



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTÉ
WELTGESUNDHEITSORGANISATION
ВСЕМИРНАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ ЗДРАВООХРАНЕНИЯ

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE
BUREAU RÉGIONAL DE L'EUROPE
REGIONALBÜRO FÜR EUROPA
ЕВРОПЕЙСКОЕ РЕГИОНАЛЬНОЕ БЮРО

Head office:

UN City, Marmorvej 51,
DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø, Denmark
Tel.: +45 45 33 70 00; Fax: +45 45 33 70 01
Email: contact@euro.who.int
Website: <http://www.euro.who.int>

Our reference: DNP/NAO/JBR/lja
Notre référence:
Unser Zeichen:
См. наш номер:

Your reference:
Votre référence:
Ihr Zeichen:
На Ваш номер:

Date: 18 July 2017

Dr Nino Berdzuli
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs
144, Ak. Tsereteli Ave.
Tbilisi 0119
Georgia

E-mail: nberdzuli@moh.gov.ge;
nkalandadze@moh.gov.ge

Dear Dr Berdzuli,

WHO European Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative

The WHO Regional Office for Europe has established the Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative (COSI) in thirty-nine Member States of the WHO European Region. The system routinely measures trends in overweight and obesity in primary-school children (aged 6-9 years), in order to monitor the progress of the problem in this population group across countries of the WHO European Region.

COSI was initiated as a response to the 2006 European Ministerial Conference on Counteracting Obesity in Istanbul, Turkey. It has since been expanded several times and is highlighted as a key risk factor surveillance tool in the Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases 2016–2025 and the European Food and Nutrition Action Plan 2015-2020.

COSI is used as a data source for reporting on progress within and between countries, as well as benchmarking against international commitments to address NCDs and child nutrition and physical activity. COSI is unique as it provides a large dataset with at least 250 000 children in the Region, and is based on nationally representative samples and standardized weight and height measurements. The children are being measured and surveyed based on a common protocol and approach. A first data collection took place during the school year 2007/2008, the second round during the school year 2009/2010, the third round during the school year 2012/2013 and the fourth round is taking place before the end of 2017.

The anthropometric results of the COSI data collection rounds are published in national and inter-country reports as well as scientific journals.

I would like to investigate with you the possibility of Georgia to participate in the 4th round of COSI data collection, which is planned by the end of 2017.

Herewith, I have pleasure in informing you that WHO will provide some financial and technical support to COSI implementation in Georgia. Subject to your interest, and as part of the process of initiating COSI preparations in the country, we would also kindly ask you to provide us with the names of at least 3 institutions and principal investigators that you would recommend for COSI implementation in Georgia.

It would be appreciated if you would address your reply to Dr João Breda, Head WHO European Office for Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable & a. i. Programme Manager Nutrition, Physical Activity & Obesity, Division Of Noncommunicable Disease and Health through the Life-course, (E-mail: rodriguesdasilvabred@who.int).

We look forward to hear from you.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Gauden Galea
Director
Division of Noncommunicable Diseases and
Promoting Health through the Life-Course

Enclosures:

Wijnhoven TMA et al. WHO European Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative 2008: weight, height and body mass index in 6-9-year-old children. *Pediatric Obesity*, 2012 (early view).

Copy for information to:

Dr Sofiko Belkania, Head, Executive Department, Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs, 144, Ak. Tsereteli Ave., Tbilisi 0119, Georgia, Email: sbelkania@moh.gov.ge

Mr Shalva Tsiskarashvili, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Rue Richard-Wagner 1, Genève CH-1202, Switzerland, Email: geomission.geneva@mfa.gov.ge

H.E. Mr Gigi Gigiadze, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of Georgia, Nybrogade 10, 1st. Floor Copenhagen K 1203, Denmark, Email: Copenhagen.emb@mfa.gov.ge

Mr Niels Scott, United Nations Resident Coordinator, UNDP Resident Representative, United Nations Development Programme, UN House, 9 Eristavi St., Tbilisi 0179, Georgia, Email: niels.scott@undp.org; registry.ge@undp.org

Dr Marijan Ivanusa, Head of WHO Office, WHO Country Office, Georgia, 81 Barnov Street, Apt.4, Tbilisi 0179 Georgia, Email: ivanusam@who.int