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Background

Over the past decades the European Union (EU) has supported many health information and data projects. However, the mere continuation of projects does not provide a long-term sustainable solution. The BRIDGE Health project answers the call towards a sustainable health monitoring and reporting system to ensure the continuity of activities that have been running in the past and to enhance synergy between EU projects on health information and data.

Aims

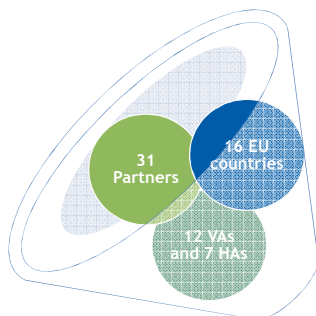
BRIDGE Health aims to prepare the transition towards a sustainable and integrated European health information system for both public health and research purposes. The European health information system will incorporate know-how and technical tools to coordinate and harmonise research and surveillance for Member States in key EU health policy areas.

BRIDGE Health will

1. Create a blueprint for a European health information system and infrastructure
2. Evaluate different structural and institutional options including a comprehensive European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) in health information
3. Develop blueprints for specific actions of a European health information system.

Activities

BRIDGE Health was launched in May 2015 and will run for 30 months. The project includes 31 partners in 16 countries and works through horizontal and vertical activities.



Horizontal Activities

The horizontal activities are generic objectives that BRIDGE Health considers to be essential tasks of a European health information system. The horizontal activities bring together the expertise developed within different health information domains to tackle the following challenges:

1. Transferability of health information and data for policy
2. Health information inequality within the EU and MS
3. Information at regional level (ECHI indicators, health inequalities) and for specific population groups
4. Standardisation methods of the collection and exchange of health information
5. Data quality methods including internal and external validation of indicators
6. Priority setting methods in health information
7. Ethical and legal issues in health information

Vertical Activities

The vertical activities are carried out within work packages. The first work packages deal with coordination, dissemination and evaluation. They help facilitate the work packages which focus on the following areas:

Coordination, evaluation and dissemination	European Core Health Indicators Monitoring	Reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health	Environmental chemicals and health	Platform for population based registries
Health examination surveys	Evaluation of health care systems	Integrate information on injuries	Platform for administrative data on Health Care	Integrate health information systems

Outcomes

A **strategic policy paper** describing the scope, tasks, activities and governance structure of a future health information system in Europe covering both health and health care systems.

A set of **technical blueprints** developed within the horizontal activities to get the health information system started.