



# Information, evidence and research for policy (ehm, health, actually): the vision of WHO Europe



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**Organisation  
mondiale de la Santé**

BUREAU RÉGIONAL DE L'

**Europe**



**Weltgesundheitsorganisation**

REGIONALBÜRO FÜR

**Europa**



**Всемирная организация  
здравоохранения**

**Европейское** региональное бюро

**Dr Claudia Stein**

**Director**

**Division of Information, Evidence, Research and Innovation  
WHO Regional Office for Europe**

# The WHO European Region

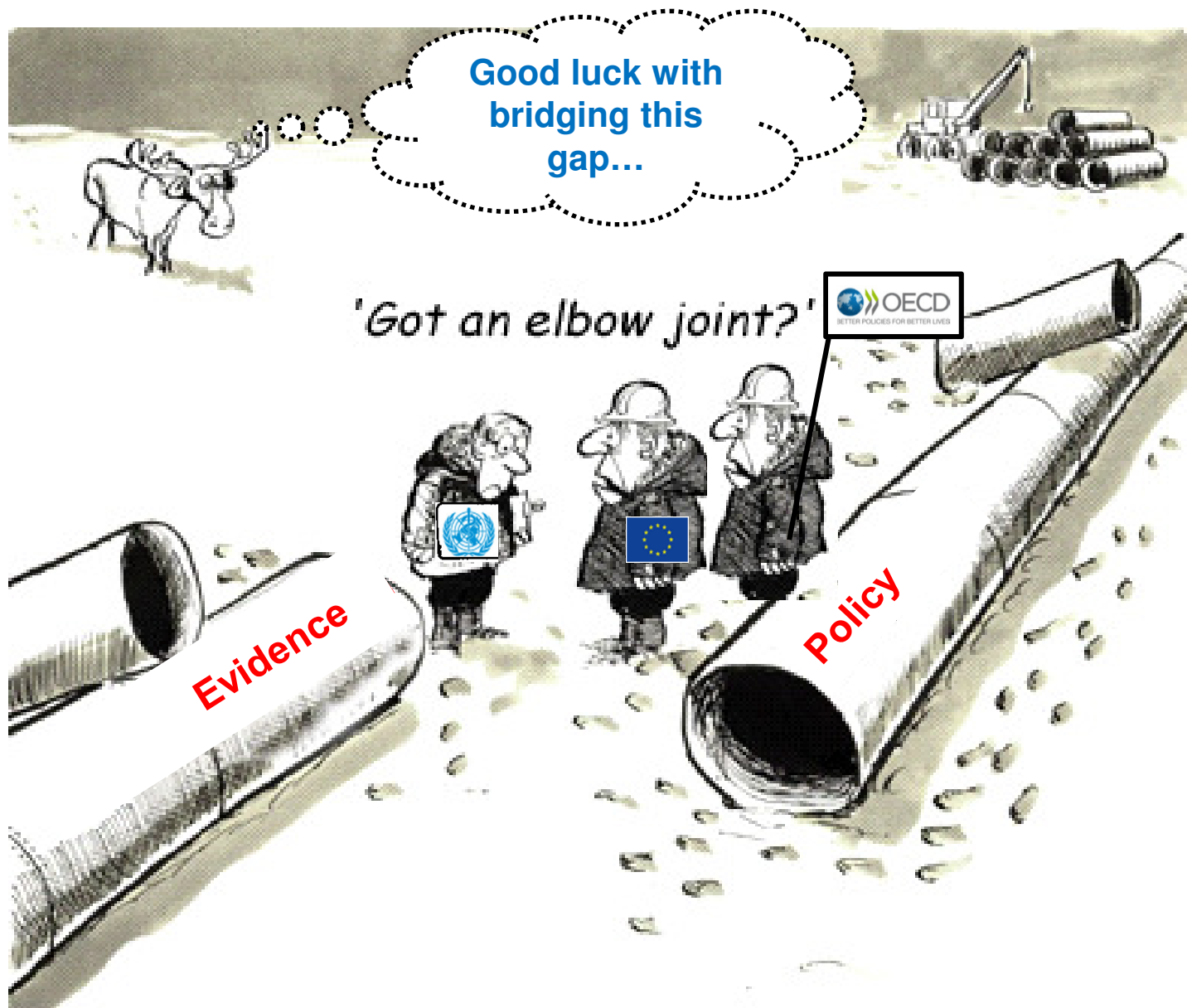
WHO Regional Office for Europe  
Copenhagen, Denmark



**53 Member States**    **900 million population**



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# European Health Information Initiative (EHII)



- Provides overarching guidance for health information activities WHO Europe;
- Multi-partner network;
- 5 Steering Group meetings held to date;
- Doubled the number of members in the last 10 months.





# WHO/EU collaboration towards a single integrated Health Information System for Europe (53 Member States)

## Moscow Declaration 2010



European Commission and WHO  
Regional Office for Europe:  
*A shared vision for joint action*

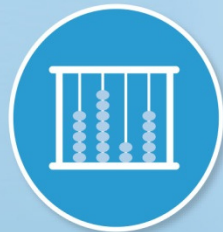
## Vilnius Declaration 2015



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OECD  
a partner since 2012

## European Health Information Initiative



Measurement



Access



Capacity  
Building



Networks



Strategy



Communication



The European Health Information Initiative is committed to improving the evidence on which policy is based and ultimately to creating a single health information system for Europe.

# EHI participants: 27 and growing

The designations employed and the presentation of this material do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.



Austria  
Belgium  
Finland  
Georgia  
Italy  
Kazakhstan  
Kyrgyzstan  
Latvia  
Lithuania  
Malta  
Netherlands  
Poland  
Portugal  
Romania  
Russian Federation  
Slovenia  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
Turkey  
United Kingdom



European Commission



Wellcome Trust



Organisation for Economic  
Co-operation and Development



European Public Health Association



The Commonwealth



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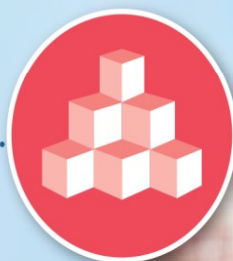
# European Health Information Initiative



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Gateway

## European Health Information Gateway



### Theme in focus: Health 2020

Health 2020 is the flagship health policy framework for the WHO European Region which aims to support action across society and governments for health and well-being. The evidence-based and peer-reviewed policy has been embraced by all 53 Member States in the WHO European Region and is vital as Europe is faced with many different challenges that impact our health and demand different ways of thinking and behaving.

The M&E framework details the way that good health contributes across society and provides policy-makers a vision, a strategic path, a set of priorities and a range of suggestions about what works to improve health and address health inequalities. This will ensure the health of future generations for everyone in the European Region.



#### Data

Choose an indicator to view data in WHO/Europe's databases

- Health 2020 indicators
- Environment and Health Information System (EHIS)
- European Health for All database (HFA-DB)



#### Themes

- Alcohol
- Antimicrobial resistance
- Environmental health
- Food Safety and Zoonoses
- Health 2020
- Health inequalities and social determinants of health
- Health literacy
- Health system performance: quality, costs, accessibility, equity and reform
- Healthy and active ageing
- Mental health
- Migrant health
- Noncommunicable diseases
- Obesity, physical activity and nutrition

[View all themes](#)



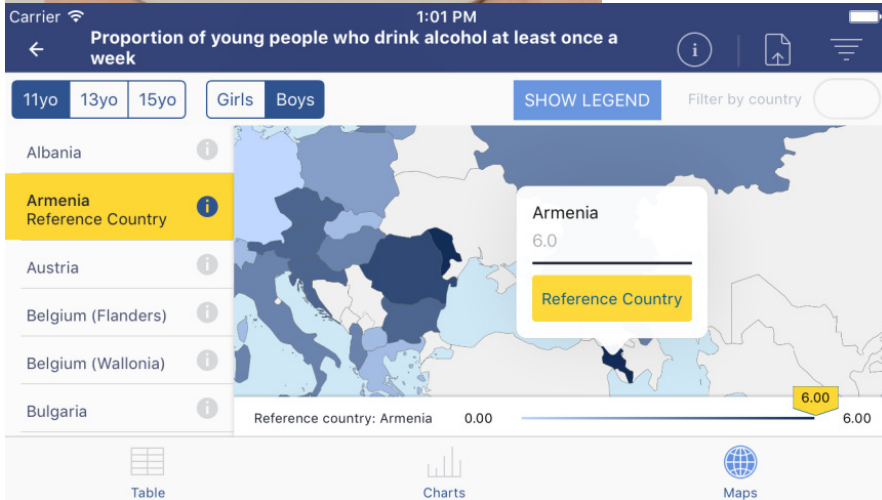
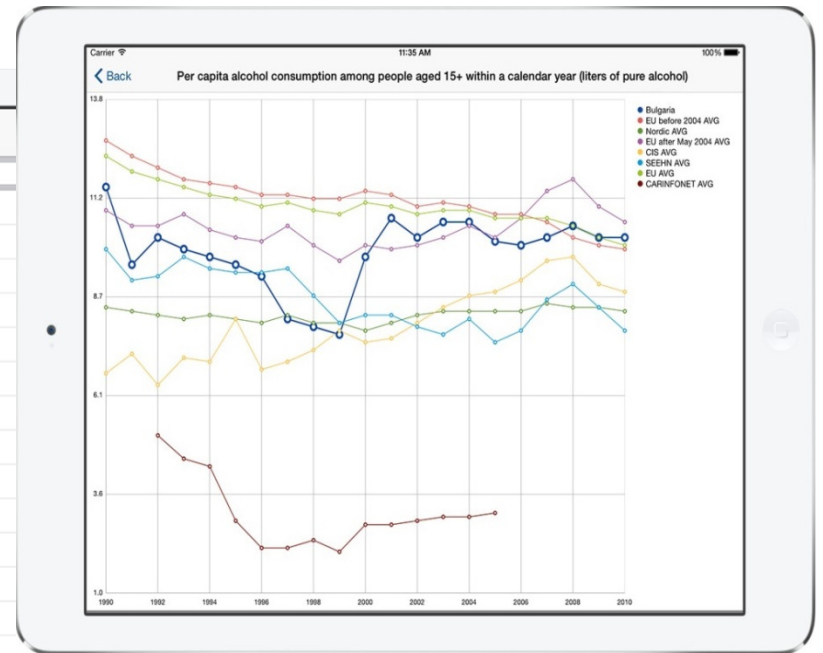
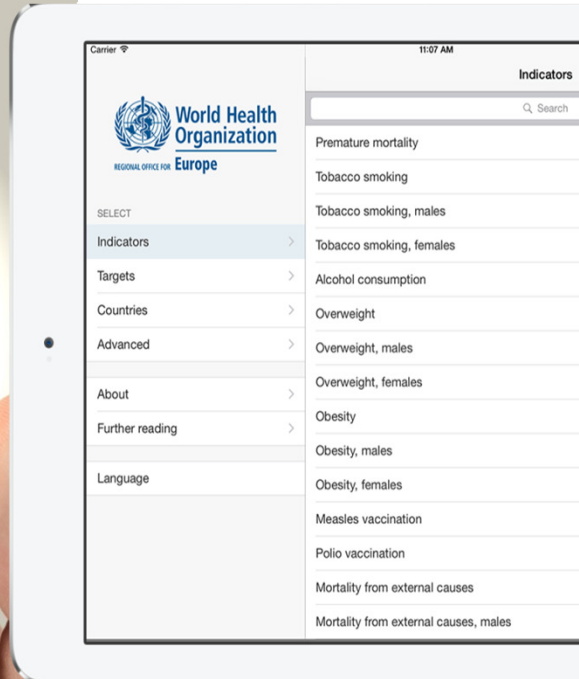
#### Infographics



#### Country profiles

- Albania • Andorra • Armenia • Austria • Azerbaijan • Belarus • Belgium
- Bosnia and Herzegovina • Bulgaria • Croatia • Cyprus • Czech Republic • Denmark
- Estonia • Finland • France • Georgia • Germany • Greece • Hungary • Iceland
- Ireland • Israel • Italy • Kazakhstan • Kyrgyzstan • Latvia • Lithuania
- Luxembourg • Malta • Monaco • Montenegro • Netherlands • Norway • Poland
- Portugal • Republic of Moldova • Romania • Russian Federation • San Marino
- Serbia • Slovakia • Slovenia • Spain • Sweden • Switzerland • Tajikistan
- The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia • Turkey • Turkmenistan • Ukraine
- United Kingdom • Uzbekistan

gateway.euro.who.int





**Published  
2016:**

**Greece  
Slovenia  
Moldova**

**Next in line:**

**Bulgaria  
Georgia  
Russian Federation**



# Disseminating health information: EURO public health journal

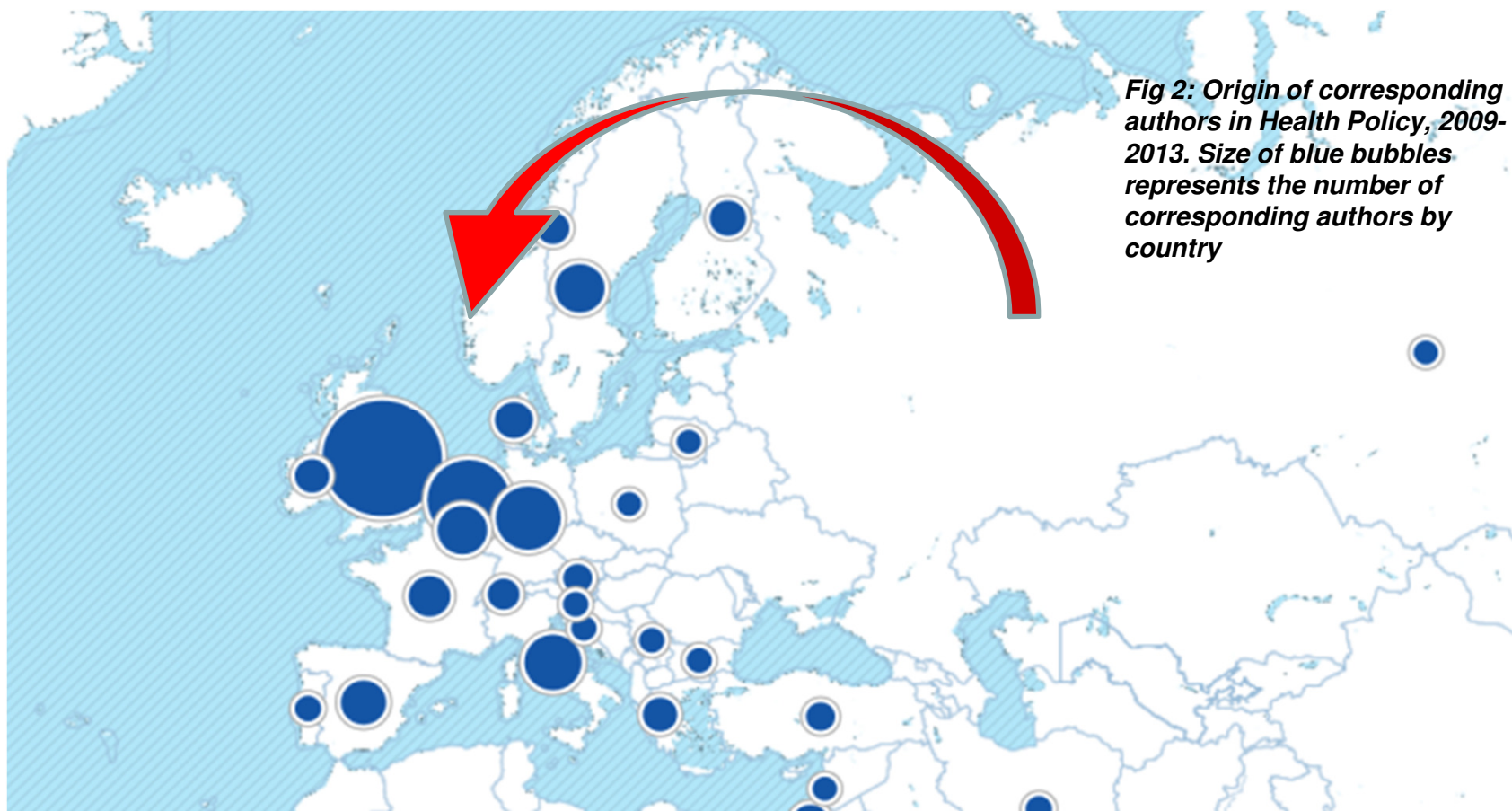
- Aimed at dissemination of best practices and successful implementation of evidence-informed policies;
- Bi-lingual (English/Russian);
- Quarterly publication;
- Theme-based;
- Peer reviewed.

**Special theme for Regional  
Committee 2016:  
Evidence for policy**





# Why another journal: the gap



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# Health Evidence Network evidence synthesis report series

- **Demand-driven, policy-maker centered;**
- Summarizes the **best available evidence** for decision-making;
- peer-reviewed, professionally written responses that are **relevant, ready-to-use and evidence-informed;**
- An official WHO source for evidence – **listed in PubMed.**

# WHO's response in facilitating research use

- 69 synthesis reports published to-date – and more to come



# EVIPNet Europe: mandate



- Promotes – in support of Health 2020 and the EHII – the systematic use of research evidence in policy-making to improve health systems through a networked structure;
- Increases country capacity in developing sound and effective health policies;
- **Institutionalizes** knowledge translation through the establishment of national advisory bodies ensuring that policies are grounded in research evidence.





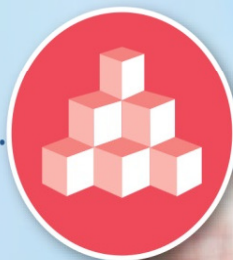
# European Health Information Initiative



Measurement



Access



Capacity Building



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Communication



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**Resolution goal: single integrated health information system for Europe**



**World Health Organization**

**REGIONAL OFFICE FOR Europe**

**Regional Committee for Europe**

66th session

Copenhagen, Denmark, 12–15 September 2016

Provisional agenda item 5(j)

European Health  
Information Initiative



1. **Strengthening health information systems**, harmonizing health indicators and establishing an integrated health information system for the European Region;
2. **Establishing and promoting health research systems** to support the setting of public health priorities;
3. **Increasing country capacities** for the development of evidence-informed policies (**knowledge translation**);
4. **Mainstreaming the use of evidence, information and research** in the implementation of Health 2020 and other major regional policy frameworks.

Adopted by 53  
Member States  
through **resolution**

Concrete actions for  
Member States (6)  
and WHO (4)



- ‘Lightening talk’  with high-level panel members:
  - Minister of Health, Malta;
  - Deputy Director, Federal Research Institute, Ministry of Health, Russian Federation;
  - Managing Director, EuroHealthNet;
  - Senior Project Lead, Health Indicators, OECD;
  - WHO Europe.
- Exploring challenges and solutions for health information in Europe;
- Calling for **harmonization of indicators & single health information system** for European Region;
- Calling for **close collaboration of international organizations in health information.**





## Setting the scene



We can't know every individual in our country - we need statistics!

**NIEK KLAZINGA**  
Head of the HCQI Project  
OECD Health Division



Need to make data internationally comparable to learn from each other! That's why we're in Gastein.

How do we know the accuracy & completeness of our data?



**CLAUDIA STEIN**  
Director  
WHO Regional  
Office for Europe

The challenges are new and greater than ever:

**WE NEED TO BRIDGE THE GAP  
BETWEEN EVIDENCE AND  
POLICY-MAKING**



## EVIDENCE



## POLICY MAKING

**The European Health  
Information Initiative brings  
solutions to the challenges - 6  
strategic dimensions of work &  
now more than 25 partners**



EHII  
platform

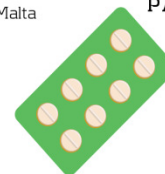


World Health Organization



**CHRISTOPHER FEARNE, MP**  
Minister of Health  
Malta

Politicians need to base their decisions more on evidence rather than just on politics.

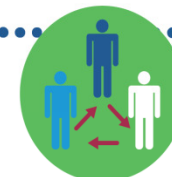


### PAYMENT MODEL FOR MEDICINES:

USE  
Vs  
PERFORMANCE

but need to be able  
to measure.

Data needs to be reliable, reproducible & translatable.



## NETWORKS

are key to help countries to harmonize, standardize and improve health information systems and the use of evidence for policy-making

## CHALLENGES:

Lack of good outcomes/performance indicators

## SOLUTIONS:

harmonization,  
standardization &  
networks

Need data to inform health in all policies and address health & well-being: living conditions, economic & employment conditions



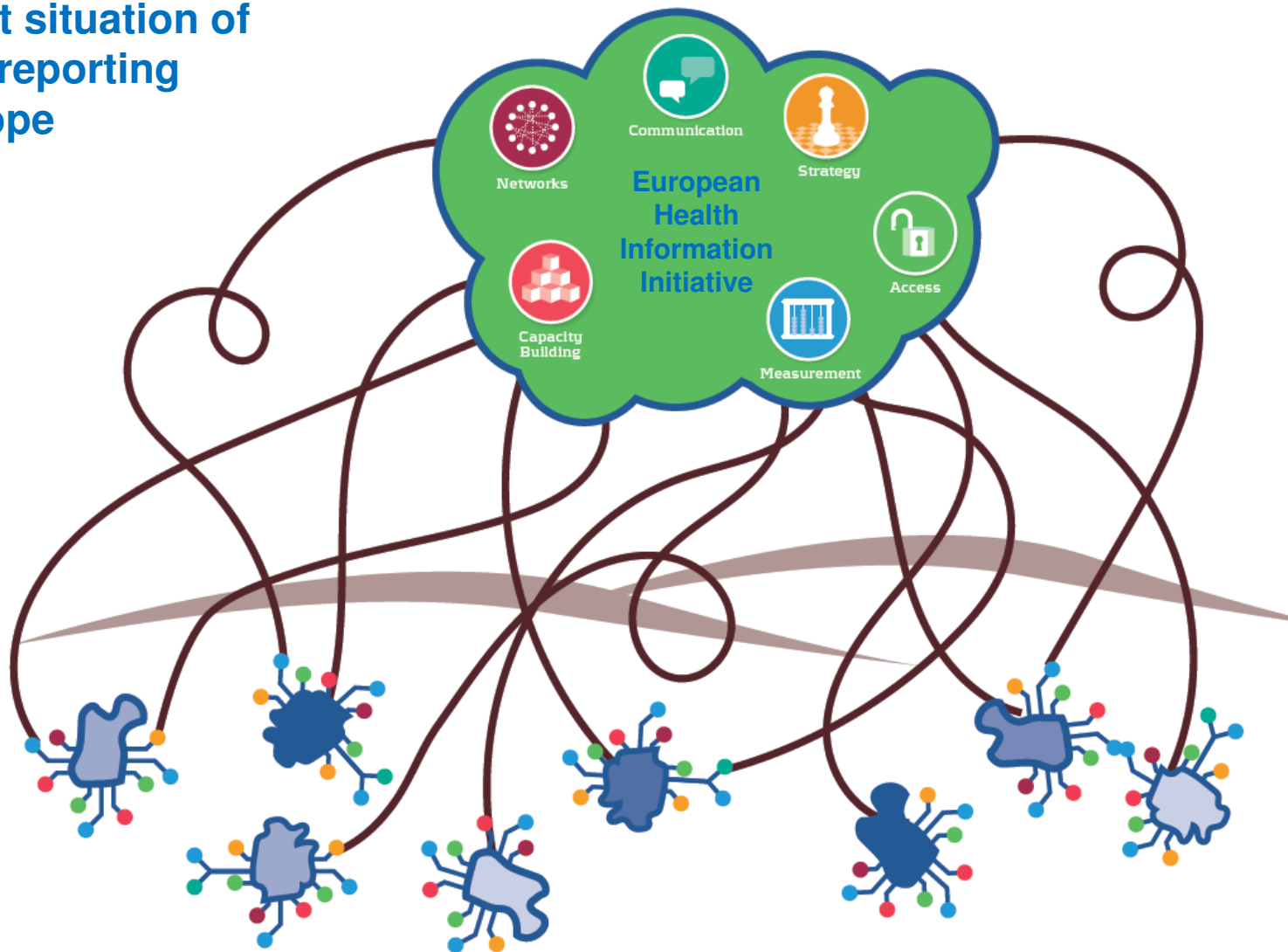
**CAROLINE COSTONGS**  
Managing Director  
EuroHealthNet

@WHO\_Europe

**DIR@euro.who.int**



## Current situation of health reporting in Europe

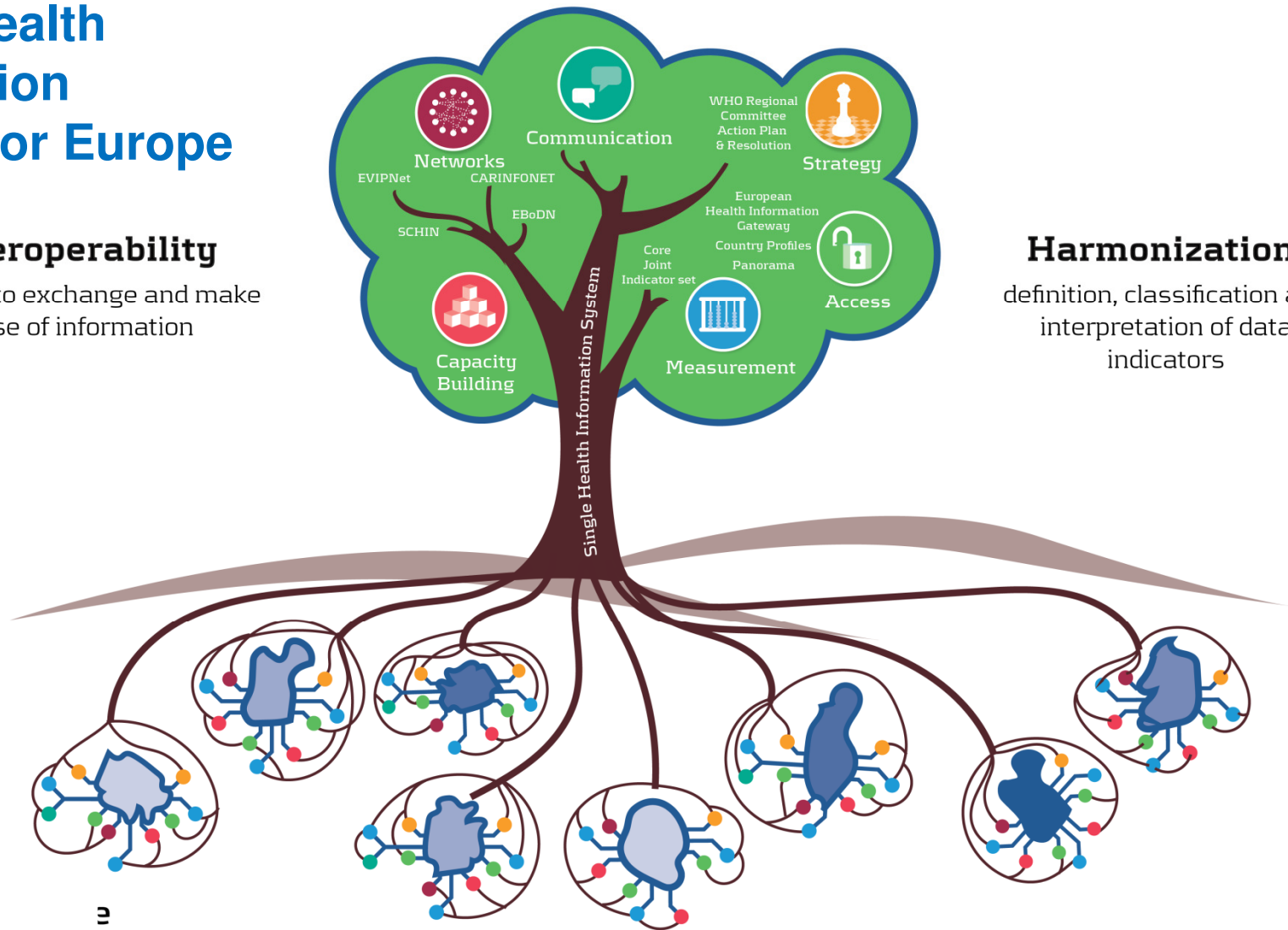


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# The future: Single health information system for Europe

## Interoperability

Ability to exchange and make  
use of information



## Harmonization

definition, classification and  
interpretation of data  
indicators



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## NEXT STEPS:

WHO, OECD, EC to  
be more active  
working together

Strengthen country  
health information net-  
works to harmonize data  
collection and reporting

Joint indicator set across  
three frameworks

Define new (qualitative)  
evidence, research & data to  
address dimensions of  
well-being & health  
inequalities

Meeting dedicated to  
health information  
system roadmap



2010

Commitment to single  
health information  
system

2012

Establishment of  
European Health  
Information  
Initiative

2015

Commitments to  
harmonization of  
information

2016

WHO  
Resolution  
& Action plan



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*evidence, information  
research*

“Without data  
you’re just  
another person  
with an opinion.”

Thank you  
Спасибо  
Merci  
Danke

- W. Edwards Deming,  
Data Scientist



# EXTRA SLIDES



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# Capacity building: Autumn school of health information and evidence for policy making



[English](#) [Français](#) [Deutsch](#) [Русский](#)

**Focus: Health 2020  
monitoring (country case  
studies, inequalities,  
reporting, evidence for  
policy)**

**Since 2013 annually:  
Turkey, Poland,  
Russian Federation**

**'Advanced  
course'  
added  
annually  
(June)**

**2016:  
Cyprus**

Translating evidence into effective public health policy



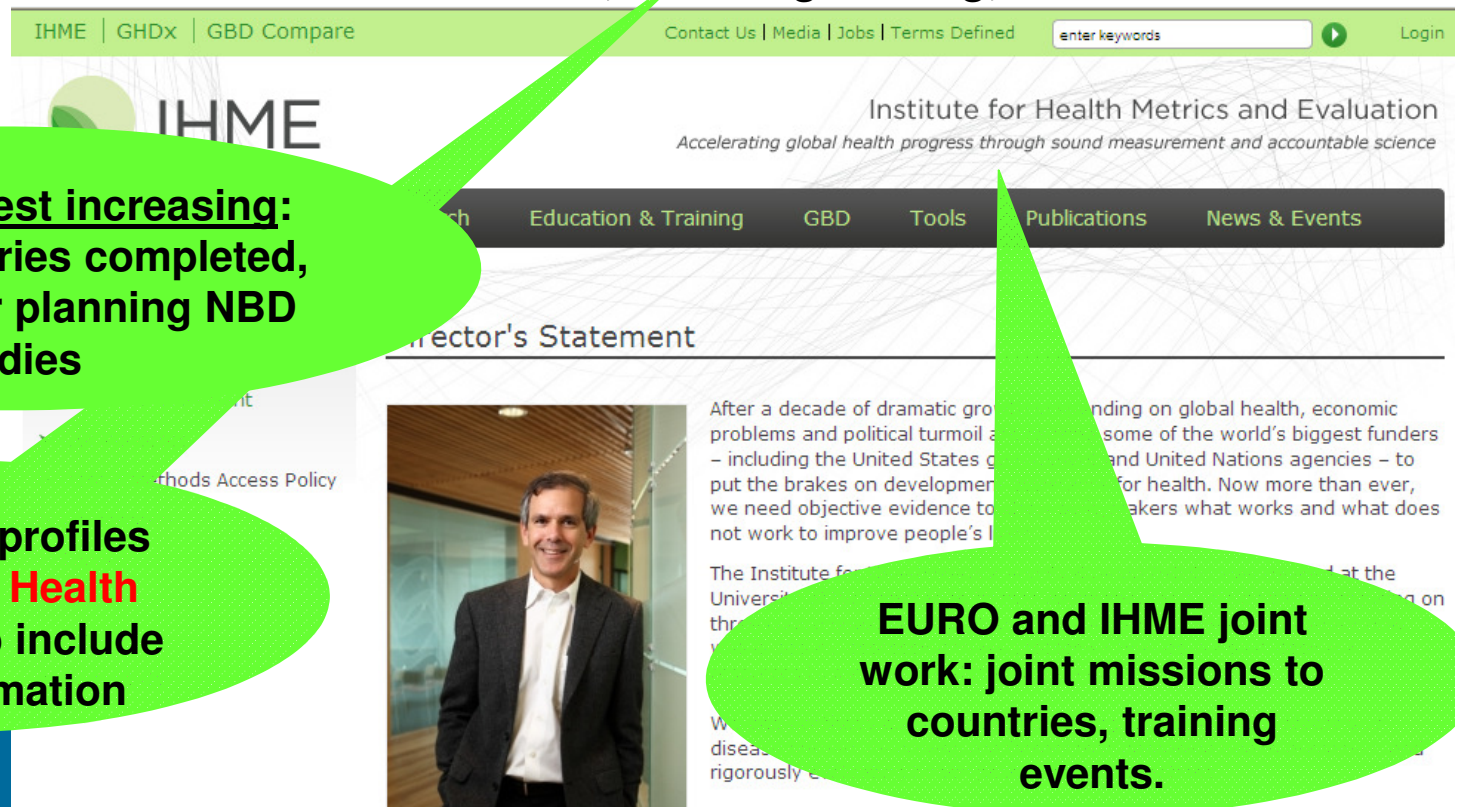
# Collaboration of WHO/EURO and Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation

- WHO/IHME Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2015;
- To collaborate on burden of disease assessments in European Region;
- To improve coherence of quantitative messages;
- To facilitate national burden of disease studies, including training;

**Country interest increasing:**  
**Multiple countries completed, conducting or planning NBD studies**

**WHO country profiles**  
**Highlights on Health**  
**revitalized & to include burden information**

**EURO and IHME joint work: joint missions to countries, training events.**

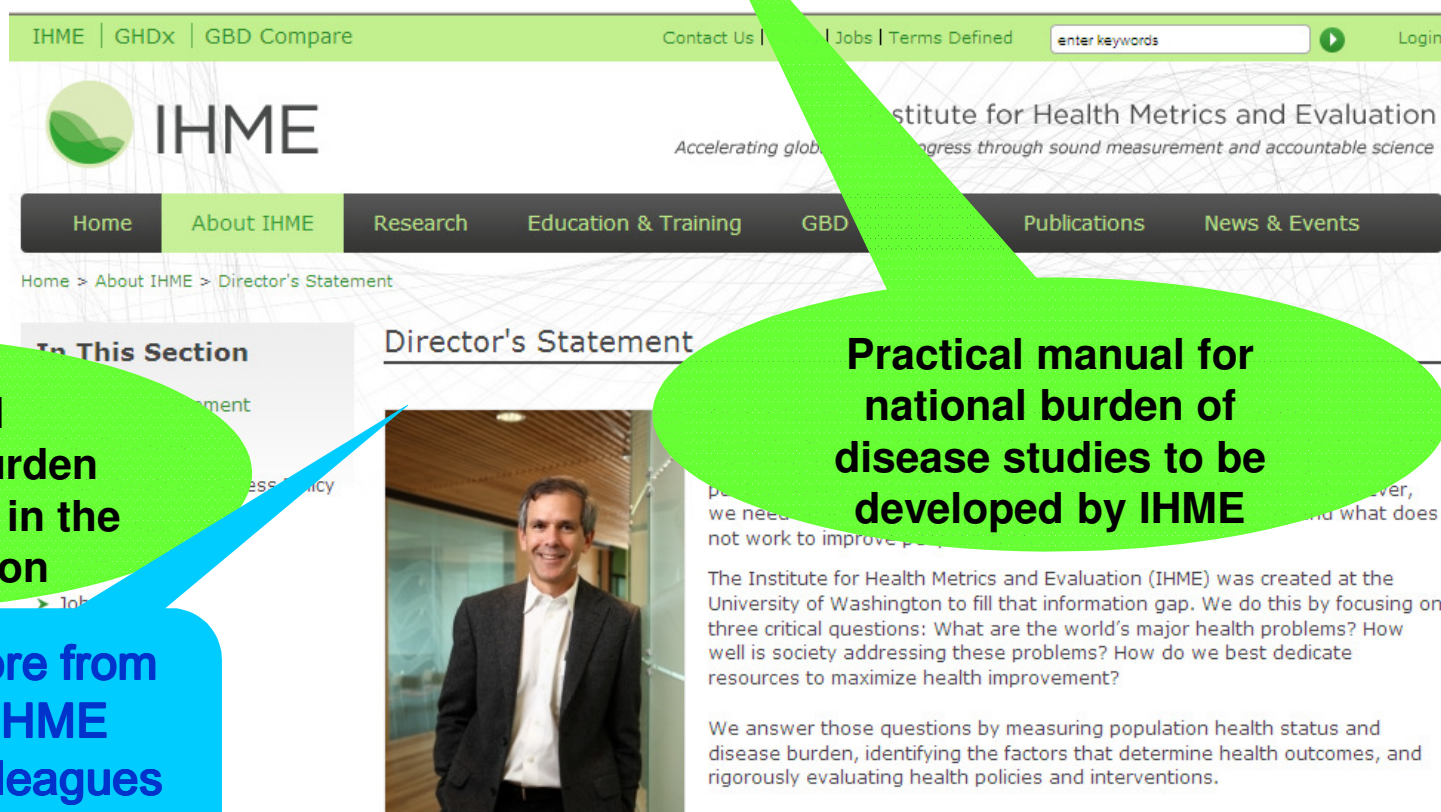


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# Collaboration of WHO/EURO and Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation, IHME

- European Burden of Disease Network (EBoDN) established jointly;



Mapping and comparison of burden of disease studies in the European Region

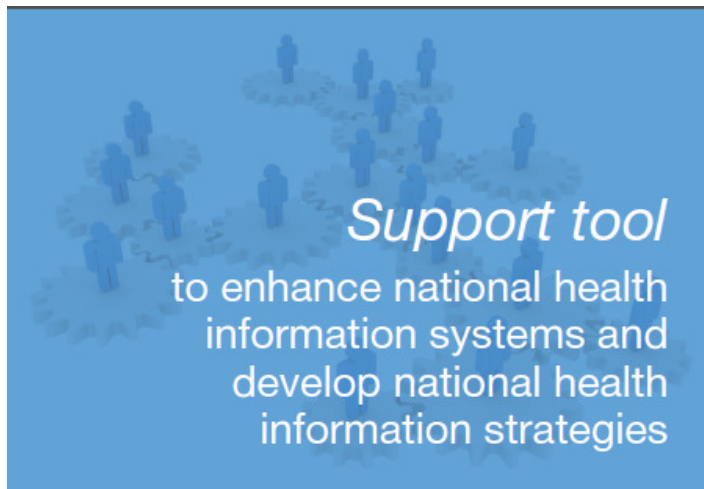
More from IHME colleagues this week!

Practical manual for national burden of disease studies to be developed by IHME



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# Health information strategies



- Member States requested practical support tool
- Tool developed by Working Group (17 countries), co-chaired by Netherlands and Russian Federation
- Based on WHO HMN tools and materials, adapted to European context
- Available in English & Russian
- Piloted in three countries and revision under-way.



# National eHealth Strategy Toolkit



- A resource for developing or renewing a country's eHealth strategy
- From countries just setting out to those that have already invested in eHealth
- A framework and method for the development of a vision, action plan and monitoring framework



Source: Dr. Ramesh Krishnamurthy, WHO/HQ. Toolkit source: [http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/75211/1/9789241548465\\_eng.pdf](http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/75211/1/9789241548465_eng.pdf)



**Steering Group:  
25 members**

## European Health Information Initiative



Measurement

**H2020,  
SDGs**



Access

**HFA, Gateway,  
CHI, Panorama**



Capacity  
Building

**Autumn School,  
Advanced Course**



Networks

**CARINFONET,  
EVIPNet, SCHIN,**



Strategy

**Support tool,  
European action plan**



Communication

**EBoDN**



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# RD's article in EJPH



## Why Europe needs the *European Health Information Initiative*:

- To broaden international cooperation and to support the development of the single European health information system;
- To improve health information and research in countries in the European Region;
- To call for other Member States and institutions to join and support this important effort.

