
2nd PHMR Newsletter

EUPHA Section on Public Health Monitoring and Reporting

July 2015

News from DG SANTE, WHO-EUR and OECD

News from the DG SANTE Expert Group on Health Information

by Peter Achterberg

The Expert Group on Health Information has continued its normal work of exchanging information about health information activities in the EU between Commission DG's and institutions (DG SANCO/SANTE, DG EMPL, DG Eurostat, DG Research JRC, EMCDDA, etc.), the Member States, and international organizations (WHO, OECD). Besides that, an ad hoc committee has been dealing with ideas for an ERIC (European Research Infrastructure) on Health Information (ERIC HI). This links closely to the work of a recent CHAFAEA-cofunded project BRIDGE-Health (see below). This work is followed up in a Taskforce to prepare and advocate the founding of such an ERIC HI. The JRC has expanded its work and mandate in the health information area to now include work on cancer registries and cancer data and rare diseases registries and data. The EGHI group learned that an issue that is now addressed intensely by the Commission (both EMPL and SANTE) is to work on Health System Performance Assessment. The EGHI group has stressed the need for a more clear form of coordination among the various Commission Directorates in that area.

News on the project Bridge Health

by Petronille Bogaert and Herman van Oyen

The BRIDGE Health project answers to the call towards a sustainable health monitoring and reporting system in the DG SANTE Work Programme 2014 of the Public Health Programme of Community action in the field of health (2014-2020). Accordingly, the objective of BRIDGE Health is to work towards European health information (EU-HI) and data generation networks covering major EU health policy areas by promoting the coordination and convergence of existing key projects in health information. The aim is to work towards comprehensive, integrated and sustainable EU-HI, supporting evidence-based health policy and research for the EU and Member States by providing blueprints and/or concepts of building blocks for a future EU-HI structure.

Throughout the project, BRIDGE Health aims to work on generic objectives. These objectives are the transversal layers throughout the project that bring together the expertise developed within each specific health information domain. It is aimed to tackle the following generic objectives:

- ensure sustainability of key health information activities that have been run under the past EU-health and research framework programs and enhance synergy among these activities;
- enhance the transferability of health information and data for policy and improve the utility and use of data and indicators for stakeholders in policy making, public health surveillance and health care;
- reduce health information inequality within the EU and within MSs;
- develop a blueprint for a sustainable and integrated EU Health information system by developing common methods for
 - a) the standardization of the collection and exchange of health information on population health and health systems within and between Member States;
 - b) the standardization of data quality assurance systems;

- c) health information priority setting, and
- d) the harmonization of ethic-legal issues.

The project bridges the best of the EU projects in the domains population and health system monitoring, indicator development, health examination surveys, environment and health, population injury and disease registries, clinical and administrative health data collection systems, and methods of health systems monitoring and evaluation.

The project was launched in May 2015 and will be running for 30 months, delivering at midpoint a concept paper. The concept paper will include the scope, tasks, activities and governance structure, of a future EU-HI System Infrastructure. It will present the strengths and limitations of a set of possible structures. The concept paper will be presented in a form that can serve as a draft agreement on the construction of an EU-HI infrastructure between interested Member States, candidate and EEA/EFTA countries and international organizations.

News on the European Health Information Initiative

From [WHO-EUR](#)

[Brochure](#) on the European Health Information Initiative

Improving health information and using high-quality information as the foundation of sound health policy was firmly on the agenda at the first ever meeting of the European Health Information Initiative (EHII). Representatives from seven of the eleven Member States of the EHII (Austria, Finland, Latvia, the Netherlands, the Russian Federation, Sweden and Turkey) joined colleagues from WHO collaborating centres, the European Commission, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and The Wellcome Trust at WHO/Europe on 24–25 March 2015. The meeting took place under the chairmanship of the Netherlands and the vice-chairmanship of the Russian Federation. A further web-based virtual meeting of the group was held at the beginning of June.

EHII's main aim is to support the development of a single, integrated health information system for the entire European Region, which can be achieved by activity in six key areas:

- development of information on health and well-being, with a focus on indicators;
- enhanced access to and dissemination of health information;
- capacity building;
- strengthening of health information networks;
- support for development of health information strategies;
- communications and advocacy.

The meeting participants adopted processes and procedures and a scoping document; they also agreed on a comprehensive action plan covering all six key areas. Member States made concrete commitments to their contributions to the action plan. New activities recommended include:

- preparation of a mapping exercise on existing and future health information developments, with a particular focus on indicator development;
- regular progress reports from WHO/Europe, European Commission and OECD to the EHII Steering Group on their joint collaboration in the field of health information;
- development of a communications and advocacy strategy for EHII.

The meeting also suggested the idea of the collaborating centres in Moscow (Russian Federation) and Manchester (United Kingdom), exploring avenues for knowledge exchange and cooperation. The action plan is now being implemented by WHO Europe and the members of the EHII.

News on the Evidence-informed Policy Network (EVIPNet)

by Tanja Kuchenmüller and Tim Nguyen

Despite increasing efforts, systematic approaches to evidence-informed policy-making are in many parts still weak in the World Health Organization (WHO) European Region. The Evidence-informed Policy Network (EVIPNet), Europe is an initiative of the WHO Regional Office for Europe, which was launched in 2012 to address this gap. With a vision of a Europe in which high-quality, context-sensitive evidence routinely informs health system decision-making, the network supports governments to implement WHO's new European policy framework – Health 2020 – and its goals: reducing health inequalities and improving health for all by fostering a knowledge translation culture.

Serving as a major capacity building element of the European Health Information Initiative, EVIPNet Europe institutionalizes knowledge translation efforts through the establishment of national country teams (so-called Knowledge Translation Platforms). These groups are empowered to plan and implement national strategies, which effectively bridge the evidence-policy divide. They aim to:

- improve the culture for and practice of research evidence creation, adaptation and use;
- influence processes supporting the prioritization of timely and relevant research evidence;
- package and disseminate research evidence;
- convene national dialogues about priority health challenges;
- enhance capacity to find and use research evidence; and
- catalyse knowledge translation at the global, regional and country level.

EVIPNet Europe currently comprises 13 eastern European and central Asian countries. Increasingly, also Western European countries show interest in learning from EVIPNet Europe's experience and joining the network. Recognizing the network's added value for EU Member States and its potential for knowledge sharing, peer-support and mutual learning in evidence-informed policy-making, DG Sante, for instance, invited the WHO Secretariat of EVIPNet Europe to present to the Expert Group on Health Information at its recent meeting (see contribution of Peter Achterberg in this newsletter). Future avenues of collaboration are currently being explored.

As a key implementing pillar of the WHO accelerated roadmap on enhancing knowledge translation, EVIPNet Europe will be featured at the upcoming preconference event to the 8th European Public Health Conference on 14-15 October 2015, entitled "Enhancing evidence-informed decision-making in Europe. More information can be found [here](#).

PHMR Section News

PHMR workshops at the EPHC 2015 in Milan

The PHMR section has organized/is involved in three workshops:

(1) Observe the gap: Possibilities and approaches for routine monitoring of social health inequalities

Message 1

Regular information about the development of socio-economically driven health inequalities are of utmost importance for integrated health policy making.

Message 2

International and national approaches exist that can support good practice exchange and further development of routine monitoring of social health inequalities.

(2) Health assessments: Status and perspectives of basic and advanced approaches

Message 1

For evidence-based policy-making – within and beyond the health sector – health assessments are key approaches.

Message 2

The systematic comparison of different assessment “cultures” offers opportunities for their cross-fertilization and co-evolution.

(3) Quality health information systems in small European countries and regions

Message 1

Health information practitioners in small countries and working at regional level face specific challenges in developing and maintaining high quality information systems

Message 2

The proximity of data providers to policy makers in small countries and regions is an opportunity for evidence informed policy making

Please join our workshops and check the [EPHC 2015](#) program for more details!

Publication of the EUPHA-PHMR section

PUBLIC HEALTH MONITORING AND REPORTING: MAINTAINING AND IMPROVING THE EVIDENCE-BASE

In the aftermath of the 2014 EPHC in Glasgow the section was asked to summarize the conference discussion on health information matters in a special Eurohealth issue on “Reducing inequalities in health and health care”.

Abstract of the paper

It is undisputed that reliable and comprehensive health information is needed to support evidence-informed policy-making. This article gives an overview of the drivers and actions that aim to improve the health information infrastructure in Europe. In addition to outlining the status quo of international infrastructure development, this article highlights existing gaps in monitoring health inequalities and in data sources for monitoring morbidity. A sustainable health information infrastructure in Europe, a feasible legal framework, as well as opportunities for good-practice exchange, would help to overcome information gaps and improve the possibilities for evidence-informed decision-making.

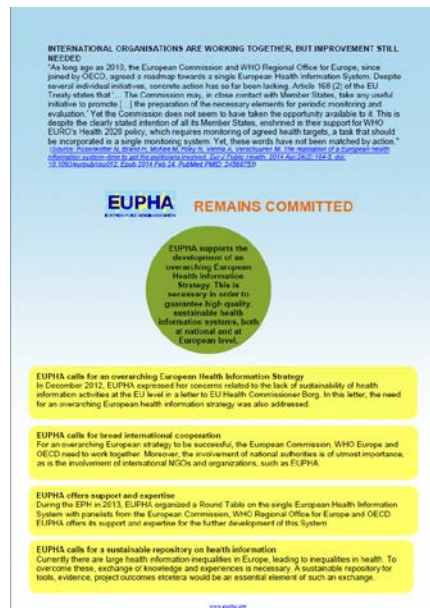
The whole paper can be accessed [here](#).

ANNUAL REPORT 2014

The annual report summarizes the 2014 activities of the EUPHA-PHMR section, please [click](#) for more information

HEALTH MONITORING AND INFORMATION – EUPHact

The section published a [EUPHact](#) on “Health Monitoring and Information” in which the relevance of health information is outlined and EUPHA’s position on the relevance of a European Health Information Strategy and a sustainable repository on health information are defined.



Status Quo of the negotiations on the EU General Data Protection Regulation

Timeline

2012 – proposal of the European Commission

2014 – position statement of the European Parliament with restrictive amendments for public health monitoring and population-based research

2015 - In June the Council of the European Union adopted its position on the GDPR. The position of the Council is more positive than the position of the European Parliament.

Now, the negotiations (trilogue) between the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union start with the aim to formulate a final draft to vote on. The European Data in Health Research Alliance has summarized the results of the [Council's final position and their expectations for the trilogue](#). A proposed timetable for the trilogue can be found [here](#). It is expected that an agreement on the Regulation can be expected earliest end of 2015.

For recent GDPR news you can follow the European Data in Health Research Alliance @datamattersEU on Twitter.

Plans for EPHC 2016 – Interested to contribute?

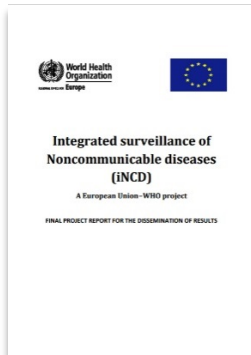
We plan to organize a **pre-conference on Data Visualization** in Vienna before the EPHC 2016. The pre-conference can cover various themes

- design of health information platforms and dashboard design
- general training on data visualisation: how to communicate data with graphs and tables
- cartography
- infographics, onepage info websites, infomovies,...

We would appreciate feedback on the topics of interest. If you would like to contribute to the organisation and content of the pre-conference please let us know.

Contact: Nicole Rosenkötter: Nicole.rosenkoetter@lzg.nrw.de .

New publications



WHO-EUR and EC

Integrated surveillance of Noncommunicable diseases (iNCD).

Final project [report](#) for the dissemination of results.

Cooperation between the WHO Regional Office for Europe (the Regional Office) and the European Commission (EC) in the area of health information includes the development of indicators, the collection of data and the establishment of information systems. In 2013, they initiated the joint iNCD project to determine the current situation regarding NCD-related indicators, the starting point being the European Core Health Indicators (ECHI) and the targets and indicators of the WHO global monitoring framework for the prevention and control of NCD (GMF).



Eurostat

Quality of life. Facts and views.

[Quality of life in Europe — facts and views](#) presents different aspects of people's well-being combining for the first time objective indicators with subjective evaluation of individuals' situations and covering various aspects of quality of life. The indicators are analysed together with different elements affecting quality of life such as educational level, activity, health status or family and financial situation. The emphasis in this publication has been placed on the data collected through the 2013 ad-hoc module on subjective well-being, which was added to the statistics on income and living conditions (EU-SILC). Data are presented for the European Union and its Member States as well as for the EFTA countries.

GDP and beyond: [Quality of life information](#)



WHO-EUR

[Support tool](#) to assess health information systems and develop and strengthen health information strategies

Good health information supports public health policy-making. During its meeting in December 2013, the Standing Committee of the Regional Committee asked the WHO Regional Office for Europe to develop a practical tool to support Member States in developing and improving their national health information systems by developing national health information strategies. This would support countries in implementing the European policy framework, Health 2020. Good health information from strong national health information systems can help Member States identify areas for action to address Health 2020 priorities and evaluate the effects of Health-2020-related policies and interventions.



OECD

Tackling Harmful Alcohol Use. Economics and Public Health Policy.

This [book](#) examines trends and social disparities in alcohol consumption. It assesses the health, social and economic impacts of key policy options for tackling alcohol-related harms in Canada, the Czech Republic and Germany, extracting policy messages for a broader set of countries.

[Video](#)

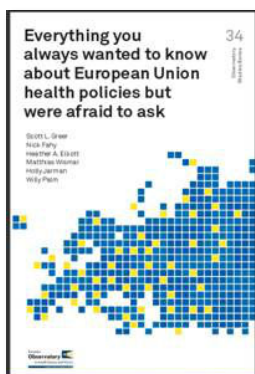


WHO-EUR

Promoting better integration of health information systems: best practices and challenges

By Kai Michelsen, Helmut Brand, Peter Achterberg and John Wilkinson
Health Evidence Network synthesis [report](#)

This report addresses the current trends in Member States of the European Union (EU) and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) in how to promote better integration of health information systems. To understand what better integration means from a pragmatic perspective, experts from 13 EU Member States were interviewed and the results combined with the findings from a literature search.



European Observatory on Health Systems and Policy Series

Everything you always wanted to know about European Union health policies but were afraid to ask

By Scott L. Greer, Nick Fahy, Heather A. Elliott, Matthias Wismar, Holly Jarman, Willy Palm

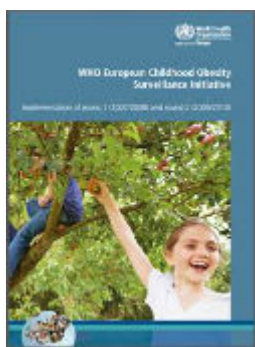
This short [book](#) makes EU health policy in its entirety (and complexity) accessible to political and technical debate. To this end the volume focuses on four aspects of EU health policy. This book is aimed at policymakers and students of public health and health systems in the EU who want to understand how the EU can add value in their quest improving population health and the performance of health systems in Member States.



OECD and EC

Health at a Glance: Europe 2014

This third edition of [Health at a Glance: Europe](#) presents the latest information on health and health systems in 35 European countries, including all European Union Member States, candidate countries (with the exception of Albania due to limited data availability) and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries. The selection of indicators is largely based on the European Core Health Indicators (ECHI) shortlist, a list of indicators that has been developed by the European Commission to guide the development and reporting of health statistics. It is complemented by additional indicators on health expenditure, quality of care and access to care, building on the OECD expertise in these areas.



WHO-EUR

WHO European Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative. Implementation of round 1 (2007/2008) and round 2 (2009/2010)

The WHO Regional Office for Europe established the WHO European Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative (COSI) to measure trends in overweight and obesity in children aged 6.0–9.9 years. This is the first official WHO [report](#) on the implementation of COSI during two data collection rounds (school years 2007/2008 and 2009/2010) in 16 participating countries. The report uses the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) technique to evaluate COSI implementation and describes the experiences gained, the challenges encountered and the obstacles overcome by participating countries.



EC

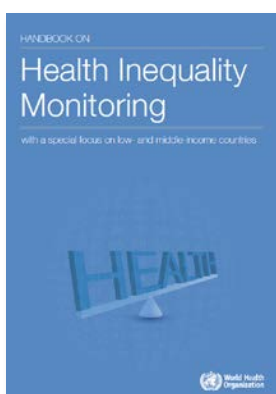
Roma Health Report. Health status of the Roma population. Data collection in the Member States of the European Union.

By Matrix Knowledge

The purpose of this [report](#) is to provide an evidence-based review of literature on Roma health, covering 2008-2013 and the following indicators:

1. Mortality and life expectancy
2. Prevalence of major infectious diseases
3. Healthy life styles and related behaviours
4. Access and use of health services and prevention programmes
5. Prevalence of major chronic diseases
6. Health factors related to the role of women in the Roma community
7. Environmental and other socio-economic factors

The methodology used was based on two steps: (i) Desk Research based on the review of secondary data (a literature review); and (ii) Fieldwork collecting primary data through semi-structured interviews.



WHO

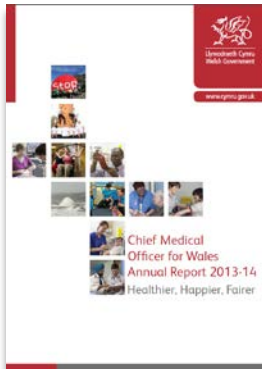
Handbook on Health Inequality Monitoring with a special focus on low – and middle income countries.

The World Health Organization developed the [Handbook](#) on health inequality monitoring: with a special focus on low- and middle-income countries to provide an overview for health inequality monitoring within low- and middle-income countries, and act as a resource for those involved in spearheading, improving or sustaining monitoring systems. The handbook was principally designed to be used by technical staff of ministries of health to build capacity for health inequality monitoring in World Health Organization Member States; however, it may also be of interest to public health professionals, researchers, students and others. We assume that the users of this handbook have basic statistical knowledge and some familiarity with monitoring related issues. The aim of this handbook is to serve as a comprehensive resource to clarify the concepts associated with health inequality monitoring, illustrate the process through examples and promote the integration of health inequality monitoring within health information systems of low- and middle-income countries.



Public Health Agency of Canada
Report on the state of public health in Canada 2014

This [report](#), rather than looking only at health status, particular disease outcomes or public health initiatives affecting Canadians today, considers how those issues may be affected by broader factors that are likely to influence public health in the future.



Welsh Government
Chief Medical Officer for Wales. Annual Report 2013-14. Healthier, Happier, Fairer

This [report](#) is focused on evidence and opportunities. After a summary of the current position, chapters assess how we could better protect and promote health and wellbeing for all and support the NHS.



The Association of Directors of Public Health (UK)
Annual Report Competition

It's worth checking the annual winners of UK's [DPH Annual Report Competition](#). The top-seeded reports are inspirational and deliver ideas for your next public health report.

Report from Gateshead,
winner 2014

Next newsletter issue and regular updates

The next issue is planned for late autumn 2015, after the EPHC in Milan. You are cordially invited to give us your feedback on the content of the newsletter. We would also appreciate your input. 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 you wish to be distributed in the next newsletter issue.

For continuous updates please

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The LinkedIn Group allows all members to share PHMR news with other section members.

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