INFACT
Joint Action on Health Information

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TECHNICAL DIALOGUE WP6

Contributions for a European Health Information Training Programme (EHITP)

Objective

The WP6.2 aimed at designing a flagship training programme to improve the member states capacities in population health and health system performance analysis and monitoring to address existing inequalities. Accordingly, the European Health Information Training Programme (EHITP) was conceptualized as an umbrella for all current and future training activities in Europe, targeting professionals working in public health and health information at national or European/international level.

Background

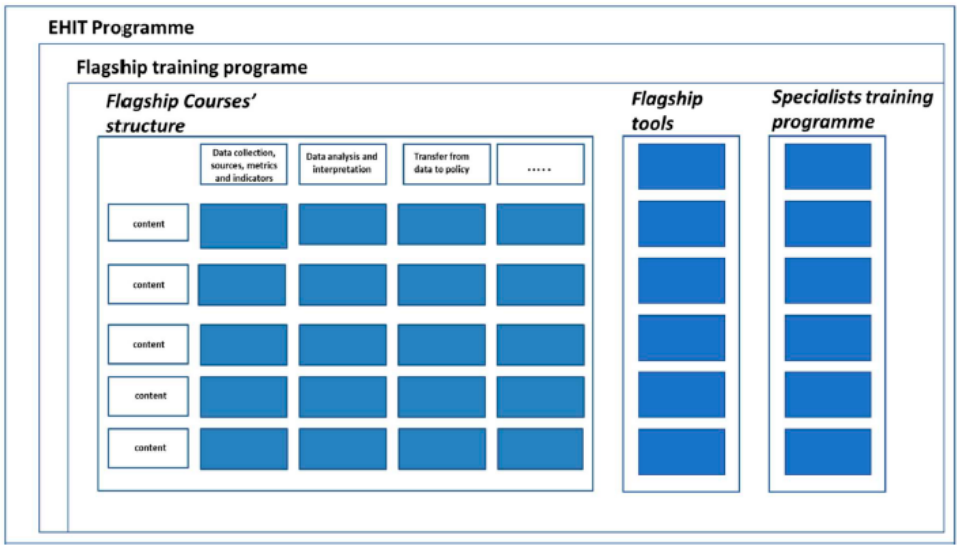
Health information is a comprehensive area, in a maturing process, including data collection, data analysis and inference, indicator development, information management and translational research for developing new policies. The InfAct research outcomes, particularly on WP6, show clearly that knowledge and capacities on health information vary between European Member States (MS) and that there is a need to improve common mechanisms for strengthening the capacity to use and manage health information.

To cope with the challenges associated with strengthening Health Information capacity, health professionals require health information capabilities complying with their tasks. Nowadays, it widely recognized that most health and management functions require specific health information skills (or eSkills).

Proposal

Given that the European Health Information panorama is mainly a challenge of heterogeneous capacity rather than of lack or low capacity, the definition of a strategic plan for health information aimed to respond to the need of reducing inequities across all member states and include all relevant stakeholders and resources.

It was considered necessary to have a sustainable capacity building programme in health information that focused on the following areas: data analysis and interpretation, especially interoperability of data sources, derivation of European Core Health Indicators (ECHI) indicators and foresight/scenario analysis; transfer from data to policy, especially policy translation tools and data presentation; data collection methods, sources of data, metrics and indicators, especially issues related to health examination surveys; and data privacy and ethical issues, especially how to deal with requirements of EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).



Schematic for a European Health Information Training Programme

Main results.

The EHITP proposed by WP6/InfAct aims to be an umbrella for all current and future training activities in Europe, targeting professionals working in public health and health information at national or European level. The target audience are all health related professionals in the EU MS, who can benefit from acquiring skills and competencies for addressing chronic threats to health.

Therefore, EHITP aims to meet the institutional needs of European MS to establish a competent workforce, effectively working and interacting with experts of all areas at European Level, other countries and other international organisations. It should support lifetime learning of people working in the field of public health and health information. It should be dynamic and able to respond to emerging needs in the ever-changing health information environment.

Recommendations for sustainability

1- EHITP should be a flexible structure of courses and other capacity building activities, modules and training plans, covering all the areas related to Health Information and easily tailored to tackle the different specificities.
2- Under the EHITP, MS and European Institutions should develop initiatives according to specific needs, then contributing to a European perspective of health information.
3- Modules provided by different organizations (ECDC, EMCDDA, IARC, Eurostat, OECD, WHO, etc) should be considered on the training initiatives, as well as already available academic and non-academic structures specialized training on Health Information

4- The programme must be tested through a pilot course and the evaluation of this initiative should contribute to the consolidation of a roadmap for capacity building in health information
5- More research is needed on HIS topics and their relationship with public health activities, as well as on the training of professionals for their use