

Steering Committee meeting in Brussels

The third steering committee took place in Brussels on 27-28th of February, 2019. Work packages leaders and co-leaders came together to presented their progress and upcoming plans.



Advice and feedback was shared among the partners. Focus was also put on collaborations among WPs.

InfAct in the spotlight

In November 2018, InfAct organized a workshop at the European Public Health (EPH) Conference in Ljubljana, Slovenia, with the title "setting out an improved EU health information system infrastructure and its core elements". It provided insight on current challenges in EU health information systems and InfAct's actions to address these and to attain its goals.



WP2 is currently working on three key tasks for 2019: InfAct promotional video, an InfAct session in Gastein and three workshops at the EPH 2019 in Marseille, France. The promotional video includes a storyline around the three goals of InfAct: establishing a sustainable EU research infrastructure, reducing health information inequalities through capacity building and supporting interoperability and the use of innovative information tools and data sources. In October, the session in Gastein will further explore the need for a sustainable EU health information structure among different actors in the healthcare sector. At the EPH in November, workshops focus on project results, potential links to policy development and capacity building activities.

InfAct interim evaluations

First external evaluation committee meeting took place in Brussels on the 28th of February. External representatives from EUPHA, ASPHER, EGHI, EuroHealth evaluated InfAct's work and discussed with WP3 team the current progress. The outcome external evaluation report provides feedback, recommendations and strategic advice for the successful progress of InfAct.

First Assembly of Members meeting, Madrid

On March the 12th 2019 the Carlos III Institute of Health (Madrid), hosted the **first Assembly of Members (AoM) of InfAct**. The AoM was attended by representatives of the Ministries of Health and Research of 20 European countries, as well as representatives of the European Commission and the European Observatory of Health Systems and Policies of WHO-Europe. The purpose of this meeting was focused on assessing the infrastructure and sustainability options of a HIS able to effectively guide the health authorities and to nurture health research at European level, both based on the best scientific evidence available.



The discussions focused on the feasibility of different infrastructure options, ways to address contextual differences between countries and information priorities for MS. The next AoM will take place on November the 13th 2019 in Brussels with the aim of reaching consensus on the way forward and needs proposed by the countries.

First cycle Health Information Systems Assessments

Within WP5, task 5.1 assesses health information systems (HIS) through peer-review with 9 countries.



The three countries Norway, Lithuania and Romania have been successfully assessed in the first cycle by interviewing key stakeholders in the HIS. Before the summer, Serbia, Estonia and Latvia will be assessed by their peer countries.



Furthermore in WP5: Partners in Task 5.2 are cataloguing active health data networks, previous health information projects and existing indicator sets, and have started work on their systematic review of network and previous projects. The work group has also connected with the WHO/EHII subgroup on indicator mapping to collectively improve indicator reporting quality and reduce redundancies in Europe.

Task 5.3 compiles information on national methods and processes for prioritizing health information. To this end, the research team will soon launch a two-round Delphi survey among InfAct partners. The aim is to identify sets of good practices for the national and European level.

WP6 kick off meeting in Lisbon

A face-to-face meeting of the WP6 partners was held in Lisbon, at DGS, last 13th march. This was a most welcomed opportunity for all associated partners to acknowledge and discuss all the WP6 developed work, along with an integrated perspective within the InfAct. The overall project perspective was possible with the presence of members from InfAct Coordination.

To tackle the objective 1 of WP6 "Mapping needs, capacities and education/training programmes in health information across MS" a web survey has been developed which was further discussed. The partners decided to proceed two ways. One, to ask replies to the questionnaire in an academic context across Europe. And another more qualitative way where the partners promote locally meetings of experts to identify health information capacities and needs.



Towards an EU Health Information Research Infrastructure

WP7 is developing a proof of concept for a Health Information Research Infrastructure. Partners in WP7 are working on an application for the ESFRI roadmap which plays a key role in policy-making on research infrastructures in Europe, and ensure a step closer towards becoming a sustainable structure. Several meetings have taken place in the past months to initiate MSs support, with national ESFRI representatives. Further conceptual and technical aspects are being developed. Would your country like to join? Contact [us](#)

WP7 is also working on supporting MSs with setting up National Nodes to bring national health information stakeholders together for better communication and coordination. WP7 developed guideline with a stepwise approach to set up National Nodes. Guidelines are available to all MSs.

Health Information Tools and Methods

Task 8.1 developed a survey tool on data collection methods, quality assurance, availability and accessibility of HI across MSs will be tested for clarity of the questions and response options; a review on meta-data reporting standards in EU and extra-EU countries is ongoing. These activities will facilitate the identification of health data not reported to international organizations and dissemination of health data in MSs.

T8.2 met ESTAT & SANTE about updating the European Core Health Indicators-ECHI, started review of the 2012 ECHI meta-data, established an advisory group, compiled ECHI background information for dissemination on the future infrastructure website.

In T8.3, a search strategy of health reporting in MSs is under development.

In T8.4, jointly with T7.4, the development of coordination process of the draft structure for network of experts and national nodes is currently in progress.

Burden of Disease workshops in Paris

For the development of composite indicators, WP9 arranged two back to back workshops on Burden of Disease (BoD), were held on April 2-5, 2019 in Paris. 40 participants attended from 25 MSs. The workshop included 16 BoD experts from Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, Serbia, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States. These experts were researchers from universities and public health institutes working on BoD (methodology, analysis, results interpretation and BoD use in public health policy).



Furthermore, one case study from ISCIII- Spain has been launched to explore the development of a composite indicator in Nov. 2018.

Additionally, WP9 launched a first survey on April 1, 2019 to identify the use of linked data sources and advanced statistics applied to estimate the health indicators. Two generic method studies have been proposed to estimate the health indicators in Feb. 2019. One using machine learning approach by Santé Publique France and the other one using mathematical modelling by Norway partner.

12 partners have been asked to contribute the inspiring examples for the innovative use of health information from the Member States. One of the inspiring examples contributed by IRDES France, is about "Evaluating the efficiency of healthcare systems in managing high-cost /high-need patients among 6 Member States".

Assessing and piloting interoperability for public health policy

A workshop on Interoperability was held in Brussels on 26th of February, 2019. Led by WP10, the workshop included 25 InfAct experts from 11 European countries and debated on how to address interoperability challenges in the development of the European research infrastructure (ERIC) that InfAct is aiming for. The workshop was organised by the Institute for Health Sciences in Aragon (Spain) in collaboration with the Croatian Institute of Public Health.

Around the analysis of three case studies (i.e., monitoring people resilience, utilization and costs in dementia and uneven care pathways in stroke) participants debated on the availability and access to real world data, the issued on data homogeneity and quality, syntactic and semantic problems associated to the use of real world data from multiple sources, and what type of services an ERIC should provide to properly address those challenges.

In the upcoming months, IACS will be leading InfAct partners towards the development of a data model that enables syntactic and semantic interoperability for health systems research.

The BAHCI project

The Health Information (HI)- Impact Index survey is a Delphi exercise that was launched in February 2019 and ended in April 2019. Over 100 public health professionals and policy makers from 38 countries have participated. The aim of the Delphi was to identify a list of criteria to monitor the availability and use of health information. The HI-Impact Index could contribute to new ways of evaluating national health information systems by considering their broader impact in public health policy and practice.

The next stage will include piloting the HI-Impact Index with European public health agencies. More details will be provided in Fall 2019.



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