“Towards a world in which the best available research evidence informs policy-making”

EVIPNet Europe
Annual Report
2015
Abstract

The report provides an overview of EVIPNet Europe's activities in 2015: EVIPNet Europe country launches took place in Hungary, Kazakhstan, Lithuania and Poland, while Bulgaria, Georgia, Serbia, Slovakia, Russia and Turkmenistan will join the Network in 2016. The EVIPNet Europe Starter Kit and the Situation Analysis Manual were tested, refined and finalized; situation analyses conducted; and the virtual forum introduced. Further tools are under development. Collaborations were established with HINARI and SORT IT. Key activities in 2016 will include the further development of EVIPNet activities in experienced EVIPNet countries (evidence brief for policy creation, holding of policy dialogues and country team (so-called knowledge translation platform) establishment) and new member countries (country launches and conduct of situation analyses). Additionally, EVIPNet Europe will continue building partnerships and develop a resource group of trainers – towards a world in which the best available research evidence informs health policy-making.

Keywords

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<th>Abbreviation</th>
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<tr>
<td>EBP</td>
<td>Evidence brief for policy</td>
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<td>EIP</td>
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<td>EVIPNet</td>
<td>Evidence-informed Policy Network</td>
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<td>KT</td>
<td>Knowledge translation</td>
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<td>KTP</td>
<td>Knowledge translation platform</td>
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<td>SA</td>
<td>Situation analysis</td>
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<td>SORT IT</td>
<td>Structured Operational Research and Training Initiative</td>
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Background

It is important for health policies to be well informed by research evidence, otherwise interventions may fail to reach those populations and individuals most in need, and countries are unlikely to meet their health goals (1–5). In 2015, 11 years after the Mexico Ministerial Summit on Health Research (6,7), a strong foundation exists for evidence-informed policy-making (EIP) (8,9).

The WHO launched the Evidence-informed Policy Network (EVIPNet) as a response to the World Health Assembly resolution WHA58.34 in 2005 (10). EVIPNet is a global network with its base at the WHO headquarters. EVIPNet Europe was launched in October 2012 and supports the implementation of the European policy framework Health 2020 (11) and is in line with the European Health Information Initiative (12).

EVIPNet Europe operates on two tracks: (i) the multicountry track and (ii) the country-specific track. The multicountry track includes, for example, capacity-building workshops, while the country-specific track comprises national situation analyses (SA); stakeholder consultations; capacity-building workshops (e.g. on developing evidence briefs for policy (EBPs)); policy dialogues; and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) activities.

As part of the multicountry track, EVIPNet Europe supports a set of member countries – including Albania, Estonia, Romania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine – that focus primarily on (i) promoting the use of EIP at the national level, and (ii) strengthening the countries’ own EIP capacities through multicountry capacity-building events.

EVIPNet Europe currently has 13 member countries: Albania, Estonia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, the Republic of Moldova, Poland, Romania, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Slovenia and Ukraine. Six countries will join the Network in the next biennium to bring the total to 19: Bulgaria, Georgia, Serbia, Slovakia, Russia and Turkmenistan.

Objective

This report’s objective is to provide an overview of the activities of EVIPNet Europe undertaken in 2015; the report covers EVIPNet Europe’s work from January to December 2015 and is intended for internal use among network members only.
EVIPNet Europe’s activities in 2015 in numbers

4 countries launched the EVIPNet Europe pilot phase
6 prepared to join EVIPNet Europe in the next biennium
8 conferences featured EVIPNet Europe
15 national EVIPNet Europe workshops took place
1 multicountry EVIPNet Europe workshop was organized
5 workshops involved EVIPNet Europe national champions as trainers
9 countries included EVIPNet Europe as part of their Health 2020 roadmaps
2 HINARI workshops took place in collaboration with EVIPNet Europe
2 workshops by the WHO Structured Operational Research and Training Initiative (SORT IT) took place in collaboration with EVIPNet Europe
1 collaboration between EVIPNet Europe and the European Public Health Association Section on Public Health Practice/Policy and on Health System Research was initiated
Country-specific work

Hungary

Launching the EVIPNet Europe pilot phase
In April, the country launch took place in Budapest. Gábor Zombor, the Minister of State for Health, opened the event for 38 participants in Hungary, organized and prepared by a collaboration of WHO Country Office and team.

Stakeholder consultation and SA
During a high-level stakeholder meeting in November, the results of the country SA were discussed with key stakeholders (e.g. the Deputy State Secretary and stakeholders from the Ministry of Human Capacities, the Healthcare Service Centre, Semmelweis University, the University of Debrecen, the Institute for Health Development, the Academy of Sciences, the Health Insurance Fund and the Patient Forum) to validate the findings of and to identify remaining gaps.

The SA was guided by the EVIPNet Europe SA Manual and authored by Péter Mihalicza and Ilona Borbás, National Healthcare Service Centre; Ildikó Lelkes, Ministry of Human Capacities; and Szabolcs Szigeti, WHO Country Office for Hungary. Technical support was provided by the EVIPNet Europe Secretariat. Zsófia Pusztai, Head of the WHO Country Office for Hungary, supported the process.

Based on the discussions during the stakeholder consultation, the country team/knowledge translation platform (KTP) is likely to become an independent organization owned by the country yet embedded in an existing institution. It should

- build on existing capacity and institutions;
- involve key stakeholders;
- develop a network to work with others; and
- link to the government and WHO to reduce bias and ensure sustainability.

The need to highlight complementary action, not competing action, was emphasized.

Publication about EVIPNet Europe
An article about EVIPNet Europe was published in the Hungarian journal *Health Economics Review* (pp. 22–26; in Hungarian). The article explains the international experience of EVIPNet, its goals in Europe, good examples of knowledge brokering and the tasks related to the EVIPNet Europe pilot phase in Hungary.

“The existence [of an EVIPNet Europe country team/KTP] could help increase the credibility of policy-makers – leading to more confidence [in policies] and more stability.”
- Participant in stakeholder meeting in Hungary (November 2015)
Raising awareness about EVIPNet Europe

The Ministry of Health of Kyrgyzstan has established an extended working group on EVIPNet. Led by Dr Ismailov, Head of Department of Health Reform of the Ministry of Health, the group comprises six staff from the Ministry and six multisectoral stakeholders.

In September 2015, the Ministry of Health held a seminar to raise awareness for EVIPNet Europe and EBPs among members of the working group and academics. Kyrgyzstan is now at its final stages in developing the EVIPNet Europe SA.

Stakeholder consultation and SA

On 10 December 2015, 50 high-level stakeholders gathered representing the Kyrgyz Ministry of Health, the Research Centre of Preventive Medicine, the National Agriculture University, major medical universities and national centres, and WHO. The meeting was led by Dr Ismailov. Participants were familiarized with EVIPNet, its mandate, tools and activities. As an example of an EVIPNet activity, a draft policy brief on neural tube defects was presented by Professor Tursun Mamyrbaeva, a member of the above-mentioned working group.

On 11 December 2015, a smaller group of key stakeholders was involved in deliberating and endorsing the findings of the SA and in discussing the establishment of a future KTP.

The SA was conducted by Adiljan Temirov, Head of the national Health Policy Analysis Centre, in collaboration with the WHO Secretariat of EVIPNet Europe. Stakeholders saw the role of the KTP in expanding, systematizing and coordinating the use of evidence in policy-making in the country as fundamental. Key stakeholders recommended establishing the KTP initially within the Ministry of Health.

Launch of the EVIPNet Europe pilot phase

In April, EVIPNet Europe was launched in Kazakhstan. At the country launch event, stakeholders in research and the practical use of research results unanimously agreed that scientists and politicians should work together to promote a culture of research data use; participants prepared a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats analysis of the current use of research evidence in health policy and drafted a roadmap for integrating Kazakhstan into EVIPNet Europe.

The event greatly benefited from the support of the Republican Centre for Health Development, in which the Kazakhstan national champion Vitaliy Koikov plays a major role.

Researching knowledge translation in Kazakhstan

Initiated by the Kazakh national champion, Vitaliy Koikov, Kazakhstan has developed eight masters and doctoral university programmes around the topic of EIP. Set to start in September 2015, future researchers will take part in lectures and workshops that will help them to gain knowledge and skills for the practical use of research results in health care practice and policy-making.

"EVIPNet Europe’s tools and methods will help reduce the gap between policy-making and evidence for a more efficient medical service delivery in our country”.

- Ministry of Health State Secretary, Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan

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Stakeholder consultation in Kazakhstan
Lithuania

**Launching the EVIPNet Europe pilot phase**
The country launch of EVIPNet in Lithuania was attended by 30 stakeholders. Vice Minister of Health Valentin Garilov welcomed participants, highlighting the demand for EIP and the need for cooperation; initial discussions revealed great interest in tools and mechanisms for systematic evidence use in policy-making; and building on these discussions, Lithuania decided to continue with an SA to propose ways to set up a KTP. A new national EVIPNet Europe website had been launched in the country.

**New EIP-inspired doctoral programme**
Inspired by the first technical expert meeting on EIP in January 2015 in Lithuania, Professor Algirdas Utkus, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine of Vilnius University, announced the establishment of an EIP-related doctoral programme in Lithuania. The Public Health Institute of Vilnius University has developed this programme to identify knowledge translation (KT) mechanisms and explore their usage possibilities for EIP in the context of managing psychological risk determinants.

**Published work about EIP**
Daiva Dudutienė, the national champion for Lithuania, wrote an article about EIP and KT entitled “The use of research evidence in health policy-making: is the knowledge transfer and exchange going in the practice?” in the journal *Visuomenės sveikata (Public Health)* (published in Lithuanian, with an English abstract).

Lithuania is collaborating with other European knowledge-brokering organizations
Initiated by Daiva Dudutienė, Lithuania organized study visits in European knowledge-brokering organizations such as the National Institute for Health and Welfare in Helsinki (Finland), the Health Care Knowledge Centre in Brussels (Belgium) and the Public Health Agency of Sweden in Stockholm. The officials of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Lithuania hoped to gain valuable experience related to decision making based on the best available evidence and to the interaction with stakeholders.

Poland

In September 2015, researchers and policy-makers from Poland, Lithuania and Serbia gathered in Poland for a three-day capacity-building workshop on how to prepare EBPs. Four working groups in total (three from Poland and one from Lithuania and Serbia) prepared EBPs on topics such as effectiveness of primary health care services, high hepatitis C prevalence in Poland and mental health concerns in Lithuania. Participants received feedback on their draft EBPs and appointed leaders to submit the final draft with a target goal of December 2015.

Slovenia

**Progress towards establishing a KTP**
A group of national stakeholders met in February 2015 in Ljubljana Slovenia to discuss establishment of a KTP. The event, excellently organized by the Slovenian Country Office and EVIPNet team and chaired by Professor Mark Leys, included a high-level panel discussion. Participants discussed and validated the SA findings and agreed on key principles to serve as a basis for the national KTP. A new KTP scenario that the country team will develop was identified.
New doctoral programme

Inspired by the EVIPNet Europe Stakeholder Consultation in February, Professor Petra Bonca from the Faculty of Economics at the University of Ljubljana created a doctoral programme in EIP. Interested students can now further investigate the research-to-policy interface in Slovenia.

Slovenian Minister of Health expresses support for EIP during the Regional Director’s visit to Slovenia

Dr Zsuzsanna Jakab, Regional Director of WHO Office for Europe, made an official visit to Slovenia on 29–30 October 2015. Addressing the wide range of national key stakeholders in the National Council of the Republic of Slovenia, Dr Jakab presented the work of Health 2020, the newly adopted sustainable development goals aimed to strengthen health systems. Dr Jakab referred to selected health outcomes in Slovenia and presented the key findings of a health system review. Mrs Milojka Kolar Celarc, Slovenia’s Minister of Health, concluded that the Slovene National Health Plan 2015–2025 creates the basis for improving the health system. She committed to the gradual introduction of evidence-informed changes that take into account national specificities.

EVIPNet’s first draft of an EBP in the area of primary care contributed to a policy workshop in Slovenia

Slovenia, as one of EVIPNet Europe first round of pilot countries, has been working on an EBP aimed at presenting policy options to improve equity of access to general practitioners through improvements to the primary care services payment model. Some key findings of the work carried out so far were presented at a policy workshop co-hosted by WHO and the Ministry of Health of Slovenia held on 4 December 2016. The policy workshop gathered all key national stakeholders as well as several international experts in order to discuss key aspects of primary health care and integrated/coordinated care. The workshop informed the National Health Care Programme, which was approved by the government at the end of 2015. It was an important opportunity to integrate the activities of the growing EVIPNet Europe country team in the broad reform agenda currently being pursued by policymakers.

Tajikistan

Establishing EVIPNet Europe

Stakeholders in the Tajikistan health system gathered for a one-day workshop in Dushanbe in February. The workshop was an important first step towards building collaborative relationships between public health researchers and stakeholders. Participants discussed the SA and identified potential organizational structures for hosting a KTP. The former health systems advisor to the WHO Country Office, Tajikistan, Baktygul Akkazieva, saw the accomplishment of the SA as a “great presentation the last day of [her] work in Tajikistan. The EVIPNet analysis helped a lot in institutionalizing the national Health Policy Analysis Unit and, though the KTP requires further support to become a stable institution in the overall health system, at least now it will have a home.” This groundwork will make EIP part of Tajikistan’s future.
Tajikistan (continued)

Towards establishing EVIPNet Europe

Since the stakeholder consultation in February 2015, there has been a high level of interest from local researchers, educational institutions, universities and nongovernmental organizations to engage with EVIPNet Europe. Currently, work is underway to identify the best way to institutionalize EVIPNet Europe in Tajikistan, with further conversations planned for December 2015 in the joint annual review of the “National Health Strategy for 2010–2020” by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population of Tajikistan.

The Republic of Moldova

EVIPNet Europe inspires educational theme

After attending a workshop on preparing EBPs, Larisa Spinei from the School of Public Health Management in the State University of Medicine and Pharmacy “Nicolae Testemitanu”, developed an online training module on evidence-based medicine that includes topics on finding and evaluating systematic reviews and meta analyses. It is being delivered to doctoral students in 2015.

EVIPNet Europe at the Ministry of Health

Furthermore, Marcela Țirdea, the Moldovan national champion, presented the work of EVIPNet Europe at a brownbag lunch held at the Ministry of Health. The participants discussed the benefits of EVIPNet Europe, including the importance of KTPs, tools for strengthening EIP and using methodology to make a difference to the policy-making process. Ministry staff expressed enthusiasm for this opportunity to informally share experience share experience and knowledge, and learn more about EVIPNet Europe.

Discussing alcohol consumption in national dialogue

In November 2015, a national dialogue was held in Moldova to address the reduction of alcohol consumption in the country, which was identified as a key issue by the Ministry of Health. The dialogue was convened to obtain guidance on finalizing the EBP and to complement the EBP with its tacit knowledge. The policy dialogue gathered 23 participants representing over 10 different ministries. At the meeting, participants agreed that the low implementation of the National Alcohol Control Programme was the problem to focus on and address in the EBP; the stakeholders advised the EBP working group to undertake an additional literature review and investigate proposed options; next steps involve finalizing the EBP and identifying ways forward to increase political and civil engagement.
Multicountry-level activities

Republic of Moldova and Slovenia: EVIPNet Europe skills and practice

A multicountry EBP workshop was held at which country teams from the two countries discussed priority policy issues for EBP development. Participants from Slovenia chose to address payment models for primary health care services, and those from the Republic of Moldova considered reducing alcohol consumption. The 18 participants met in March 2015, and the group included national champions Marcela Țîrdea (Republic of Moldova), Mircha Poldrugovac and Polonca Truden Dobrin (Slovenia). One participant said: “We thought we already knew how to develop policy briefs, but this workshop convinced me and my colleagues that the EBP methodology proposed by EVIPNet Europe is systematic and increases the chances for the policies to be developed and adopted.”

“EVIPNet is taking Europe by storm”: highlights from the third annual multicountry meeting

In June 2015, 25 members of the EVIPNet Europe country teams and 12 heads of WHO country offices gathered in Lithuania for EVIPNet Europe’s biggest capacity-building event of the year, the third multicountry meeting. Throughout the years, each meeting has taken a different focus: In 2013, the meeting focused on general awareness raising and in 2014, a Training-the-Trainers workshop was held. This year, the meeting focused on policy dialogue facilitation, communication and advocacy. “EVIPNet is taking Europe by storm” stated Dr Claudia Stein, Director of the Division of Information, Evidence, Research and Innovation, when opening the meeting with Ms Rimantė Šalaševičiūtė, the Minister of Health of Lithuania. The event included a high-level panel discussion and also featured the launch of the virtual forum to share knowledge and experiences from across the Region. The meeting was well received by participants; as being empowering, informative and community building.

First EBP workshop breaks ground in Central Asia

From 29 June to 2 July 2015, researchers, policy-makers and WHO officials from Kazakhstan and Tajikistan gathered in Kazakhstan for a skill-building workshop on developing EBPs. Dr Vitaliy Koikov from EVIPNet Kazakhstan, Tomas Pantoja from EVIPNet Chile and Mircha Poldrugovac of EVIPNet Slovenia acted as facilitators. Mircha is one of EVIPNet Europe’s first trainers – trained through the EVIPNet Europe multicountry meetings. The goals of this workshop were to build participants’ awareness about tools and resources available to support their use of research evidence and to teach them how to prepare EBPs. In this innovative space, the participants learnt through practise and prepared draft EBPs. Facilitators offered to continue to provide feedback to support the continuation of the EBPs in each country team.
"Defining science, practice and goals for evidence-informed policy-making (EIP)”: preconference event to the 8th European Public Health Conference

In October 2015, the WHO European Office for Health together with Health Services Research organized a preconference event at the European Public Health Conference. The goals of the meeting were to reflect on the WHO/Europe’s accelerated roadmap on EIP, share experience and openly debate how to enhance EIP and incite participants to join efforts at national, European and organizational levels. Participants included stakeholders of all levels in the health services and public health research community plus experts in EIP and KT. Through interactive reflection, participants and facilitators identified a series of different perspectives on “what should be done.” At the meeting, Dr Stein highlighted the fact that linking health research to ethical EIP to improve health systems is at the core of the work of the WHO; the group reflected on EIP and the development of the action plan such as the idea of persuasion, cultural considerations and the capacity of policy-makers and researchers; working groups came up with key recommendations relevant for the development of the action plans.

Celebrating success: WHO headquarters develops project to share stories of EVIPNet’s accomplishments

The WHO headquarters has commissioned a professional writer to share stories of EVIPNet’s success and impact on health policies and health from around the globe. Regional networks have been asked to share local success stories, which the writer will develop into a report, brochure and video. The first EVIPNet Europe success story about reducing alcohol intake in the Republic of Moldova will be included, as well as other success stories from Slovenia and Hungary.

Autumn School on Health Information and Evidence for Policy

In October, around 30 participants gathered in Moscow for the third annual Autumn School on Health Information and Evidence for Policy. The focus of the school was around health information and evidence for policy-making and the topics were chosen to reflect Health 2020 priorities.

Topics included public health indicators in general; data needs and methods for monitoring health inequalities; and tools and food practices for narrowing the gap between research and policy-making and focusing on the translation of evidence to policy.

“The course was excellent. I appreciated the possibility to learn new practical tools and techniques that I can start using immediately in daily practice.”

- Professor Paulo Jorge da Silva Nogueira from the Directorate-General of Health of Portugal
Collaborations

EVIPNet Europe and SORT IT synergize to improve EIP around the globe

In summer 2015, a long-term collaboration between EVIPNet Europe and SORT IT was established. SORT IT is a collaboration between the TDR (the Special Program for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases), the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease and Médecins sans frontières. The programme aims to support countries to conduct operational research in accordance with their own priorities to create a culture favourable for bridging the research-to-policy gap.

Uganda

In August 2015, a group of SORT IT facilitators and fellows were trained in EVIPNet methods in Uganda. In the near future, it is intended that the SORT IT programme will be expanded to include two training modules on EIP. These modules will allow SORT IT participants to move beyond the stage of publication and to more efficiently reach out to health policy-makers and decision-makers, increasing the likelihood that their research findings will impact health policy and practice.

Latvia

In December 2015, an “issue brief” workshop for SORT IT fellows took place in Latvia. An issue brief synthesizes key results, implications and policy actions related to a single study – adapted to the respective target group (e.g. decision-makers such as the Deputy Minister of Health or the Director of the National Public Health Institute). The workshop participants created issue briefs based on their own studies that they had conducted through SORT IT. This task was embedded into exercises on stakeholder mapping and dissemination strategies.

HINARI

“This first collaboration between these programmes achieved its goal of introducing EIP concepts and EVIPNet Europe to Armenia and Georgia,” said Ryoko Takahashi, Technical Officer of the WHO Regional Office for Europe Secretariat for EVIPNet, adding that the workshops held in Tbilisi, Georgia, and Yerevan, Armenia, in April 2015 could serve as models for other regions.

Georgia

The agenda in the Georgia workshop focused on a systematic and transparent approach to research use in policy-making. All 18 participants, largely from the Ministry of Health and the National Centre for Disease Control, strongly endorsed the workshop.

Armenia

Marcela Țîrdea, national champion from the Republic of Moldova, singlehandedly facilitated a one day workshop in Russian for 17 participants, including researchers, physicians and librarians, in Armenia. She added her observations and experiences with the EVIPNet Europe pilot phase to the lively workshop.
EIP in the WHO European Region

Defining science, practice and goals for EIP
Strategic objectives and concrete first steps for the EIP roadmap for the European Region were agreed upon at the first WHO Regional Office for Europe technical expert meeting, which took place back to back with the Steering Group meeting in January. Twelve actions were prioritized to be carried forward including four strategic areas. The actions aim to build on existing EIP initiatives and propose new tools and assessments to address research-to-policy gaps. The actions represent different roads that stakeholders can take to move EIP forward – either individually or jointly. Representatives of institutions, subject-matter experts and knowledge brokers joined together to elaborate EIP science and practice.

EVIPNet Europe is discussed at the 65th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe technical briefing on EIP
At the above briefing, participants were familiarized with EVIPNet Europe. The briefing focused on the accelerated roadmap to strengthen EIP in the WHO European Region. Through examples from Estonia, Kazakhstan and Slovenia, EVIPNet Europe was presented as an initiative that implements all four strategic directions of the roadmap. The briefing also included a discussion with feedback from Member States that were present. Participants universally welcomed the roadmap and also called for a regional action plan to be developed. A concept note to develop such an action plan to be presented to the Regional Committee in 2016 was approved at the Standing Committee of the Regional Committee in November 2015.
Tools and publications

Spreading the word about EVIPNet Europe and its activities
In 2015, EVIPNet Europe published a number of communication/advocacy documents: 12 short/two-page summaries, Steering Group meeting report, multicountry meeting report, annual report 2014, banner, flyer, Q&A, Republic of Moldova success story, and more. In addition, EVIPNet Europe was mentioned in at least four scientific articles.

The SA Manual
The draft SA Manual was piloted in 2014 and under review in 2015. The SA is used to document a country’s national health research system, policy processes, EIP opportunities and examples, while also analysing key EIP stakeholders. This work will result in an SA report describing the context for arriving at three preliminary scenarios for creating a KTP. These scenarios will specify the KTP’s possible organizational form, location and activities, and will be the basis for the first stakeholder consultation and launching a KTP. The SA Manual will be published in spring 2016.

The Starter Kit
The Starter Kit was finalized in autumn 2014 and made available to EVIPNet countries at the Training-the-Trainers workshop. It will be published early in 2016. The Starter Kit gives a sound introduction to the concepts and tools that respond to a country’s context in connecting research and policy processes. The information within the Starter Kit provides readers with short, targeted overviews, along with extensive reference lists. Together, the resources and information in this kit provide concrete ideas for creating and launching a KTP that can effectively bring together core stakeholders in research and policy at the country level.

Keeping the EVIPNet community connected: The virtual forum is launched on Yammer
As a result of the third EVIPNet Europe multicountry meeting in June 2015, EVIPNet Europe’s virtual form was launched using Yammer. The network aims to virtually connect partners on country and regional levels, act as an internal repository for EVIPNet documents and enhance networking and communications among new and established EVIPNet members. “If EVIPNet Europe were a neighbourhood, the forum would be our trusted coffee shop and local library” said forum moderator and national EVIPNet Europe champion Mircha Poldrugovac of Slovenia. By October 2015, the form had 61 members and over 100 posts. “This is how a group of people becomes a community” said Mircha. If you would like to read more about the forum and its function, check out the flyer.

Other tools and technical documents are underway/to be finalized in 2016, such as a KTP scenario development and prioritization tool, a monitoring & evaluation framework, a policy dialogue facilitation tool, a communication and advocacy toolbox and an issue brief template.

Governance

Steering Group Meeting
“We feel grateful and privileged to be supported by such a distinguished group of international experts said Tanja Kuchenmüller, WHO Regional Office for Europe project lead of EVIPNet (Evidence Informed Policy Network in the European Region), following the first EVIPNet Europe Steering Group meeting in January 2015 in Vilnius, Lithuania. The Group reviewed key documents and tools and planned the strategic and operational way forward for EVIPNet Europe, including their own role as EVIPNet Europe ambassadors.
Conclusion

In 2015, EVIPNet Europe’s development accelerated. Country launches took place in Hungary, Kazakhstan, Lithuania and Poland and SAs were conducted. Bulgaria, Georgia, Serbia, Slovakia, Russia and Turkmenistan will enter the pilot phase in 2016. Heads of WHO country offices and national champions in EIP have shown great commitment to, and advocated for, the work of EVIPNet Europe, as demonstrated at the third multicountry meeting in June, and at the numerous workshops and other activities at country level.

The word about EVIPNet Europe spread not least through mentions in scientific publications but also through a wide variety of new EVIPNet Europe publications (communication and advocacy documents) and participation in various conferences and external workshops, which involved EVIPNet Europe national champions as facilitators. Fruitful collaborations with HINARI and SORT IT were initiated, and with the European Public Health Association Section on Public Health Practice/Policy and on Health System Research.

The EVIPNet Europe Starter Kit, the SA Manual and the virtual forum on Yammer are the Network’s latest tools and will be available in 2016, while more are in the pipeline.

Based on the successful activities in 2015, key activities in 2016 will be

- continuing capacity-building activities strengthened by a creating a resource group of trainers;
- raising awareness and commitment for EVIPNet Europe at global, regional and country levels through publications and attendance at conferences;
- further engaging and managing partnerships in support of EVIPNet Europe through WHO collaborating centres;
- further collaborating with the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies;
- establishing links with the WHO Health Evidence Network, Panorama and CARInfonet;
- strengthening the collaboration with the EVIPNet Europe Steering Group and creating both an internal and an external steering group;
- discovering new areas of KT interventions (such as civil society engagement); and
- ensuring exchange and interaction with EVIPNet globally and in other WHO regions.

EVIPNet Europe will continue to work towards creating environments more favourable for EIP while deepening and expanding the Network.
References


