

Concept Paper

The **Concept Paper** is out and available [here!](#) The Concept Paper presents the BRIDGE Health analysis of the current situation and the possibilities for creating an organisational entity that could take up some of the support tasks that come with the need for strengthening the EU health information system. Using multi-criteria analysis, the advantages, disadvantages and short-term feasibility were investigated and presented in the Concept Paper.

The analysis concluded that a European Research Infrastructure Consortium on Health Information for Research and Evidence-based Policy (HIREP-ERIC) is at this time the most feasible option. This to set important steps in the right direction and fulfil some of the most important criteria for an effective organisation around the scientific underpinning of health policy and research by new and better evidence from more and better comparable data.

Meeting Invitation

On 20th April 2017, BRIDGE Health is organising a meeting: "Health Information in the European Union - The ERIC as a tool" in the Royal Library of Belgium, Brussels. Participation is free. To register, please use the following link: <http://www.bridge-health.eu/registration>.

During this meeting, the EU health information system will be discussed as well as its strengthening through a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) on health information for research and evidence-based policy.

The meeting is organized with support of the Belgian Federal Public Service Health, Food chain safety and Environment and the Belgian Scientific Institute of Public Health.

Update of EHES Manuals

European Health Examination Survey (EHES) has updated the **EHES Manuals**, documents providing guidelines and standardized measurement protocols for organizers of a national health examination surveys. The 2nd edition of the EHES Manuals are freely available on the web at:

- Tolonen H (ed). EHES Manual. Part A. Planning and preparation of the survey. 2nd edition. National Institute for Health and Welfare, 2016, Directions 2016_13. URN:ISBN:978-952-202-700-8, URL: <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-302-700-8>
- Tolonen H (ed). EHES Manual. Part B. Fieldwork procedures. 2nd edition. National Institute for Health and Welfare, 2016, Directions 2016_14. URN:ISBN:978-952-302-701-5, URN: <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-302-701-5>
- Tolonen H (ed). EHES Manual. Part C. European level collaboration. 2nd edition. National Institute for Health and Welfare, 2016, Directions 2016_15. URN:ISBN:978-952-302-702-2, URL: <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-302-702-2>

The Italian roadmap

On April 2016 the Italian Ministry of Health-MoH launched a project to support the activities of the Italian group collaborating with the BRIDGE Health project-BH, and to develop the Italian Hub for the European Health Information System-HI. The project, coordinated by the Istituto Superiore di Sanità, involves the main national institution providing health data, MoH and the National Institute of Statistics. It aims at assuring transferability of ECHI indicators on diseases occurrence and health care performance at national level; improving quality methods and facing privacy, ethical, and legal issues following BH recommendations; developing an integrated and sustainable national HI system; facilitating exchange of expertise with BH other Working Package and Horizontal Activities.

A network of experts was set up and four Working Groups were established: **ECHI Indicators** aiming at checking availability and updating Italian indicators in the EU ECHI tool; **Communication, transmission, dissemination of data** aiming at identifying barriers to data availability/accessibility at local/regional/national and international level; **Governance** aiming at planning and organizing an integrated and sustainable national HI system as the Italian Hub for the European HI system; **Data interconnection** aiming at identifying methods for the integration and analysis of routinely collected administrative health databases and population studies databases.

The Italian project represents the first step to build a sustainable national HI system integrated to the forthcoming European HI system.

A word from the BRIDGE Health Coordination team

The BRIDGE Health project has been running for a year and a half now. During the last couple of months great progress has been made. BRIDGE Health has been working towards a European Research Infrastructure Consortium on Health Information for Research and Evidence-based Policy (HIREP-ERIC). BRIDGE Health has been collaborating closely with Member States to prepare the technical and scientific description of the HIREP-ERIC through the Expert Group on Health Information (EGHI) of the European Commission. Furthermore, research continued in the different research fields that are comprised within the BRIDGE Health project's "work packages" and "horizontal activities".

This newsletter offers you a brief account of all important meetings and activities that took place during the past six months, as well as an overview of upcoming activities.

9th European Public Health Conference

On November 9-12 the **9th European Public Health Conference**, with the theme "All for health - Health for all" took place in Vienna (Austria). The presentations are available [here](#). BRIDGE Health organized 2 pre-conferences and 3 workshops.

EuroSafe held its annual seminar in Vienna on Wednesday 9 November 2016, in collaboration with the European Public Health Association (EUPHA). This year, the joint EuroSafe-EUPHA seminar looked into the "Use of injury data for effective and innovative safety promotion". The Book of Abstracts and PPTs are now available [here](#).

Steering Committee IV

From 20 to 21 October the fourth BRIDGE Health Steering Committee and the first General Assembly took place in Brussels. During these meetings, the BRIDGE Health partners made an evaluation of the activities performed during the past 6 months and discussed the working plan for the next 6 months.

Upcoming

Senior Level Working Party on Public Health, 3rd February 2017, Brussels

Teleconference Drafting Group EGHI, 2nd March 2017

Health Information in the European Union - The ERIC as a tool, 20th April 2017, Royal Library of Belgium, Brussels

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