
The work during the third and final year of the project was organised around the following work packages (WP):

1. Designing a tool for reviewers in HPSR where relevant methodological and practical resources will be available (similar to the NorthStar tool developed by the Rebeqi project (http://www.rebeqi.org/) and adapted by the SUPPORT Collaboration http://www.support-collaboration.org/).
2. Developing a database of primary studies in HPSR useful for reviewers in the field.
3. Producing a briefing note about synthesis methods in HPSR.

WP 1: Designing a tool for reviewers in HPSR where relevant methodological and practical resources will be available

We have designed a tool for reviewers in HPSR where a number of relevant methodological and practical resources for planning and conducting a systematic review in this field are available. Building on previous developments – NorthStar tool for designing quality improvement interventions (available at http://www.rebeqi.org/ and an updated version at http://www.support-collaboration.org/), and the Practihc Trial protocol tool for designing pragmatic randomized trials in health care (available at http://www.practihc.org/toolindex.htm) – the tool was designed in a Windows help interface in which a page for each stage of the review process was designed including sub-sections for things to consider, examples, references, useful resources and further reading. The emphasis in each section considered our previous work on identifying methodological changes in the conduct of this type of review in LMICs. The tool is accessible on the web at http://199.85.212.11/~msotod/tpantoja/ and a MSWord document with the content is attached as Appendix 1. The next stage – as previously agreed – should be its evaluation by staff of one of the Thematic Centres (e.g. ICDDR,B) and by one Northern Collaborator (e.g. Sandy Oliver at the EPPI-Centre, London). It should be noted that this is work in progress and we will be incorporating new material, resources and examples until – at least – June 2011.

WP 2: Developing a database of primary studies in HPSR useful for reviewers in the field.

A database has been built collecting 313 of the systematic reviews on the Health Systems Evidence and their respective primary studies. The preliminary version of the database is available on the web at www.epistemonikos.org and specific details of its structure and search engine are presented in the Appendix 2. Although the original plan established that 1,000 reviews will be uploaded in the database we realized that the task was more time-consuming than expected especially in the case of non-Cochrane systematic reviews. However, we plan to continue this work with different sources of funding during 2011 in
order to obtain a more comprehensive database of studies, review and review-derived products in this area.

**WP 3: Producing a briefing note about synthesis methods in HPSR.**

We have drafted a briefing note about synthesis methods in systematic reviews of HPSR based on our experience in identifying methodological challenges and the collection of resources done in the context of WP1. The draft is presented as Appendix 3.

**Other products and activities**

**Website**

We have refined and uploaded a refined version of our website currently available at [http://unipss.cl/](http://unipss.cl/). Most of the materials are presented in English and Spanish and we expect in the near future to upload there many of the resources and products we have collected and developed along this project.

**Knowledge translation**

Our team has been active in the development of the Capacity Building strategy for EVIPNet in the Region (Americas). We have led the development of an EVIPNet introductory module to be used on the web by teams in the Region, and we have run the following activities in this area during the year 2010:

(i) a workshop for the elaboration of a policy brief on non-communicable diseases in Asuncion, Paraguay between March 22 and 25.
(ii) a workshop for the elaboration of a policy brief on violence & injuries in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad & Tobago between June 28 and 30.
(iii) a workshop for policymakers and researchers on using research evidence in policymaking in Santiago, Chile on July 20 and 21.

Through these activities we have engaged some researchers and policymakers in our country in order to establish an initial network for linking research in health systems to policy in a more systematic way. Besides we will be conducting a Second workshop for the elaboration of policy briefs/policy dialogues for 7 EVIPNet teams in our Region next March with the Alliance sponsorship.

**Collaboration for synthesising health system evidence**

One of our members has participated in a couple of meetings where the establishment of a collaboration for synthesising health systems evidence has been discussed (October 2010 in London and November 2010 at Montreux). Although there has not been a specific discussion about the shape this collaboration could have, our team is willing to explore a more active role in this area in the following year.

**Teaching**

We have continued introducing issues related to systematic reviews in HPSR in different teaching activities at our institution mainly at post-graduate level: the Master of Epidemiology and Post-Graduate Diploma in Evidence-Based Health Care.