

- not only problems of ill-health or diseases but also pain as well as ill-health caused by accidents and injuries, congenital conditions, birth defects, etc.

Specification of the concepts presented above or stating specific examples of diseases or chronic conditions in the question should be avoided.

Two options for answers are proposed: 'yes' referring to the occurrence of one or more long-standing/chronic health problems and 'no' referring to the absence of any long-standing/chronic health problem as perceived by the respondent.

For this question a proxy should be limited as much as possible, but it is allowed.

The reference question was proposed by Euro-REVES<sup>51</sup> project and further possible adaptations agreed based on its pretesting in EHIS.

The original question proposed by Euro-REVES project did not use the second reference to long-standing (the expression in square brackets) neither did it use the second sentence clarifying the meaning of long-standing. However, pre-testing in EHIS showed that they may be necessary to include in some languages. As most countries implementing EHIS used the second sentence either as a part of the question or as a part of the additional explanations, the sentence should be used as the standard to ensure more harmonisation. The second reference to long-standing is optional.

The MEHM could be introduced to respondents using a short introduction: *'I would now like to talk to you about your health'*.

The wording of the reference question, including possible adaptations, is suggested as follows:

*'Do you have any long-standing illness or [long-standing] health problem? (Long-standing means illnesses or health problems which have lasted, or are expected to last, for 6 months or more). Yes / No.'*

<sup>51</sup> More information can be found at: [http://reves.site.ined.fr/en/home/regional\\_networks/euro\\_reves/](http://reves.site.ined.fr/en/home/regional_networks/euro_reves/)