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BRidging Information and Data Generation
for Evidence-based Health Policy and Research

BRIDGE HEALTH
HORIZONTAL CHALLENGES

Enrique Bernal-Delgado on behalf of BRIDGEHealth consortium
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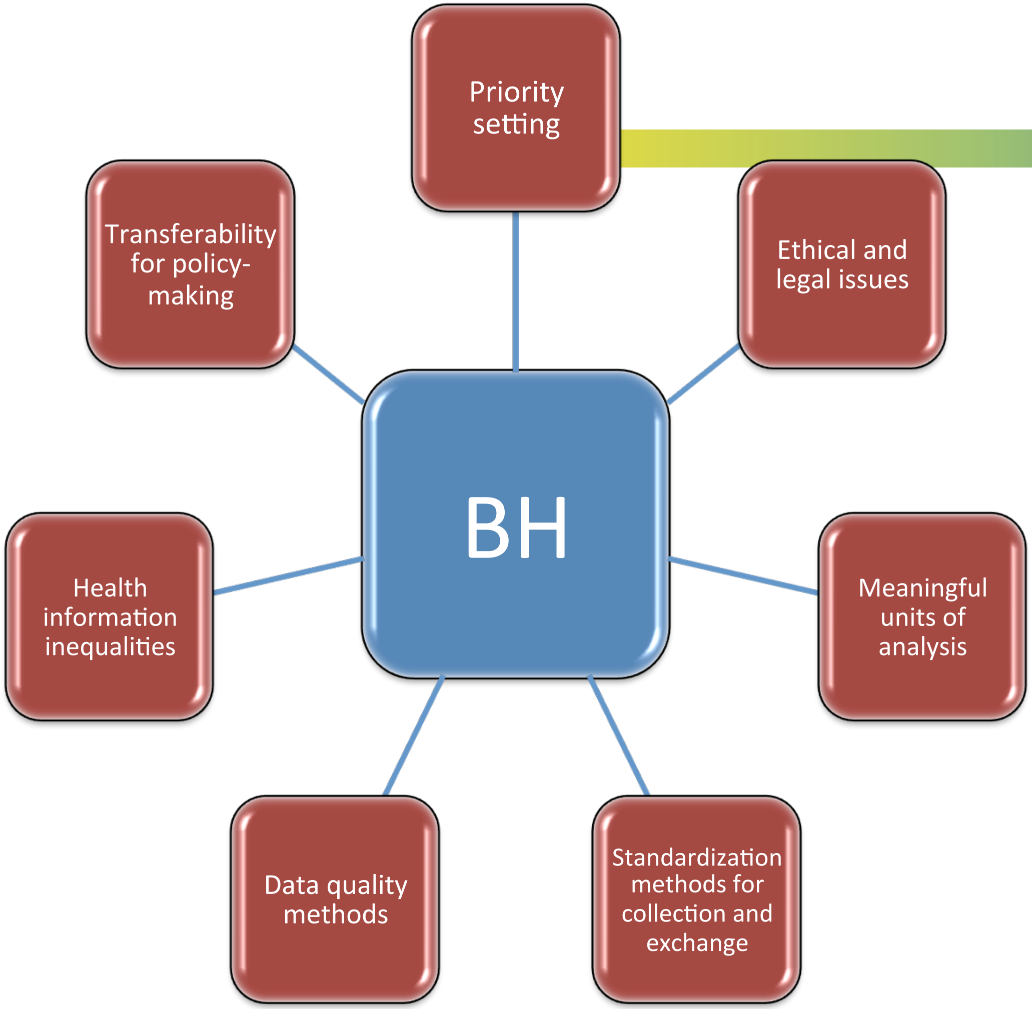
www.bridge-health.eu

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



BH

Priority setting

Ethical and legal issues

Meaningful units of analysis

Standardization methods for collection and exchange

Data quality methods

Health information inequalities

Transferability for policy-making

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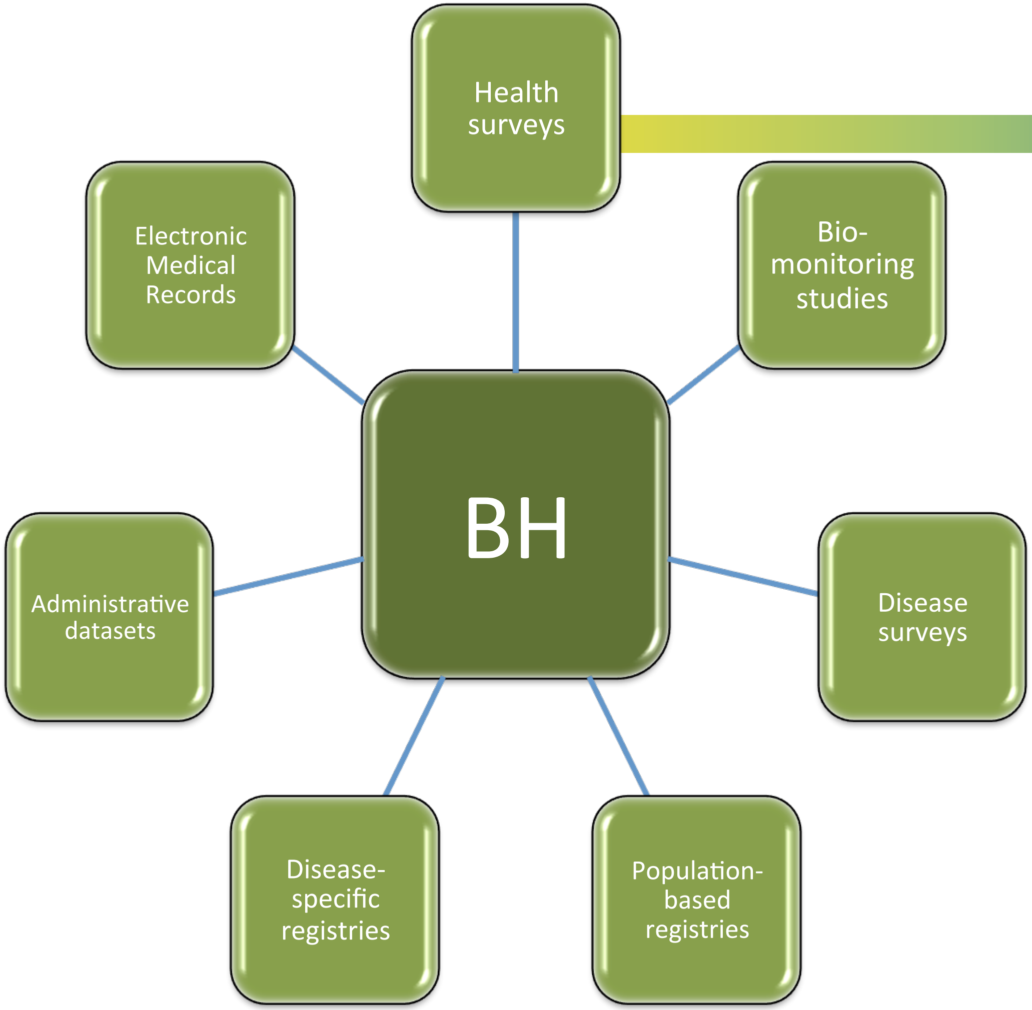

Health surveys

Electronic Medical Records

Bio-monitoring studies

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Administrative datasets

Disease surveys

Disease-specific registries

Population-based registries

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Scoping
Questionnaire
BH projects

Projects review

Literature review

Focus groups

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RECOMMENDATIONS

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Priority setting in health information

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Recommendations

Good practices on priority setting should:

- **be inclusive** by adopting a comprehensive concept of priority setting
- **involve** a broad representation of **stakeholders**,
- **utilise** objective and clearly defined criteria for generating and ranking priorities,
- **be systematic and transparently** documented, and
- **be evaluated**
- **be overseen** by a well-managed and resourced multi-disciplinary advisory group.

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Transferability of health information and data for policy

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Recommendations

- Design health information **according to the political context**
- Define **information needs** and adjust level of data quality
- Establish EU wide platform for **targeted prioritisation**
- **Develop a data collection and exchange framework** that provides high quality comparable and equally accessible data for multiple uses
- Establish **harmonised methods for communication and transfer** based on target audience, impacts, and options for action
- Establish **multi-disciplinary expert network** for efficient collaborative science to policy transfer

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Ethical and legal issues

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Recommendations

- Data access and data use procedures in **existing international research projects provide invaluable insight** on how to deal with ethical and legal issues.

- Due to the difficulty to get clear information about rules and procedures in different countries it would be **extremely helpful to have a resource aimed at bringing together updated information on ethical and data protection issues** (e.g. Health Data Navigator)

- A new **EU Data Protection Regulation could be useful to harmonize** ethical committees procedures, data protection rules and data access.

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Reducing health information inequality in Europe

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Recommendations

- **BRIDGE Health raises the visibility of health information inequality** by identifying countries with low participation in EU projects and poor indicator availability.
- Creating a **health information inequality benchmarking index** by domain could help countries identify their priorities going forward.
- **Knowledge transferring, ethics and political priorities** play a key role in ensuring HI equality and need to be linked to the goal of ensuring full coverage among MS.
- **Better evidence is needed** about how health information inequality impacts on policy making and health

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Adding the multiple level / multiple strata approach

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Recommendations

- It is necessary to **increase awareness on the importance of collecting data at meaningful levels**, and on the importance of **exploiting routine data** to inform policies.
- **Increase research capacity** (i.e., training and mobility) to reduce the **methodological gaps** on how to adequate the research design to a MS/ML approach, how to manage data from many sources, and how to conduct relevant analyses.
- Work on developing a **wider EU legal framework to facilitate this kind of research.**
- **Design and develop the data infrastructure and associated services** that would support MS/ML

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Standardization methods of the collection and exchange of health information

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Recommendations

- Reliable and comparable health information requires pre- and post-harmonization, therefore European level **harmonization protocols for different data sources and indicators are required.** These protocols need to be **maintained and developed continuously.**
- **For exchange of health information, a special attention to data security and confidentiality has to be ensured.** Easy access to health information by researchers throughout the Europe is essential to facilitate high quality research supporting evidence-based policy making, and planning and evaluation of prevention programmes.

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Data quality methods, including internal and external validation

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Recommendations

- Without good data, quality of indicators, quality of studies, and therefore decisions on planning and evaluation of preventive programs, health care delivery, resource allocation and research are severely impaired

For each research domain,

- preparing a **manual of operations with a detailed description of exams/ questions/data definitions/data processing** following international standardized procedures and methods
- **training and testing the personnel involved in data collection** and data management
- **reporting quality checks** -it may improve data sources linkage and harmonization
- **feedback those involved** in collecting, harmonizing and processing data – it will improve data quality

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