

The European Burden of Disease Network (EBoDN)

Henk Hilderink (RIVM)

Context

- Increasing need for exchange of expertise on Burden of Disease (e.g. DALY) calculations (workshop in Scotland on BoD Methodology)
- Increasing need for international comparable reporting on BoD
- First meeting of the Network held on 20th and 21st of September in London, United Kingdom.
- The network is fully integrated in the EHII and will be coordinated in collaboration with the Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME)

Burden of Disease

- Metric to account for both
 - Morbidity (prevalence + severity / disability of health conditions)
 - Mortality (age of death + causes of death)
- DALY
 - YLD = Years lived with disability
 - YLL = Years of life lost
 - $DALY = YLD + YLL$
- High need for data and broad expertise
- Useful to compare and prioritize various health conditions, e.g. for policy making.

Aims of the network

- **Build capacity** in countries to conduct and collaborate in BoD studies for the purpose of (inter)national reporting;
- Support countries to participate in **international collaborations**;
- Encourage countries to do **sub-national level** BoD studies
- Support **knowledge exchange and communication** between experts in the field;
- **Harmonize burden of disease methodologies** to ensure international comparability of results;
- Facilitate the **improvement of the availability, quality and accessibility** of national health information;
- **Improve reporting and communication** to facilitate the integration of BoD information into decision making;
- **Promote good practice** in the use of BoD evidence;
- Promote the establishment of **sustainable national structures and resources** for burden of disease assessments;
- **Advocate for the EBoDN** to increase its membership;
- **Support the goals of the European Health Information Initiative** through the above actions.

Key areas of activities

- Exchange of expertise and knowledge and mutual support.
- Development and application of harmonized burden of disease methodology.
- Enhanced access to and dissemination of burden of disease data.
- Capacity building among interested countries.
- Communications and advocacy.

Current status and next steps...

- Appointing Chair, deputy chair, secretary
- Terms of reference formally approved by WHO
- Annual meeting of EBoDN (in 2017 in Norway)
- Linking with new initiatives (e.g. National Burden of Disease studies in Belgium, the Netherlands, Scotland,...)
- Linking with IHME
- New members...?