Introduction:
WHO support tool to assess health information systems and develop and strengthen health information strategies

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Summary

1. Context and content of the tool
2. Use in practice
3. Recommendations for improvement
Context

- A practical support tool for strengthening HIS
- Based on tools by **former WHO Health Metrics Network**
- For HIS assessment & strategy development
- Emphasizes stakeholder involvement

Content and structure

3 phases of design and implementation
# HIS domains covered

## I. Resources (7)

**Policy & planning (4)**
- legal framework
- national HIS strategy
- multisectoral HIS coordination mechanism
- M&E of HIS

**HIS institutions, human resources and financing (2)**
- adequate capacity in core health information sciences
- adequate and sustainable financing

**HIS infrastructure (1)**
- adequate ICT infrastructure and support

## II. Indicators (4)

1. Core indicators selected
2. Regularly reported
3. Regularly evaluated
4. Alignment between national and subnational levels
### III. Data sources (20)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Census (1)</strong></td>
<td>Adequate capacity to conduct, process, analyze, disseminate</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) (4)</strong></td>
<td>High coverage of registered deaths and causes of death; high quality of death registration (low ill-defined causes); adequate capacity to process, analyze and disseminate</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Population-based surveys (2)</strong></td>
<td>Adequate capacity to process, analyze and disseminate; cooperation in study design</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Health and disease records (including disease surveillance systems) (3)</strong></td>
<td>Adequate capacity to diagnose, record, report, transmit data and respond to outbreaks; High implementation of ICD; adequate resources for national cancer registry</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Health service records (3)</strong></td>
<td>System on discharge, diagnosis, procedures, treatments, costs; trained health information staff; data verification and feedback to facilities</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Resource records (4)</strong></td>
<td>Health facility database; human resources database; database on graduated health professionals; financial records on health expenditure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Data sources general (4)</strong></td>
<td>Adequate HR and equipment; adequate timeliness and periodicity; data available for PH monitoring and secondary research; regular assessments of completeness and quality</td>
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### IV. Data management (3)

1. Written set of procedures from collection to analysis and presentation
2. Integrated data warehouse
3. Unique patient identifier to link data sources; integrated analysis performed

### V. National HIS data quality/information products (9)

1. Policy-makers have access to information they need
2. Data collection method is in line with (inter)national standards
3. Able to meet collection requirements from international organisations
4. Timeliness of collection and computation meets the need of policymakers
5. Periodicity of collection and computation meets the need of policymakers
6. Consistency over time across datasets is high
7. Coverage of major data sources is high
8. Official indicators can be disaggregated (demographic, socioeconomic, locality)
9. In-country adjustments use transparent, well-established methods
VI. Dissemination and use (4)

1. Senior managers demand reports and know how to use and interpret
2. Integrated reports are publically distributed regularly
3. Integrated reports are demonstrably used in policy-making
4. Adequate mechanisms for knowledge translation

Piloted in Albania, Bulgaria, Moldova, Ukraine

- HIS assessment visit
- Condensed scoring sheet and individual interviews with stakeholders
- Joint stakeholder meeting at conclusion of visit
Main findings usability tool

- Condensed score sheet works well for quick scanning HIS performance
- HMN framework = somewhat unbalanced;
  + focus on data and indicators
  - focus on analysis, reporting and knowledge translation.
- Confusion on definition/scope HIS
- European context needs strengthening (e.g. eHealth)

Further improvement content tool

- Improve balance score sheet (use DIKW framework?)
- Further align to European context, include eHealth
- Add better description of what constitutes a HIS and HIS governance
Further improvement application tool

- Development of a) short version for easier localization and uptake in policy development, b) version for self-assessment
- Expand number of recommended days for HIS assessment mission → broader inclusion stakeholders
- Facilitation of intercountry exchange of experiences and solutions

Thank you!

Available online at euro.who.int
