The International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF)

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ICF

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1. WHo-FIC Family Picture

**Related classifications**

- International Classification of Primary Care (ICPC)
- International Classification of External Causes of Injury (ICECI)
- The anatomical Therapeutic Chemicals classification system with Defined Daily Doses (ATC)
- **ISO9999** Technical aids for persons with disabilities
- International Classification of Nursing Practice (ICNP)

**Derived classifications**

- ICD for Oncology, Third Edition (**ICD-O-3**)
- The ICD-10 Classification of Mental and Behavioural Disorders
- Application of the ICD to Dentistry and Stomatology (ICD-DA)
- Application of the ICD to Neurology (**ICD-10-NA**)
- ICF Version for Children and Youth (**ICF-CY**)

**REFERENCE Classifications**

- ICD-10
- ICF
- ICHI
- ICIH

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The International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (WHO, 2001) provides a comprehensive, universal and globally accepted model and taxonomy to describe functioning.
2. Introduction – Need for the ICF

1. Functioning & disability encompass the human experience at the level of **body functions** and **structures, activities and participation** in the context of environmental and personal factors.

2. Functioning & disability are **multi-dimensional** and represent a **continuum**.

3. Functioning **may differ** between people with **the same health condition**, **may be similar in persons with different health condition**.

4. The description of functioning is the starting point for any approach to achieve or maintain optimal levels of functioning in individuals and populations.
2. Introduction – Need for the ICF

Functioning & Disability
are related to a variety of factors:

- the person’s health condition
- the person’s resources
- the environment in which the person lives
3. Aims of the ICF

ICF

1. Establishes a common language
2. Provides a systematic coding scheme
3. Provides a scientific basis for understanding health
4. Enables data comparison
5. Stimulates the development of services
ICF is an **universal model** and **applies to all people** irrespective of their culture, health condition, gender, or age. Instead of making disability a distinguishing mark of a discrete minority group, the ICF describes **all** the domains of functioning and disability that are applicable to everyone.
ICF has moved away from being a consequence of disease classification to become a components of health classification.

Health condition

Disability = Consequences of disease

Medical model

Health condition

Body functions/Body structures

Activities

Participation

Environmental factors

Personal factors

Integrative Bio-Psycho-Social model
4. The ICF integrative Bio-Psycho-Social Model of functioning and disability

Functioning and disability = results of the interaction between a person with a health condition and both personal and environmental factors

Health condition

Environmental factors

Personal factors
Functioning and Disability

Body Functions and Structures (Impairments) Activities (Activity-limitations) and Participation (Participation-restrictions)

Contextual Factors

Environmental Factors (Facilitators & Barriers) Personal Factors (Facilitators & Barriers)

• Each component consists of various chapters and, within each chapter, categories, which are the unit of classification.
6. Reference Framework and structure for analysis

For reasons of International comparability of questionnaires and data we use:

Reference Framework
ICF components as presented

Structure for analysis
Disability definition
Introductory phrase/question
Screening question
Disability questions/items
Response categories
Other relevant items
Example of analysis

Romania Census 2011

Disability definition

Introductory phrase/question

Screening question
Does person encounter any difficulties in carrying out his/her daily activities (at school, at work, at home, etc.? no/yes

Disability questions/items

See table

Response categories
1 no difficulties
2 not too significant
3 significant
4 completely inability

Other relevant items
See next slide
Example of analysis

Romania Census 2011

Other relevant items

Cause of the difficulties (only for the persons who declared they have difficulties).

1 hereditary
2 at birth
3 following an illness
4 work accident
5 road accident
6 other
### Romania Census 2011

**Disability questions/items**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disability questions/items</th>
<th>ICD</th>
<th>ICF-Function</th>
<th>ICF-Structure</th>
<th>ICF-Activity</th>
<th>ICF-Participation ←</th>
<th>ICF-Environmental Factors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eyesight difficulties (even if the person wears glasses or lenses)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>b210*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>e1251*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hearing difficulties, even if the person uses hearing aid</td>
<td>b230*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>e1251*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difficulty to walk/climb stairs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>d450*</td>
<td>d4551*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Memory or concentration difficulties</td>
<td>b144* b140*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Self-care difficulties</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>d5*</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication difficulties</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>d3*</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difficulties implies: Some qualifier</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Observation:** * indicates 6 out of 6 WG short set questions (but not exactly the same questions)
Comparing countries with the ICF

Example from 11 (23-12) countries
11 (23-12) Countries
Disability questions/items

- Concentrating: 8
- Remembering: 8
- Making decision: 1
- Seeing functions: 10
- Hearing functions: 10
- Voice functions: 1

Frequency (out of 23-12 (11))
11 (23-12) Countries
Disability questions/items

- activities and participation: 1
- learning: 1
- learning to calculate: 1
- calculating: 1
- communication: 8
- understanding others: 5
- speaking: 6
- being understood by others: 1
- mobility: 2
- lifting and carrying objects: 1
- walking: 10
- climbing (stairs): 8
- self care: 4
- washing: 4
- caring for body parts: 1
- toileting: 1
- dressing: 4
- eating: 1
- domestic life: 1
- school: 1
- work (renumerative employment): 1
- assistive products for mobility/transportation: 1
- assistive products for communication: 7

Frequency (out of 23 - 12 (11))