

The Pre-conference meeting on sickness-absence research

The section on Social Security and Health this year arranges its first pre-conference meeting during the day before the annual conference in Rome, which is on **Wednesday, November 19th**. Persons doing research on sickness absence, disability pension and physician's sickness certification practices are welcome!

Room: room E at the School of Economics (very close to the venue of the EUPHA meeting), inside the Catholic University.

Programme

11:00 *Presentation* of participants; affiliations, research projects, expectations for the day.

12:00 *Lunch*

13:00 - 19:30

1: *Methodological aspects in research using sickness-absence data.*

What are the problems? How can we handle them?

Among others PhD Gunnel Hensing, Sweden and Prof Arne Mastekaasa will give an introduction for the discussion.

-How to collect good quality data. What questions can be included in self-report questionnaires (such as national surveys) when it is not possible to collect data from sickness absence records. What information is available on validity of self-reported data.

-What are the most important summary measures of sickness absence? Incidence or duration? Eg no of spells, long spells, days off work, days per spell, days per person at risk, days per sick-listed person. What should we call the different measures? Now many different terms are used (over 50) in different and confusing ways. How do different summary measures relate to health?

2 *Emerging issues in the field of sickness absence*, Dr Peter Smulders, The Netherlands

3. An overview of "Maastricht approaches" and questions regarding sickness absence research. Angelique de Rijk, The Netherlands

4. *Future collaboration* regarding:

Methodological and theoretical discussions and development

Research collaboration

Research courses

20:00 *Dinner* and further discussions