

**In2Action: the impact of a serious game on collaboration and knowledge use in inter-sectoral policy processes in selected EU countries**

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Introduction

It is hypothesized that serious games can be used as a tool to foster inter-sectoral collaboration and to decrease the research-policy-practice gap. We aim to explore the impact of an internationally developed and pilot tested policy game on inter-sectoral, evidence-informed health enhancing physical activity policy processes, such as collaboration within organizational networks and knowledge use in three European cases.

Methods

The Netherlands (NL), Denmark (DK) and Romania (RO), partners in the European FP7 REPOPA-project, carried out a structured simulated role-play to deal with highly complex decision-making at local level encountered in real life networks, with 18-19 participants in each case. Data were collected in three structured online questionnaires, one week before (T0), one week after (T1) and six months after (T2) the game, looking into collaboration aspects and knowledge use.

Results

The response rate to the questionnaires was at least 76% in each country. Across countries, a similar impact on collaboration was seen. One of the main learning experiences reported in T1 was an enhanced understanding of values, attached to collaboration. At least half of the participants indicated a boost in collaboration at T2 because of their participation in the policy game. The impact of the game on attitudes (T1) towards use of knowledge varied across countries, 25% in NL, 57% in RO and 75% in DK were more positive. In T1, 73% DK, 69% RO and 33% NL respondents reported gaining daily work relevant knowledge and experience, as a result of their participation in the game.

Conclusions

The results indicated that a game has potential to impact on collaboration across countries. Attitudes towards knowledge use varied across countries, with DK being most positive and NL least positive. Overall, the results indicated that a serious game has potential in enhancing inter-sectoral policy making in different contexts.

## **Application of a KT planning approach to global project planning**

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Public Health Insight generates evidence-informed solutions for decision-makers through a range of research services. This includes the development of knowledge translation strategies to support new projects or research endeavors. Knowledge translation and exchange (KTE) plans are crucial in ensuring that research is conducted collaboratively with stakeholders and to facilitate the implementation and uptake of key findings.

Public Health Insight has developed a process to support the development and implementation of KTE plans. This involves establishing KTE goals, identification of KTE strategies to meet these goals, determining the relationships required, creation of communication strategies and development of metrics to measure KTE impact. These plans are created using group consensus based meetings and desktop research.

This presentation will describe the application of this process to a [research](#) project being led by the Movember Foundation. The Movember Foundation is a global charity committed to men living happier, healthier, longer lives. This [research](#) project will operate across 5 countries and a KTE plan was required to support global engagement and uptake. A series of group-based consensus meetings were used to step through the KTE planning process. Four key meetings were held with staff from the Movember Foundation; kick-off, KT goals and strategies, stakeholder priority setting and plan presentation. Each meeting involved presentations from Public Health Insight staff and then group-based activities to agree on each component of the plan. The priority setting process used power/influence-modeling approaches to determine levels of engagement and resource allocation. The evaluation plan mapped outcomes, metrics and methods to ensure KTE impact could be measured. A logic model was created to tie together inputs, process and outcomes. The presentation will reflect on the development of the plan from an end-user perspective.

**Developing a survey to establish a baseline of country capacity to generate, appraise, synthesise, translate and apply research evidence for decision-making**

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Background

Scientific evidence has increasingly become a policy-making input in health sectors across Europe and beyond. However, capacities in evidence-informed policy-making (EIP) remain low and/or uneven, and wide variation in implementation remains a problem. One potential solution has been the rise of knowledge translation networks to diffuse innovations and share good practice. A leading example is the World Health Organisation's (WHO) Evidence-Informed Policy Network (EVIPNet). A survey was developed to support the work of EVIPNet Europe by gathering intelligence on the use of research evidence across the region, in order to identify gaps and highlight areas in need of capacity-building.

Methods

A rapid review of published and grey literature (English only) was conducted. A draft survey was developed based on the review findings, with input from the EVIPNet team and participants (n=22) in the first technical expert meeting to enhance EIP in the WHO European Region. The survey was distributed by email to this group and also discussed with national EIP champions (n=26) during the third EVIPNet multi-country meeting on using research evidence for policy-making.

Results

Of the 18 studies included in the review, very few concerned EIP, particularly in an international setting. Topics incorporated into the draft survey included individual, organisational, contextual and evidence factors, as well as drivers, barriers and strategies. Feedback highlighted that the intended survey population would determine the most appropriate format and content for the survey, and vice versa. Participants also identified potential issues relating to language, which will be considered in refining the survey.

Discussion

The final survey will enable each country in the WHO European region to establish a baseline level of evidence use in policy and practice. It will support the work of EVIPNet Europe in promoting the systematic use of research evidence in health policy-making.