



Health terminology – an ontological representation of health concepts from the sub domains of preventive medicine, health promotion and public health in Denmark

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Denmark is a small country....





Why terminology work in health?

To facilitate unambiguous communication within the health sector and with partners in other sectors

For documentation, data analysis and development in the health sector

To promote professionalization

Do words change our perception of reality?

Do words create reality?

Do words change reality?

Why terminology work in public health?

What do you understand by:

Prevention?

Motivational interviewing?

Risk behavior?

Life style?

Background

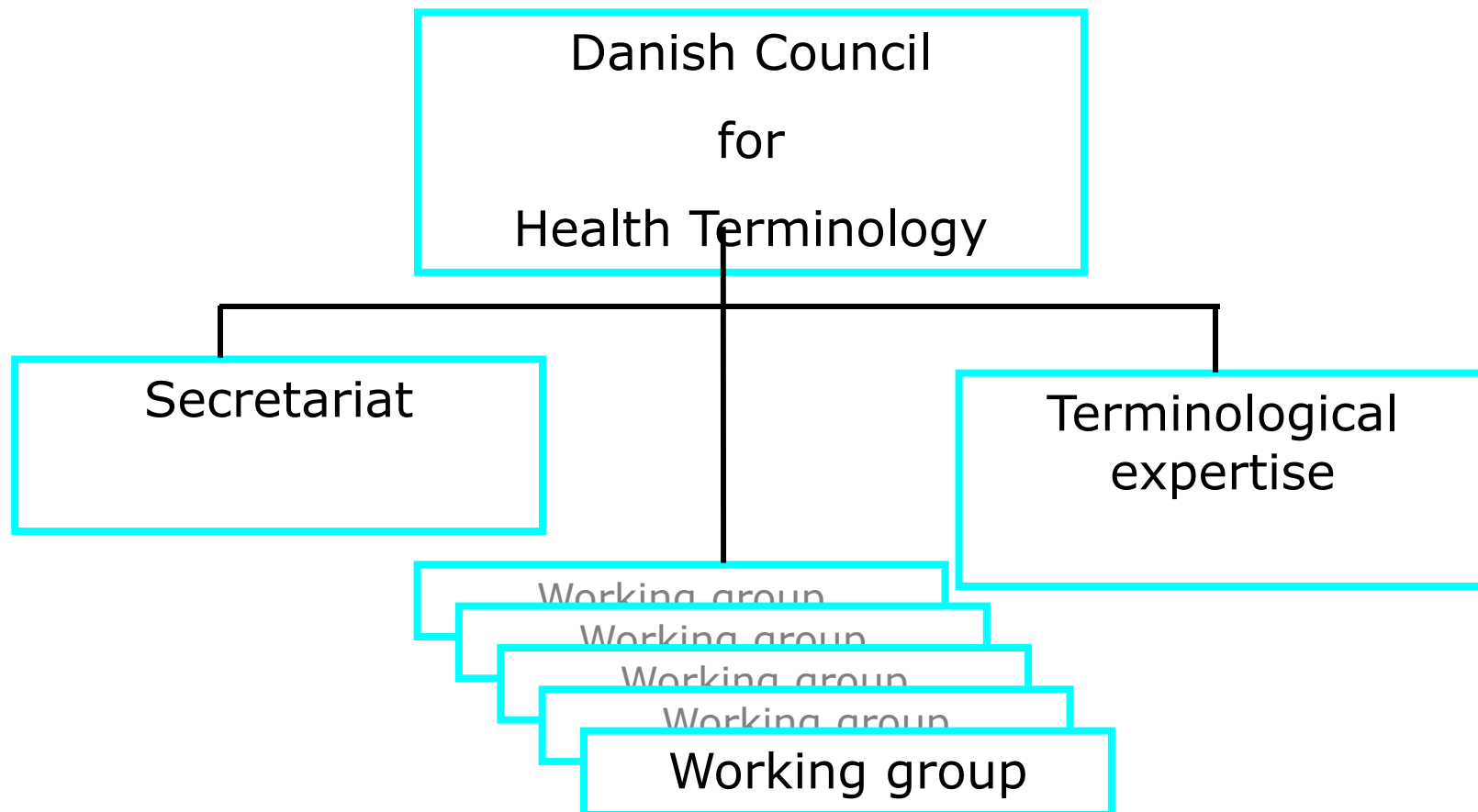
IT strategy for the health sector, Government of Denmark, 2003:

The Danish Council for Health Terminology

Objective:

To develop a **common concept database** for the Danish health sector

Organization



Working groups appointed

1. Administrative concepts
2. Clinical process
3. Medication
4. Adverse events
5. Quality development
6. Information security
7. **Prevention, health promotion and public health**
8. Clinical interventions and results

Terminology working group: prevention, health promotion and public health

Sverre Barfod MD GP

Torben Jørgensen MD Dr Med Sc

Ingeborg Kristensen RN MPH

Dorthe Overgaard RN PhD

Lise Søndergaard RN

Hanne Tønnesen MD Dr Med Sc

Hans Henrik Philipsen MA (anthropology)

Barbara Hjalsted MD MPH

Working group objectives/TOR:

Collect concepts and terms

Define concepts

Interrelate them in a concept system

Ensure professional **consensus**

What is a terminological working method?

Systematic processing of information on **concepts**

Concepts are represented by **terms**

A concept is nothing in itself, but always related to other concepts by means of **relations**

Depiction of domain specific concepts in a concept system = **an ontology**

Standards: ISO 704, ISO 1087-1

An example

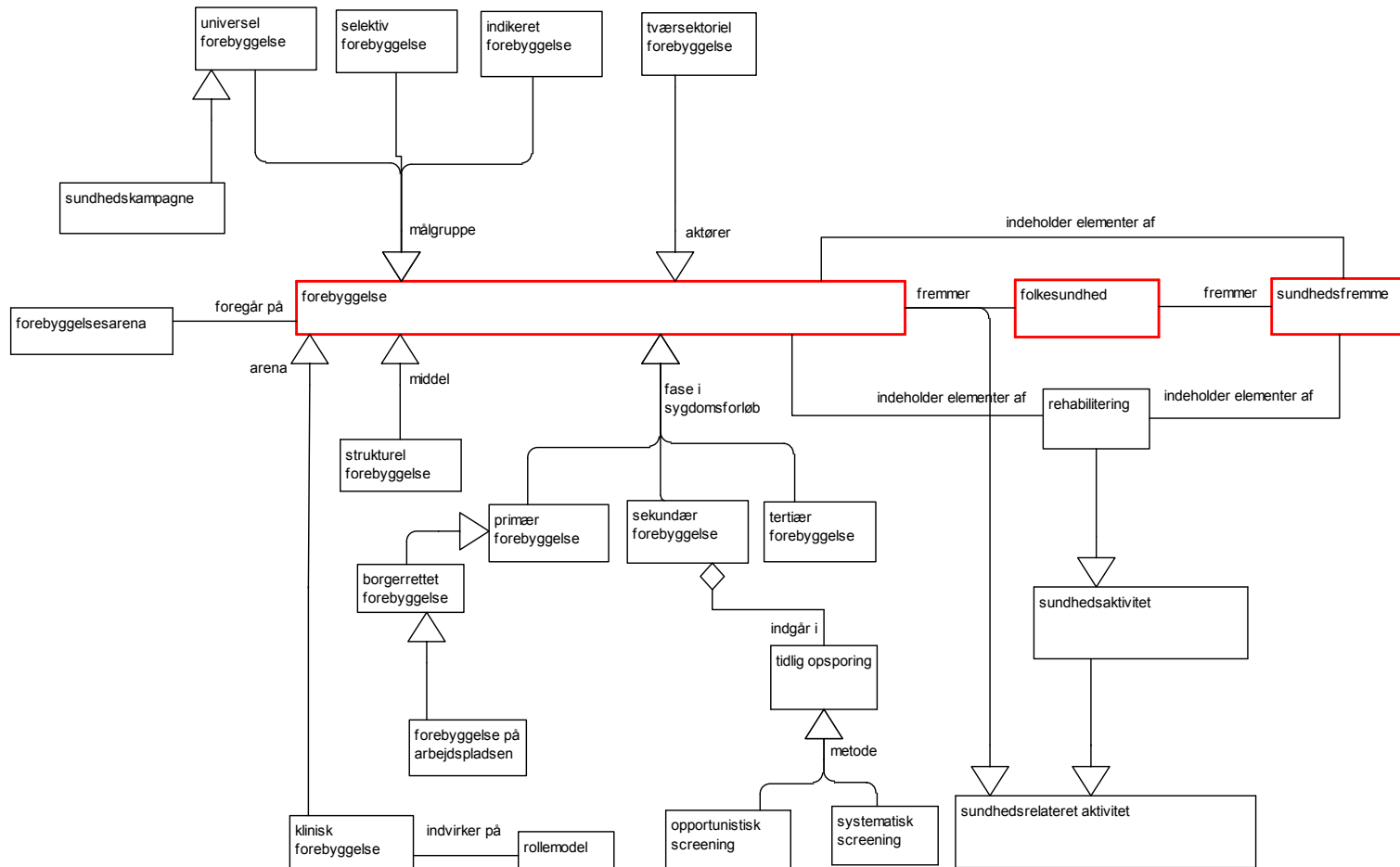
Concept: hindering diseases and accidents

Term: prevention

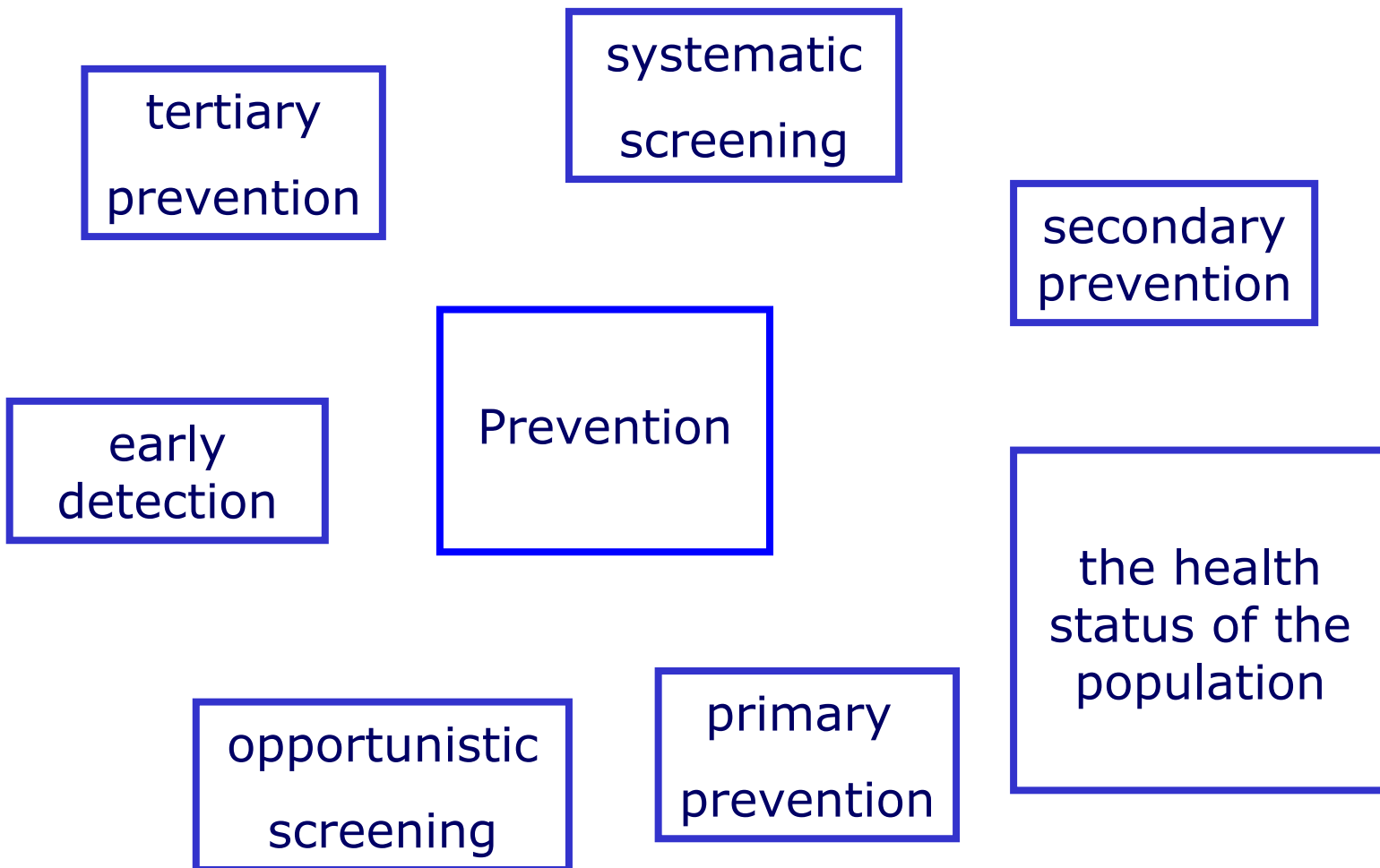
Synonym: prophylaxis

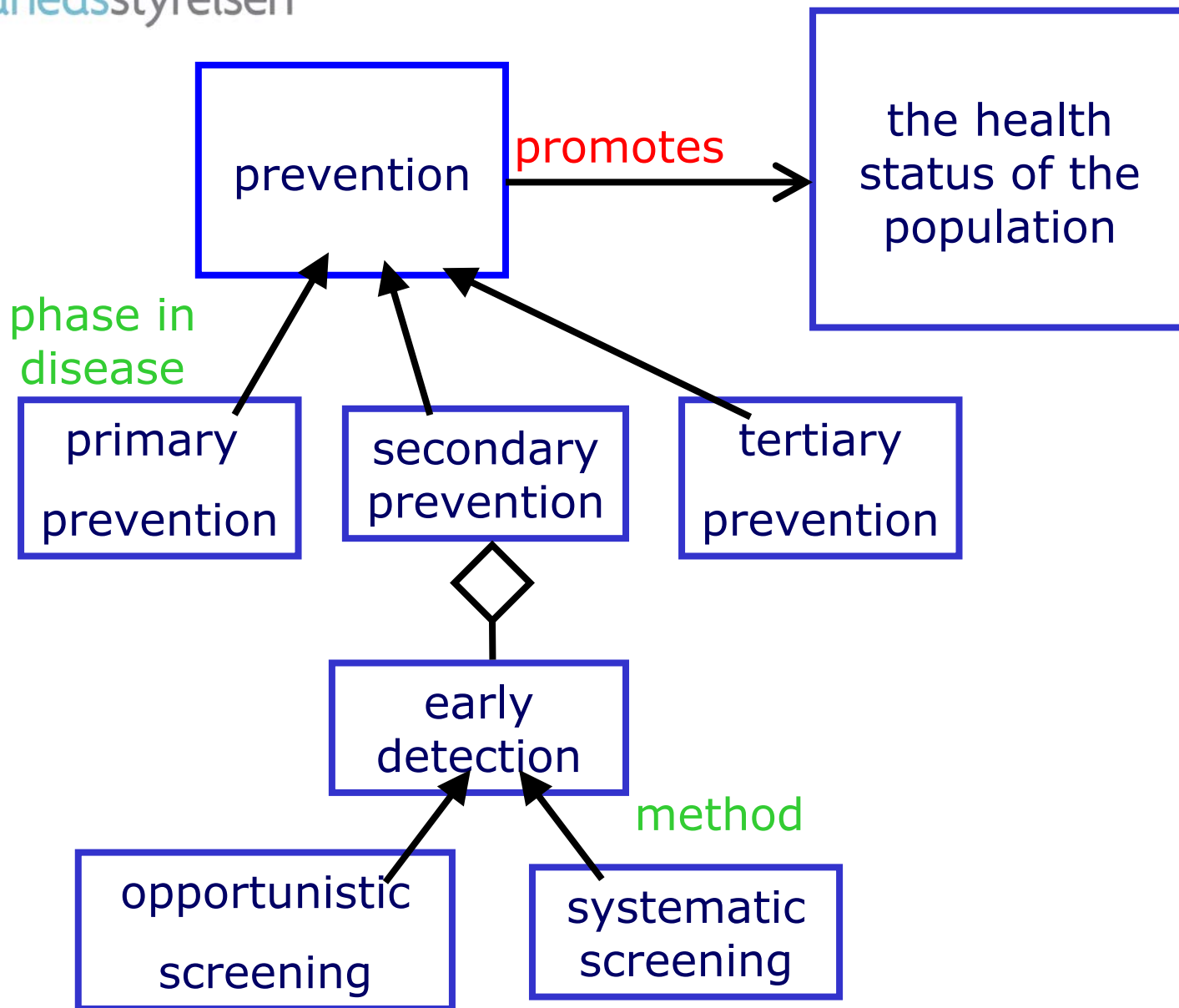
Definition: health related activity seeking to avoid the initiation and progression of disease, psychosocial problems or accidents, thereby promoting the health status of the population

Concept system



A group of essential concepts





Q Concept : prevention : Rev. 0 : Default

Description | Associate | Revisions | Circulation | Status | Project Status | Audits
 Concept | Attributes | Concept Relations | Validity | Usage | Alternative definitions

Definition:

Source:

Definition Status:

Terms:

Name	Term Type	Abbr.	Enc.	Grammar	Term System
<input type="checkbox"/> prevention	Recommended		No	Noun	
<input type="checkbox"/> disease prevention	Synonyme		No	Noun	
<input type="checkbox"/> health promotion	Synonyme		No	Noun	
<input type="checkbox"/> profylaxis	Synonyme		No	Noun	

OK Cancel Apply

Concept : prevention : Rev. 0 : Default

Concept	Attributes	Concept Relations	Validity	Usage	Alternative definitions	
Description	Associate	Revisions	Circulation	Status	Project Status	Audits

Description:

In the domain of health, prevention includes the efforts which increase the health of the population by preventing or limiting risk factors, risk behavior, accidents, disease and late effects for patients or other citizens. Prvention comprises primary prevention, secondary prevention and rehabilitation. The players are politicians, authorities, health care professionals, patients and other citizens. Prevention takes place in multiple settings with various targetgroups. Over time the paradigm of prvention has moved from the pure medical sciences to the broader health sciences, thus expanding the traditional paradigm. Prevention and health promotion contain elements of each other. Examples of preventive interventions are dental care, home health visits, vaccination, health campaigns, legislative regulation of the work environment (primordial prevention).

Problem areas:
Distinction between prevention and health promotion, and between prevention and treatment|

OK Cancel Apply

Template used to describe concepts

1. **Term**
2. **Definition**
3. **Description** (incl. objective, setting, actors, target group, examples, problem areas)
4. **Synonyms**
5. **English equivalent**
6. **References**

Process of working group

Terminology course

Domain limiting

Concept brainstorming

Grouping concepts

Searching references

Attempting definitions

Determining relations

Refining concept system



Process, continued

Securing ownership, quality and debate

Workshop with 25 public health experts

Definitions and descriptions sent for hearing among professionals

Net hearing

Reporting of results and process, approval

Seminar for the public health community

Results

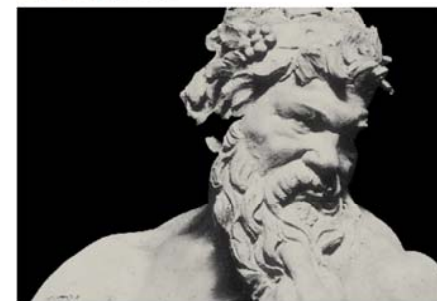
Concept system in QualiWare

Publication, 56 pages for practitioners

Seminar, launching of publication

Sensitized professionals

 Sundhedsstyrelsen



TERMINOLOGI

Forebyggelse, sundhedsfremme og folkesundhed



Results, 38 concepts defined

behavior change	health promotion	rehabilitation
clinical health promotion	indicated prevention	risk behavior
counselling to promote physical activity	intersectoral prevention	risk factor
dietary counselling	life style	role model
early detection	life style advice	screening
empowerment	motivational interviewing	secondary prevention
health behavior	opportunistic screening	selective prevention
health campaign	patient education	self care
health counselling	primary prevention	setting for prevention
health education	primordial prevention	smoking cessation
health st. of the population	prevention	tertiary prevention
health profile	prevention targeting the general public	universal prevention
	public health	worksite health promotion

Lessons learned – terminology work

Composition of working group essential

A time consuming process

Terminological assistance necessary

Limit domain from the beginning

Ensure ownership and participation

It's a never ending story

