



National Nodes Meeting: From InfAct to PHIRI

DIPoH update

11 March 2021

Name: Linda Abboud, Petronille Bogaert and Herman Van Oyen
Institution: Sciensano, Belgium
Contact: infact.coordination@sciensano.be



This project is funded by the
Health Programme of the
European Union

InfAct's goals are to strengthen national and EU health information systems by:



1. Establishing a sustainable research **infrastructure** which will support population health and health system performance assessment.



2. Strengthening European health information and knowledge bases and health information research **capacities** to reduce health information inequalities,



3. Supporting health information **interoperability** and **innovative** health information tools and data sources.





Integration into
national policies and
sustainability



Status of health information
systems
in the EU



Strengthen health
information
capacity



Proof of concept
for sustainable
structure



Tools and methods
for health information
support

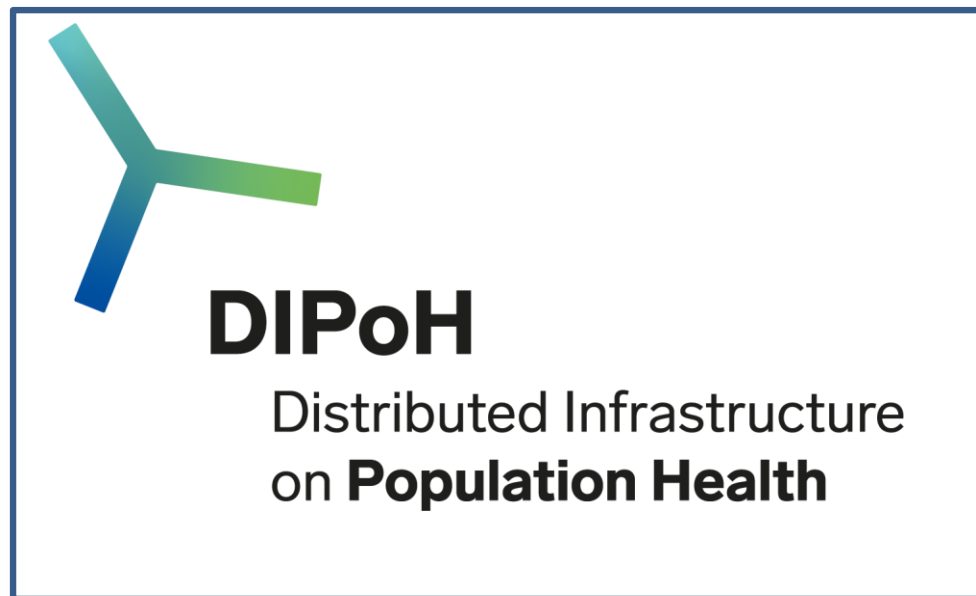


Innovation in health
information
for public health policy
development



Assessing and piloting
interoperability
for public health
policy

To conceptualize a sustainable Research Infrastructure and carry out a proof of concept:



DIPoH aim and objectives

DIPoH offers a solid European Infrastructure for population health information, facilitating open, interconnected and data-oriented population health research across Europe.

DIPoH objectives:

- To improve collaboration and exchange of good practices between European countries regarding collection, evaluation, accessibility and reuse of health data, and to promote sharing of expertise.
- To provide better integration and strengthening of research networks and population health data sources in Europe, through metadata catalogues and trainings.

1

One-stop shop for EU health information research

Find the data, expert, network, guidelines or tool you are looking for



Innovative research in health information

Be the first to know and use the latest developments and methodologies

2

3

Capacity building in health information

Get expert support and training on collection, analysis, reporting and transformation

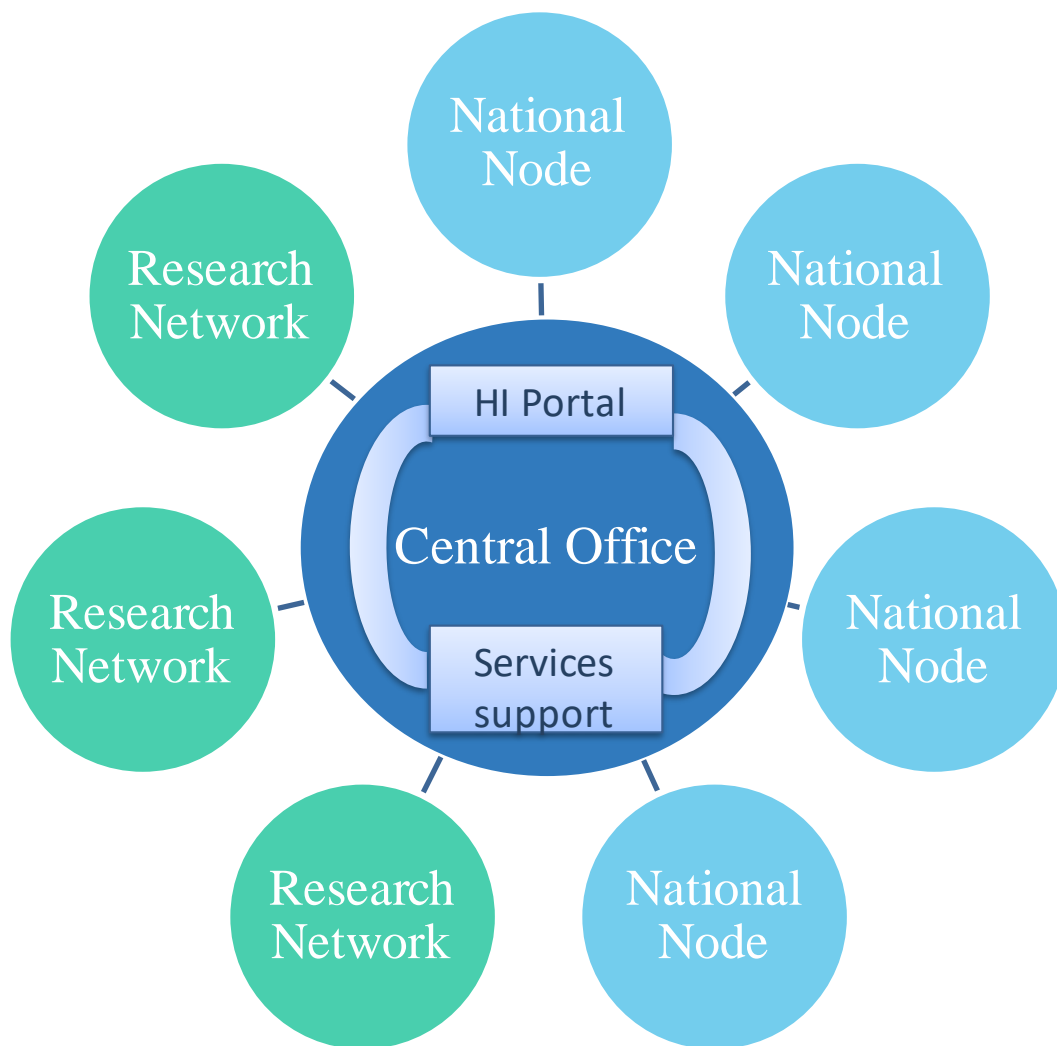


Knowledge translation research for evidence based decision-making

Know your (health) policies are based on proper evidence

4

DIPoH structure



- **National Nodes (NN)** units within MSs representing national network,
- **Research Networks (RN)** and their research communities,
- A **Central office** and governance structure,
- A **Health Information (HI) portal** as gateway to data, services and tools on population health

Why National Nodes?

- Health information activities are usually carried out by various institutes in countries.
- Often regular communication is lacking between these institutes which may cause:



- Duplication of activities
 - Hampered exchange of data
 - Lost opportunities for research and policy support
 - Limitation of data interoperability between institutes
 - Lack of knowledge sharing
- Strengthen Health Information nationally

What is a National Node?

- A national liaison that brings together relevant national stakeholders in the country's health information system in a systematic way
- A discussion and advisory forum in topics of health data and information both for national or international matters

A flexible structure to adapt to country context and support multiple initiatives



Possible roles of National Node

1. At national level- strengthen the health information system

- Bring together the key national players in health information
- Share expertise at national level
- Promote FAIR data
- Support inter-institutional data linkage to increase research potential

➔ Strengthen evidence based interventions, policies, and strategies

2. At international level- participate in DIPoH (and other initiatives)

- Contact point between the international initiatives and national players
- Illustrate added benefits and services of DIPoH to national players
- Provide national data and expertise to the Health Information portal
- Coordinate international data exchange and comparisons
- Facilitate collaboration with international networks and experts

➔ Involved in new European developments and research innovations



National Nodes activities in InfAct

2018: Survey launched collecting information on meetings occurring in countries, barriers and benefits of setting up a National Node

2019: Guidelines on how to set up National Nodes developed and presented to partners

2019-2021:

- Regular updates of National Nodes meetings in partner countries (GA II meeting, NN meetings, written updates)
- Health Information portal development of National Nodes section
- National support for DIPoH

- **Expression of political support** by the lead country and at least two additional MS or associated countries signed by the national ministries responsible for RI
- **Expression of Financial Commitment** mainly by the lead country and additional prospective member countries to financially contribute to the preparation and implementation phases by an authority(legal entity) from the lead country
- **Inter-institutional and multi-lateral agreement** by lead institutes identified within each country representing all national
- **Expression of intent** by coordinators of European Research Networks to collaborate in the development of DIPoH

National political Support

Received from ministries in:

- Belgium
- Croatia
- Finland
- Latvia
- Malta
- Portugal
- Romania
- Serbia
- Slovenia
- The Netherlands



Inter-institutional support

Memorandum of Understanding

Country	Institute
Austria	Gesundheit Österreich GmbH (GOG)
Belgium	Sciensano
Croatia	Croatian Institute of Public Health (CIPH)
Czech Republic	Institute of Health Information and Statistics of the Czech Republic (UZIS)
Finland	Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL)
France	Santé publique France (SPF) French Health Data Hub (HDH)
Germany	The Robert Koch Institute (RKI)
Malta	Ministry for Health (MFH)
Portugal	Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade de Lisboa (FMUL) Universidade Nova de Lisboa (UNL)
Romania	Institutul National De Sanatate Publica (INSP)
Slovenia	National Institute of Public Health (NIJZ)
Spain	Instituto Aragonés de Ciencias de la Salud (IACS)
The Netherlands	The Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM)



Research Networks support



HealthSystemIntelligence



ICCONIC: INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIVE ON COSTS, OUTCOMES AND NEEDS IN CARE

Next steps for DIPoH

- DIPoH passed first stage of ESFRI eligibility criteria check
- Hearing with evaluation committee: April 2021
- ESFRI forum decision: June-September 2021

Important: Support for DIPoH is still requested!

DIPoH preparation is continued and further developed in PHIRI as a practical rollout in the area of COVID-19.



Next steps for National Nodes

The concept of the National Node is developed in a way that it can support and function regardless of the framework they operate in

- The National Node will be taken forward through PHIRI
- The National Node will be integrated as an essential element in DIPoH
- The National Node may play an important role in facilitating the implementation of the European Health Data Space (EHDS)
- The National Nodes can participate as national counterparts for European calls



www.inf-act.eu
infact.coordination@sciensano.be
[@JA_InfAct](#)