
1st PHMR Newsletter

EUPHA Section on Public Health Monitoring and Reporting

September 2014

Up to October 2013, five newsletters were produced by Marieke Verschuuren and Pieter Kramers on behalf of the ECHI Transition Network. This newsletter will carry on that initiative under the broader umbrella of the EUPHA Section PHRM, to inform the European PHMR community about recent developments in the field of health information.

The Candidates for the upcoming presidency period of the PHMR section, the current Section Presidents, and the Steering Committee are happy to present this first issue of the PHMR section newsletter. The newsletter will be published biannually – in spring and autumn.

You are cordially invited to give us your feedback on the content of the newsletter. We would also appreciate your input for the following newsletter issues. Please feel free to inform us about important health information news from the EU and WHO European Region, as well as developments or reports on national and regional level that should be distributed in the next newsletter issue.

News from DG SANCO

News from the DG SANCO Expert Group on Health Information

(kindly provided by Peter Achterberg)

The past months gave us some 'good news'. The EC published the [Council Conclusions on the "Reflection process on modern, responsive and sustainable health systems"](#). In them the previous ECHI-work is explicitly mentioned as an important achievement. The Council calls upon their Member States to *"cooperate with a view to establishing a sustainable and integrated EU health information system, built on what has been already achieved through different groups and projects, such as ECHI-ECHIM projects, exploring in particular the potential of a comprehensive European health information research infrastructure consortium (ERIC) as a tool."*

Such an ERIC structure is a legal entity - supported by Member States - that may provide a sustainable imbedding of health information research activities and capacity building in the EU. Many other ERIC's either exist or are in preparation for different research areas ([see here](#)). These Council Conclusions also put emphasis on the need to further develop health system performance assessment research and pay attention to its underlying data needs.

The Expert Group on Health Information (EGHI) has further investigated the possibilities for an ERIC and identified priority items to be taken up by an ERIC Health Information as presented in a [scoping paper](#) (December 17, 2013) discussed by that group on January 22, 2014. Later, the EGHI was informed that the new work plan (2014) of the Health Program (see next topic) will contain a call for a project that should bring on board a number of research activities that were previously performed in projects such as ECHIM, Peristat, EHES and others.

A design study for an ERIC Health Information may also be proposed under the Horizon 2020 program.

DG SANCO annual work programme 2014

In reference to the Council Conclusions the new **DG SANCO annual work programme 2014** includes a [call](#) in the area of health information that focusses on the development of a sustainable health information system that combines the various past activities in the area.

This so-called 'Bridge' project is to function as a transition project towards a future ERIC. A group of former project leaders from the areas mentioned in the call are working on a proposal. Herman van Oyen (IPH, Belgium) leads this group. This call for proposals is open from 6 June to 25 September 2014.

News from the DG SANCO Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in health

In 2012 DG SANCO established a multidisciplinary and independent [Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in health](#). The core element of the Expert Panel's mission is to provide the Commission with sound and independent advice in the form of opinions. The Panel responds to questions (mandates) submitted by the Commission on matters related to health care modernisation, responsiveness, and sustainability. The panel works currently on

- an assessment study of public private partnerships,
- the competition of health care providers,
- criteria for performance assessment of health systems,
- a definition of primary care, and
- a future agenda for patient safety / quality of care.

In February 2014 a paper on the '[Definition and Endorsement of Criteria to Identify Priority Areas When Assessing the Performance of Health Systems](#)' was published. The summary of the opinion paper offers first insights:

"The development of a framework and set of criteria to identify priority areas when assessing the performance of health systems in Europe presents an important opportunity to optimise the use of existing health system performance indicators in providing timely and robust information for policy interventions.

As part of the reflection process to pursue modern, responsive and sustainable health systems and by mandate of the Council Working Party on Public Health at Senior Level, Sweden is co-ordinating a Sub-group on measuring and monitoring the effectiveness of health investments. The Sub-group has produced a short paper on possible criteria to identify areas that should be prioritised for making comparisons and assessment on effective ways in investing in health.

The advice of the Expert Panel is requested to provide guidance on the parameters, criteria and testing of the model prepared by the Sub-group. The Expert Panel does not seek to provide a definitive judgement on which framework/model should be adopted for Health System Performance Assessment (HSPA). The Opinion of the Expert Panel highlights some of the key technical and general issues that need to be considered by the Sub-group at this stage of their work, and provides some general guidance concerning its further development."

The appendix of the opinion paper provides a list of possible indicators for the HSPA dimensions on health and health system outcome and common values (health equity, population health risk factors, responsiveness, economic impact, universality, solidarity, equity, quality and safety of health services), as well as variables for the measurement of feasibility and contextual aspects.

PHMR Section News

- During the 2014 **EPH conference in Glasgow** (19.-22. November 2014) the PHMR section will held two workshops and the annual meeting:
 - ✓ Workshop: Diagnose-based morbidity statistics for the European Union (Friday 21st, 8:30-10:00)
 - ✓ Annual section meeting (Friday 21st, 18:00-19:00)
 - ✓ Workshop: Adaptation of health information systems following the economic crisis: Risks and opportunities (Saturday 22nd, 9:00-10:30)

Please mark your EPHC 2014 agenda accordingly!

- During last year's EPH conference we had a round table discussion on the topic: **"European Health Information System: Steps from idea to reality"**. A short summary of the discussion was published as [letter to the editor](#) in the European Journal of Public Health. The main message of the letter: In order to realise a health information system in Europe it is time to get politicians involved when promoting and working on the development of a European health information system.
- The PHMR section, with support of Evert-Ben van Veen of Medlawconsult, produced a [fact sheet](#) on potential harmful consequences on the **EU General Data Protection Regulation** (GDPR).

What has happened since the [last newsletter issue](#) was distributed and the fact sheet was compiled?

The European Parliament Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) had the task to formulate Parliament's amendments on the Commission's proposal for a new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). After a negotiation period, the LIBE Committee agreed on a GDPR in which several LIBE proposals were adopted. In March 2014 the plenary of the European Parliament voted with a large majority in favour of the amended regulation. Now, the Council of the European Union needs to define its position on the GDPR. The review process of the Council is assigned to the Working Party on Information Exchange and Data Protection (DAPIX). This group has the task to present a draft of its position on the GDPR to the Ministers of the member states. This is expected to happen at the end of 2014. Afterwards a second reading process can start in which the Council and the Parliament negotiate a final draft.

A statement on the latest developments written by Olof Nyrén et al. can be found in the [European Journal of Epidemiology](#) (open access). In this paper it is stressed that there are still opportunities to influence the content of the GDPR by informing member state governments about the concerns of the European public health community.

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New publications



WHO-EUR

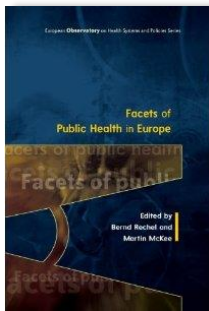
[Report](#) of the second joint meeting of experts on targets and indicators for health and well-being

“The second joint meeting of experts on targets and indicators for health and well-being in Health 2020 was convened to identify objective well-being indicators to complement the subjective well-being indicator already adopted in Health 2020.”

European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies Series

Facets of Public Health in Europe

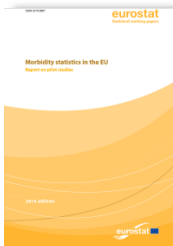
[Book](#), edited by Bernd Rechel and Martin McKee



Including a chapter on Monitoring the Health of the Population by Marieke Verschuuren et al.



DG SANCO published a [fact sheet](#) on **European Core Health Indicators (ECHI)**



News on **EU morbidity statistics**

[Assessment report](#)

Morbidity Statistics in the EU – report on pilot studies

[Web article](#)

Morbidity Statistics methodology pilot studies – introduction



DG SANCO

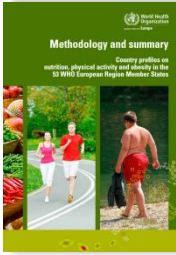
[Conclusions of the Chronic Disease Summit](#)

One key issue: Strengthen evidence and information: Better and comparable data needed.



Surveillance of surgical site infections in Europe 2010- 2011

[ECDC report](#)



WHO-EUR

Country profiles on nutrition, physical activity and obesity

[Methodology and summary](#)

[Country profiles](#)



OECD Regional Well-being

[Webpage](#)

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