

Strengthening health information systems through cross-country learning and collaboration



The availability of health information is key for evidence-informed policy making. A clear health information strategy should be the basis of health information systems on national as well as on international level. However, capacities, resources and government approaches for routine population health monitoring and the development and maintenance of health information systems vary across countries and international institutions.

Day 1

Under the auspices of the European Health Information Initiative (EHII), the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe (WHO EUR) has launched a support tool to assess national health information systems and to develop a health information strategy. This tool covers all the phases related to health information strategy development – from assessment of the current state of health information systems, through strategy development and implementation to evaluation. Moreover, it addresses all the different elements of health information systems, such as governance, databases and resources. During Day 1 the Support Tool will be introduced and experiences from national pilot tests will be disseminated. To improve cross-country learning and knowledge exchange about applied procedures, participants will have the possibility to discuss within moderated working groups strength and weaknesses of their health information systems. It will be focussed on the elements: resources, health indicator sets, data sources (population-based/health services-based), data management, health reporting, dissemination and use. Challenges identified for each of these elements of health information systems will be taken up on Day 2 when it is focussed on international activities on health information.

Day 2

On Day 2 representatives from the EC, OECD and WHO EUR are invited to present their health information systems, current activities and government tools. Representatives from the BRIDGE Health project will introduce problems and needs of an EU health information system. These representatives will also act as panellists for the discussion of strength and weaknesses of health information activities in Europe, possibilities for cooperation, and common health information challenges on national/regional level (identified on Day 1). The second part of Day 2 will be used for discussing current developments of EU actions on health information. The BRIDGE Health project aims to prepare the transition towards a sustainable and integrated EU health information system for both public health and research purposes. BRIDGE Health will present a road map for the operationalization of a strategic plan on EU health information. Participants and panellists are invited to challenge the current plans.

Output of the preconference

Taking part in this preconference will allow participants to discuss possibilities for strengthen national health information systems and options for defining a health information strategy. Cross-country learning will enhance capacity building regarding the components needed for modern health information systems. Moreover, participants will have the possibility to get an update on international health information systems and to take part in the discussion of current EU activities on health information.

Programme Day 1

Wednesday 9 November 2016 – Room L5

Moderator: Nicole Rosenkötter, EUPHA PHMR section, NRW Centre for Health, Germany

Aims

- To discuss factors for strengthening health information systems and their governance.
- To improve capacities for the assessment of health information systems and the development of a health information strategy.
- To support the exchange of experiences with and knowledge about the organization and governance mechanisms of health information systems.

12:30 Lunch

13:30 Welcome

Nicole Rosenkötter, EUPHA PHMR section on behalf of BRIDGE Health, WHO EUR, OECD

13:45 Introduction of the European Health Information Initiative

Claudia Stein, WHO EUR

14:00 Introduction of the WHO SUPPORT tool to assess health information systems and develop and strengthen health information strategies

Marieke Verschuuren, RIVM, The Netherlands and Tina Dannemann Purnat, WHO EUR

14:30 Experiences with the WHO SUPPORT tool in Central and Eastern Europe

Neville Calleja, Ministry for Health, Malta

15:00 Coffee/tea break

15:30 Moderated working group discussions: Organization and governance of health information systems in the country/region of the participants

Facilitators: *Petronille Bogaert, BRIDGE Health, Scientific Institute of Public Health (WIV-ISP), Belgium; Tina Dannemann Purnat, WHO EUR; Maria Hofmarcher, HealthSystem Intelligence, Austria; Anke Joas, BiPRO GmbH, Germany; Nicole Rosenkötter, EUPHA PHMR section, NRW Centre for Health, Germany; Herman Van Oyen, BRIDGE Health, Scientific Institute of Public Health (WIV-ISP), Belgium; Marieke Verschuuren, RIVM, The Netherlands*

16:30 Summary of working group discussions and collection of challenges of national/regional health information systems

Facilitators of the working groups

17:00 End of Day 1

19:00 Informal pre-conference dinner

More information on page 5

Programme Day 2

Thursday 10 November 2016 – Room L5

Moderator: Herman van Oyen, BRIDGE Health, Scientific Institute of Public Health (WIV-ISP), Belgium

Aims

- To improve knowledge about international health information systems of the European Commission, OECD, and WHO-EURO and their governance.
- To discuss (1) a EU health information strategy and its links with other international health information activities and (2) a road map to operationalize the strategic plan for EU health information.

8:30 Introduction of the components of the EU health information system

Philippe Roux, DG SANTÉ

8:50 Introduction of the components of the health information activities of the OECD

Gaetan Lafortune, OECD

9:10 Introduction of the components of the health information system of WHO-EURO

Claudia Stein, WHO EUR

9:30 Introduction of problems and needs of an EU health information system

Petronille Bogaert, BRIDGE Health, Scientific Institute of Public Health (WIV-ISP), Belgium

10:00 Coffee/tea break

10:30 Panel discussion

- **What are the strengths and weaknesses of European health information activities?**
- **What are the possibilities for cooperation at international level?**
- **What international support is there/can be developed to address the challenges of health information systems on national/regional level?**

Panellists: *Philippe Roux, DG SANTÉ; Gaetan Lafortune, OECD, Claudia Stein, WHO EUR; Petronille Bogaert, BRIDGE Health, Scientific Institute of Public Health (WIV-ISP), Belgium; and a **facilitator** of the working groups on Day 1*

11:15 Introduction of a road map for the operationalization of an EU health information system

Herman van Oyen, BRIDGE Health, Scientific Institute of Public Health (WIV-ISP), Belgium

11:45 Joint discussion

- **What is your expectation of the ERIC as a researcher, citizen, policy-maker, or other stakeholder?**

12:15 End of Day 2, followed by lunch

Dinner

You can join us for an informal pre-conference dinner. We made a reservation at the [Restaurant Fromme Helene](#) in the “Gewölbekeller”.

Reservation code: EUPHA Conference

The restaurant offers reasonably priced Austrian food.

Location: Restaurant Fromme Helene, Josefstädter Strasse 15/Lange Gasse 33, 1080 Vienna
The restaurant is close to the underground station “Rathaus” (town hall).

If you are interested to join, please use this [Doodle link](#)
<http://doodle.com/poll/z9eucvce2sybewx8> to let us know.



See you in Vienna!