re-performed calculations using the statistical package of STATA 17.

During this week, we also performed a comprehensive and systematic analysis of Slovenian all-cause mortality and cause-of-death data (2010-2015). First, we checked data quality using the “Analysing Mortality and Causes of Death (ANACoD3)” tool which developed by the WHO for monitoring quality and trends using cause-of-death data. Second, we calculated the percentage of garbage codes using the Slovenian data and checked how these evolved over time, age-group categories, and sex.

¹ This report is submitted by the grantee to the Action MC for approval and for claiming payment of the awarded grant. The Grant Awarding Coordinator coordinates the evaluation of this report on behalf of the Action MC and instructs the GH for payment of the Grant.

Description of the STSM main achievements and planned follow-up activities

Goal 1: Week 21 (May 23 – May 27, 2022)

All planned activities and expected outcomes are successfully achieved during the Week-1 of this short-term scientific mission. A deliverable will be shared to the burden-eu checklist group by mid-June 2022.

Goal 2: Week 22 (May 20 – June 03, 2022)

All planned activities and expected outcomes are successfully achieved during the Week-2 of this short-term scientific mission. A deliverable including COVID-19 YLL calculations in Cyprus over the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic will be discussed with both the burden-eu COVID Task Force members and home institution. A second deliverable including systematic analyses of Slovenian all-cause mortality and cause-of-death data (2010-2015) and garbage codes will be discussed with my colleague Tina Lesnik (National Institute of Public Health Slovenia) after the end of this short-term scientific mission.