Program for the Section of Social Security and Health’s 3:rd Pre-conference Meeting on Sickness Absence at the EUPHA-conference in Graz, 2005

Research on health consequences of sickness absence and disability pension

**Time:** 8:30 – 21:00 Wednesday November 9th 2005  
**Participants:** All persons doing research on sickness absence are welcome to participate!  
**Pre-conference venue:** The meeting will be held in Graz, at the same place as the EUPHA-conference.

**Background information**
Research on sickness absence and disability pension is so far rather undeveloped both regarding methods, theories, and concepts. To promote a development of this sickness-absence researchers from all over Europe have formed a network within the EUPHA section on Social Security and Health. The section has previously organized two Pre-Conference Meetings on Sickness-Absence Research, the first one in 2003 on methodological aspects in research using sickness-absence data and the 2nd one in 2004 on theoretical aspects in research on sick-leave. These pre-conference meetings have been an success why the Section will continue to organize them.

The research on consequences of sickness absence is very limited, yet most of us use arguments about possible negative ‘side effects’ of being long-term sickness absent, when applying for research grants. The program includes a general overview of possible consequences, of studies so far performed, regarding results, methodological problems, and possible ways to deal with them. We aim to provide a forum for exchange of knowledge and experience.

**Objectives**
The main objectives of the 2005 pre-conference meeting are:
- Improving our knowledge on possible consequences of sickness absence and disability pension, on studies so far performed, and on theoretical, methodological, and ethical challenges in such studies
- Exchanging information about our datasets, sickness absence theories, research questions, and research objectives.
- Sharing other information between section members. This year’s meeting may be a starting point for collaboration with researchers on sickness absence in Europe.

**Costs**
Participation in the meeting is free of charge, however we have no funding for the dinner yet.

**Registration**
When registering for the EUPHA conference you can also register for the pre-conference

**Program**
8:30 Introduction, Welcome, presentations  
9:05 What are the possible consequences of sickness absence and disability pension?  
Professor Kristina Alexanderson.
9:35 Coffee
10:00 Health consequences of sickness absence among civil servants in the UK, Dr Jane Ferrie
10:45 Health consequences of sickness absence in Finland. Professor Mika Kivimäki
11:30 Health consequences of disability pension in Norway, Dr Styrla Gjesdal
12:00 Lunch
13:00 Short presentation of other studies:
   - Mortality and disability pension in Sweden. Nadine Karlsson
   - Self reported health consequences among long-term sickness absentees in Sweden. Kristina Alexanderson
   - Other studies. (please let us know if you are planning or doing such a study!)
13:45 Methodological problems in this type of research. Jane Ferrie and Mika Kivimäki
14:30 Coffee
15:00 Discussion
16:40 Evaluation of the day. Plans for the future
18:00 Dinner

Pre-conference meeting organisers /organizing committee
- Prof. Kristina Alexanderson, Sweden (kristina.alexanderson@cns.ki.se)
- Dr Jane Ferrie, United Kingdom (j.ferrie@ucl.ac.uk)
- Dr Jenny Head, United Kingdom (J.Head@uel.ac.uk)
- PhD MD Sturla Gjesdal, Norway (sturla.gjesdal@isf.uib.no)
- Prof Mika Kivimäki, Finland (mika.kivimaki@occuphealth.fi)

Welcome!!!!