

# *French development of the classification of mental and behavioral disorders in the International Classification of Diseases, 11th Revision (ICD-11)*

Among the constitutional responsibilities of the World Health Organization (WHO), we find the development and revision of the international classification of diseases, causes of death and public health practices, and the standardization of diagnostic procedures as required. International treaties require all countries members of WHO to collect health statistics and forward them to the WHO using ICD as a framework. Currently, WHO is revising the International Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, Tenth Revision (ICD-10), and ICD-11 will be submitted for approval by the World Health Assembly in 2014. The ICD is the international standard for health information for the evaluation and monitoring of mortality, morbidity and other health parameters. The revision of the ICD must meet a wide range of clinical applications, public health, education, research, policy, and statistics, and keep pace with scientific advances in health care that can improve its reliability, validity and usefulness.

It is in this context that Dr. Marc Laporta went to Casablanca, Morocco, from 3 to 7 June 2013 to attend a global conference.

The implications for public health of the clinical utility of the ICD influence in several ways how the WHO discusses its revision. First, to have an effect on public health, the development of ICD-11 requires a global perspective. An effective multilateral process should provide people from all parts of the world that use the ICD real influence the final product possible - through their legitimate representatives and mechanisms determined collectively. Ensure strong participation of developing countries is both a challenge and a necessity. A second requirement is closely linked to the previous one, is that the review process and the result of this process should be developed in several languages. A large number of national and cultural peculiarities are rooted in the language, and if we do not pay attention to the translation and linguistic equivalence throughout the process, we can predict that this will result in reduced clinical utility in versions other than English.

The aim of the project is to enable WHO to undertake any significant revisions in French simultaneously with those taken by other countries (Spain, UK, China, Portugal ...). The project's objective is to ensure the widest possible participation of the Francophone community and especially in countries with low and middle incomes. Nearly 30 countries around the world use French as an official language, and in a dozen additional countries French is widely spoken. The majority are developing countries, whose participation in the review process is important for WHO for the reasons described above. In addition,

there are five overseas territories and six overseas departments in France. French development will be simultaneous in order to create a more open and inclusive process that aims to enable a more active participation of scientists and practitioners in the French-speaking world and to facilitate the identification by WHO of a wide range of linguistic aspects that it is important to consider as a full part in the development of materials for the diagnosis and classification of mental disorders. The Francophone countries and regions will directly benefit from this participation because as a result, the project will be better suited to their needs. Similarly, different groups of users will benefit from the access to the process of revision of the ICD in French and from the final tool in French.