

20 April 2017, Brussels

ADDED VALUE
Public Health
R e s e a r c h

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IMAGINE

- Secondary data are **comparable** across EU member states.
- Data are **timely** available.
- There is a **training and information hub** that supports you in applying secondary & research data and in understanding their characteristics.
- Coordinated research actions lead to **continuous improvement of data availability and comparability** and the development of modern **monitoring and reporting approaches**.

REALITY – limitations - comparability

“**International comparability** of data on socioeconomic inequalities in health is still **imperfect**, and the degree of comparability is likely to decline with increasing geographical coverage.”

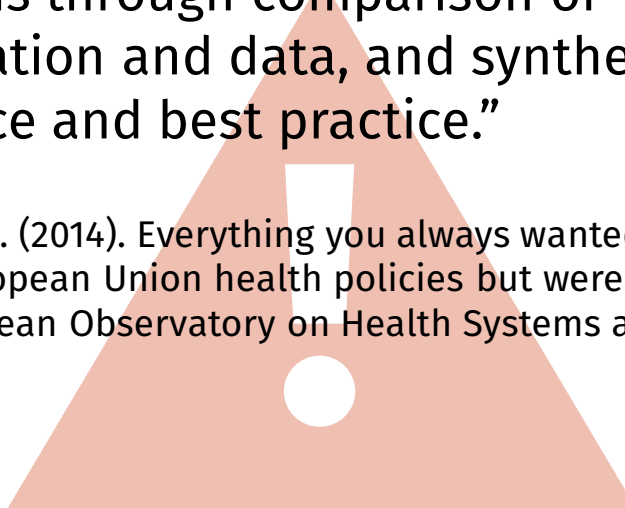
Mackenbach et al. (2008). Socioeconomic Inequalities in Health in 22 European Countries. NEJM.

“To our knowledge, this is the most comprehensive analysis [...] covering roughly two decades and at least 10 countries. However, **its broad international scope inevitably raises issues of data comparability.**”

Mackenbach et al. (2016). Changes in mortality inequalities over two decades: register based study of European countries. BMJ.

“One of the clearest areas where the EU can add value to national efforts on health is through comparison of information and data, and synthesizing evidence and best practice.”

Greer et al. (2014). Everything you always wanted to know about European Union health policies but were afraid to ask. European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies.



REALITY – dead-end streets

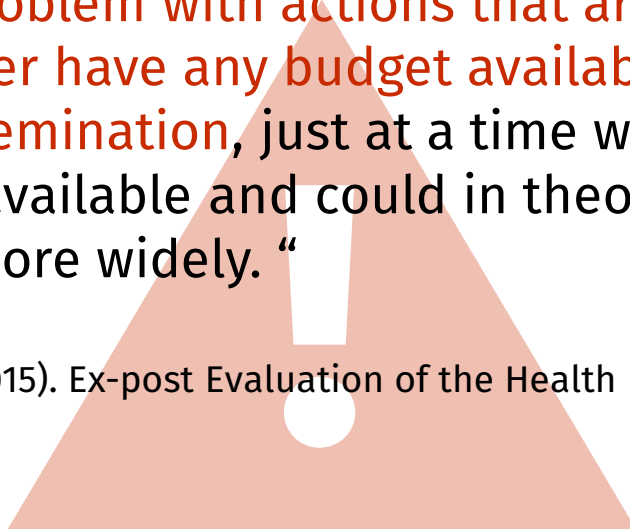
EVA-PHR
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EUGLOREH EHIS
ECHIM
ENHIS
EuroREACH

- Research on EU public health monitoring and reporting aspects was based on a multitude of **temporary research projects**.
 - Result: Limited dissemination and promotion of outcomes & a lot of old and inactive websites.
- “Waisted” research efforts.

Sustainability

“As regards the sustainability of the dissemination, the answer is once again “it depends”. There is a recurrent problem with actions that are finalised and no longer have any budget available for further dissemination, just at a time when the final results are available and could in theory be promoted more widely. “

EC (DG SANTÉ) (2015). Ex-post Evaluation of the Health Programme (2008-2013).



REALITY – go-to place?

Several databases provide health information for different European countries and for x-country comparisons:

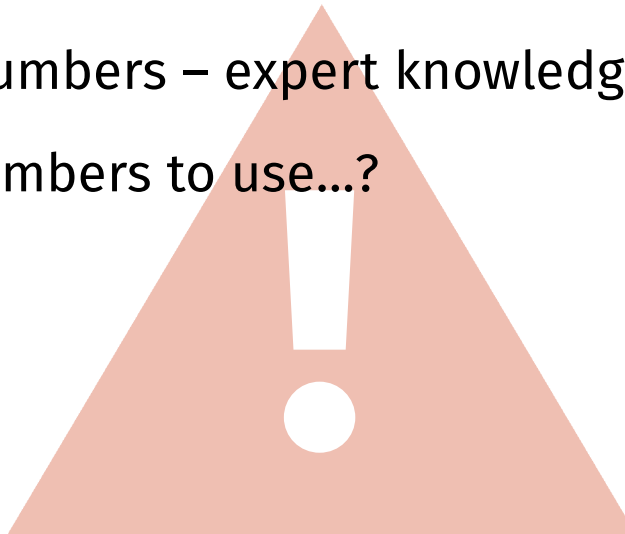
- OECD Health Statistics
- WHO-Europe Health Information Gateway (incl. HfA Explorer)
- Eurostat, ECHI data tool
- ...

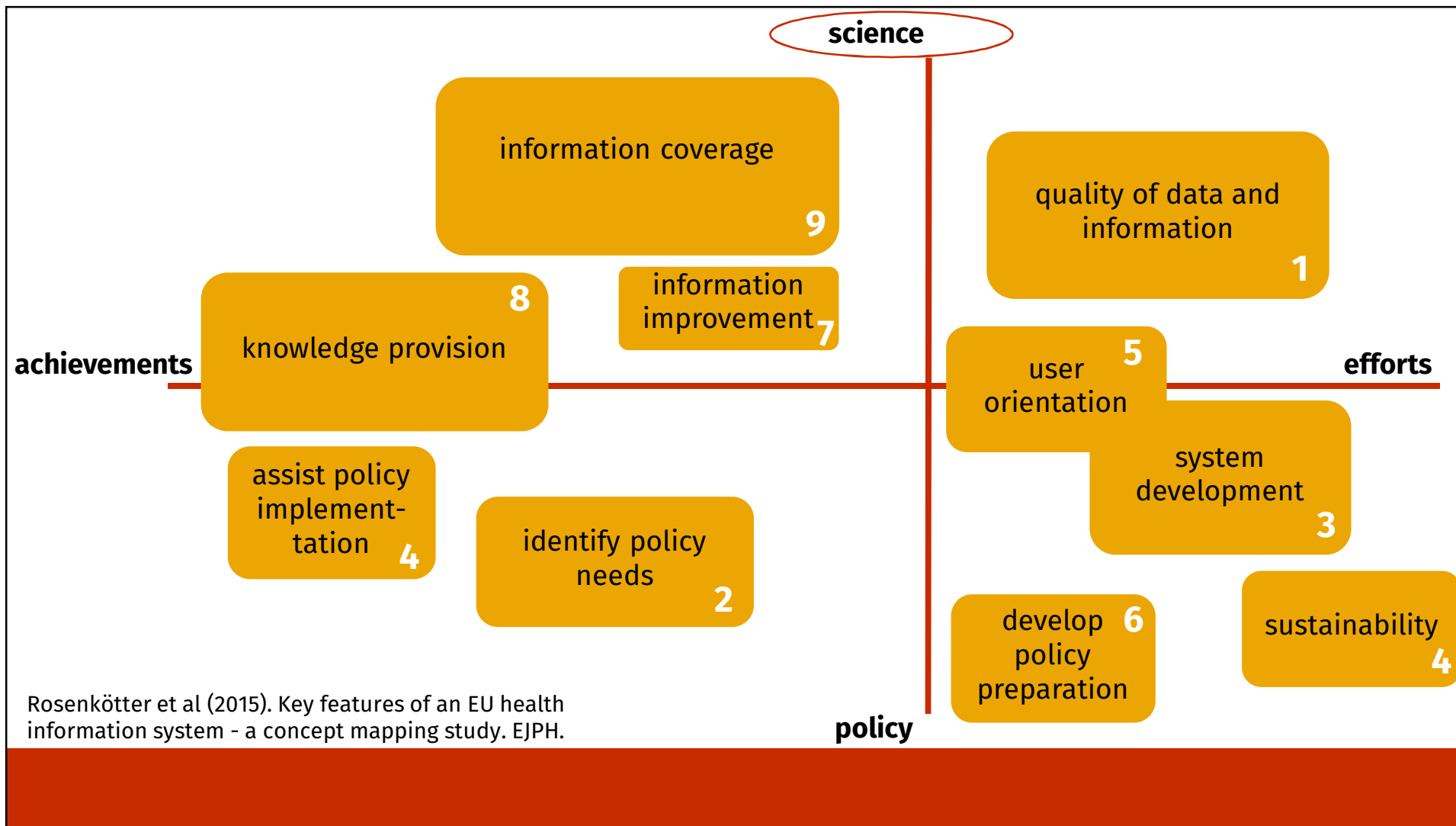
REALITY – go-to place?

Simple data retrieval – all cause mortality, Germany

Database	Year	ICD-10	absolute	crude rate	SDR	standard population
gbe-bund (national)	2013 (latest 2015)	A00-T98	893,825	1,108.3 per 100,000	563.1	old European standard population (possible to choose different standard populations)
Eurostat	2013 (health_cd_aro)	A00-Y89 (without S00- T98)	896,287 (health_cd_aro)	1,101.4 per 100,000 (hlth_cd_acdr2)	1,066.3 (hlth_cd_asdr2)	European standard population (revision 2012)
	2013 (latest 2015, demo_magec)		893,825 (demo_magec)			
OECD	2013 (latest 2014)		893,825	1,108.3 per 100,000	813.9	total OECD population
WHO-EURO	2013 (latest 2014)		893,825	11.1 per 1,000	564	standard European population

- ✓ Big efforts required to to assess which database suits best.
- ✓ Lost in numbers – expert knowledge necessary
- ✓ Which numbers to use...?







Wishlist

Selection of statements that imply needs for extended public health research ...

“An EU health information system that supports health policy making should...”

- provide information to assess **socio-economic health inequalities**.
- aim to identify solutions to enable the **collection of missing but relevant health indicators** for public health issues.
- provide **retrospective and prospective** (trend) information.
- support the effective use of health data by **enabling data linkage** in the future and resolving data protection issues at EU level.

Rosenkötter et al (2015). Key features of an EU health information system - a concept mapping study. EJPH.

HOPE

- Continuous coordinated **research on data sources and indicators** improves the availability & comparability of health information across the EU.
- Coordinated research actions lead to **strengthened monitoring and reporting approaches** on EU as well as on national and sub-national level.
- Regular **training courses** on population health monitoring and comparative research support capacity building in Europe.

HOPE

- A **platform** provides bundled and continuously updated information on health information characteristics.
- A **contact hub** supports researchers regarding questions on country & domain specific health information characteristics.
- The HIREP-ERIC **supports visibility and relevance of health information** in other policy sectors and **strengthens international cooperation**.

You'll never walk alone...



EUPHA supports the development of an overarching European Health Information Strategy. This is necessary in order to guarantee high quality, sustainable health information systems, both at national and at European level.

EUPHA calls for an overarching European Health Information Strategy

In December 2012, EUPHA expressed her concerns related to the lack of sustainability of health information activities at the EU level in a letter to EU Health Commissioner Borg. In this letter, the need for an overarching European health information strategy was also addressed.

EUPHA calls for broad international cooperation

For an overarching European strategy to be successful, the European Commission, WHO Europe and OECD need to work together. Moreover, the involvement of national authorities is of utmost importance, as is the involvement of international NGOs and organizations, such as EUPHA.

EUPHA offers support and expertise

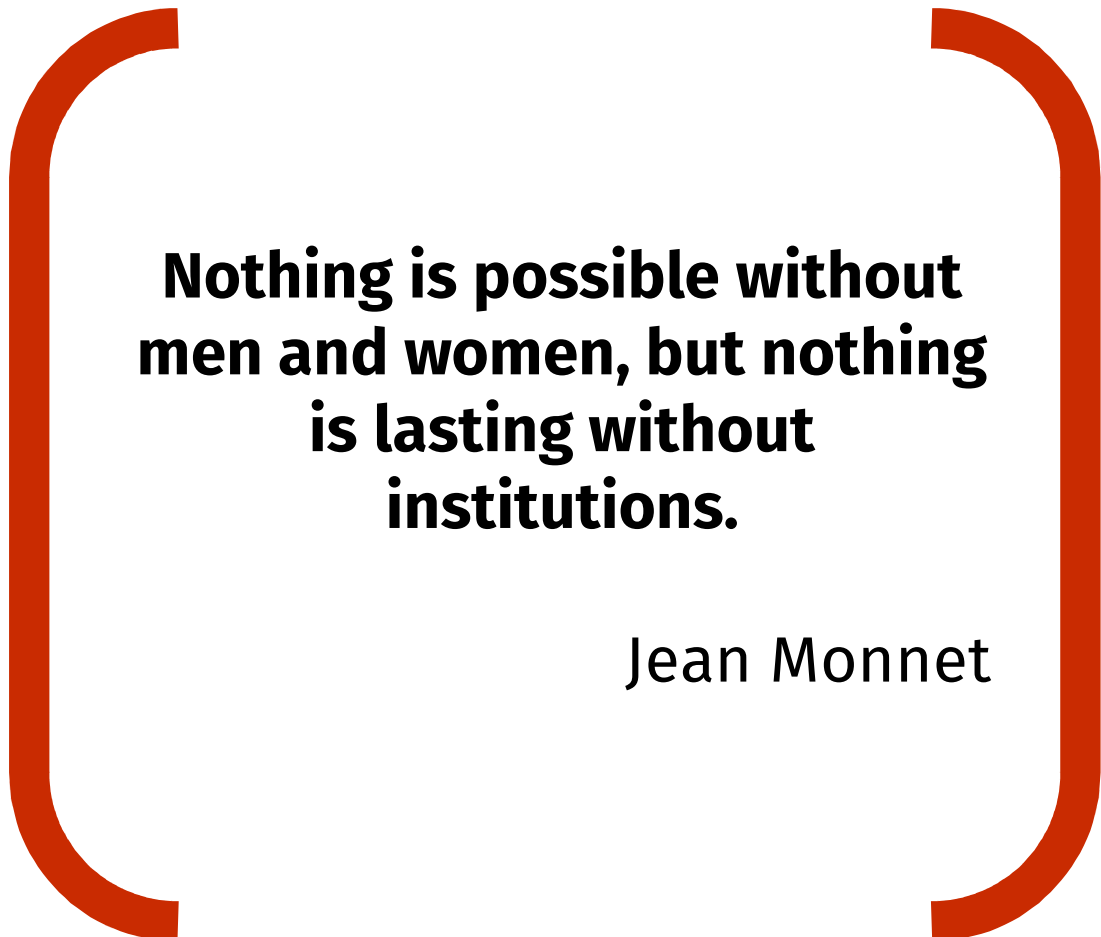
During the EPH in 2013, EUPHA organized a Round Table on the single European Health Information System with panelists from the European Commission, WHO Regional Office for Europe and OECD. EUPHA offers its support and expertise for the further development of this System.

EUPHA calls for a sustainable repository on health information

Currently there are large health information inequalities in Europe, leading to inequalities in health. To overcome these, exchange of knowledge and experiences is necessary. A sustainable repository for tools, evidence, project outcomes etcetera would be an essential element of such an exchange.

EUPHA is an international, multidisciplinary, scientific organisation, bringing together public health experts for **professional exchange and collaboration throughout Europe** and responsible for organising the largest annual public health event in Europe.

EUPHA - European Public Health Association (2014).
EUPHActs on Health Monitoring and Information



**Nothing is possible without
men and women, but nothing
is lasting without
institutions.**

Jean Monnet

