

SERVIZIO SANITARIO NAZIONALE
CPO-PIEMONTE

UNITA' DI EPIDEMIOLOGIA DEI TUMORI
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**Final activity report project 3.8 European Breast Screening
Network**

16 december 2001 - 15 December 2002

"The European Screening Evaluation Database"

A project meeting has been held in Torino on March 1st 2002 with all participating Centres represented. Before the meeting our group and the Leuven group discussed the results of the preliminary pilot study conducted on Turin and Leuven screening databases. These results were discussed at the meeting. The common data record has been agreed and distributed. The study procedures, entailing download of data from screening databases at each participating Centre in the agreed format, were defined in detail. Software specialists in each Centre wrote programs in order to extract the necessary data.

A second project meeting for presentation and discussion of results was held in Turin on 7-9 november 2002.

It was not necessary to buy a new PC for the purpose of this project. Consequently, we have decreased our budget for the corresponding amount.

Translation costs have been reduced as it has been deemed unnecessary to translate from English the entire software system; the Luxembourg Centre asked for not using software specialist / research assistant time as fees but rather paying an outside firm for this service; it has been deemed necessary to ask one of our software specialists to attend a specific training course in Bertinoro.

A considerably higher amount of software specialist time has proved to be necessary in order to accomplish the project aim of building an effective software application to be used as freeware by screening programmes Europe wide. Given the time allowed, it has been deemed appropriate to ask five specialists to concur in building the software working part time with different specific tasks.

Five senior epidemiologists from Turin were actually involved in the project, for more time than anticipated. The increased needs concerned: coordinating the entire project, coordinating data analysis and, particularly, assisting in the analysis of the software application mentioned above (which included testing a pilot software application in the regional screening programme in Piedmont).

A few Centres (including Florence and Leuven) asked to change the qualification of some of the persons working at the project, according to needs arised after completion of the application.

Some expenses for travel and subsistence necessary for the conduction of the project have occured that had not been anticipated at the time the application has been drafted:

- Torino-Florence and return for one person by train (rather than plane) for the first project meeting
- A previously not anticipated project meeting in Rimini for seven persons (train) has been found necessary
- A travel to Rome for one day (plane) for the project co-ordinator has been found necessary in order to discuss matters relevant with the project within a meeting of the Italian Breast Screening Network
- A travel to Bertinoro (car, reimbursed as train) for one software specialist involved in the project for attending a course useful for the conduction of the project.
- A travel to Torino of the coordinator of the German partners participating in the project (Schach, July 2002).

Dr. Antonio Ponti
Project co-ordinator