

## What is EVIPNet Europe?

EVIPNet stands for Evidence-Informed Policy Network; it was launched in 2005 as a response to a [WHA resolution](#) (WHA58.34). The network aims to promote partnerships at the national, regional and global level among health system policy-makers, researchers and other stakeholders to strengthen health systems and improve health outcomes through regular access, assessment, adaptation and use of context specific evidence. EVIPNet focuses with its work on low- and middle-income countries.

The regional network ‘**EVIPNet Europe**’ was created in October 2012. With a vision of a Europe in which high-quality, context-sensitive evidence routinely informs health system decision-making, EVIPNet Europe supports governments to implement the World Health Organization’s new European policy framework – Health 2020 – and its goals: reducing health inequalities and improving health for all by fostering and promoting a knowledge translation culture. EVIPNet Europe in particular promotes and applies the Health 2020 principles “whole-of society” and “whole-of-government”.

## What is Knowledge Translation and what are Knowledge Translation Platforms?

WHO defines knowledge translation as “the synthesis, exchange and application of knowledge by relevant stakeholders to accelerate the benefits of global and local innovation in strengthening health systems and improving people’s health”<sup>1</sup>.

A Knowledge Translation Platform (KTP) is the fundamental unit of EVIPNet operating as knowledge brokers at country level.

KTPs consist of:



KTPs perform the following five operational objectives:

1. improve the culture for and practice of research evidence creation, adaptation and use;
2. influence processes and mechanisms supporting the prioritization of timely and relevant research evidence;
3. package and disseminate research evidence;
4. convene national dialogues about priority health challenges; and
5. enhance capacity to find and use research evidence.

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<sup>1</sup>World Health Organization (2012). Knowledge Translation Framework for Ageing and Health. Department of Ageing and Life-Course. Geneva: World Health Organization.

## How does EVIPNet Europe work?

EVIPNet operates on three distinct, yet closely interconnected levels:

1. the global level, at which the global EVIPNet Secretariat within WHO Geneva coordinates and supports the country and regional levels, and reaches out to funders and stakeholders.
2. the regional level, at which (i) KTPs interact with each other to share experiences, lessons learned and innovative approaches, and (ii) support is provided by the regional EVIPNet Secretariats.
3. the country level, at which country KTPs plan and implement knowledge translation activities adapted to the local context, such as outlined in the EVIPNet action cycle.

Diagramme 1: EVIPNet action cycle



**Step 1: setting priorities for local health system policy issues.**

**Step 2: seeking evidence on a defined health priority issue** (i.e. retrieval, mapping and appraisals of the evidence, and examination of the findings in terms of local applicability, while taking related benefits, damage, costs and equity into consideration).

**Step 3: summarizing evidence and package the relevant information in a user-friendly format**, e.g. an evidence brief for policy which frames the policy priority issue, outlines the evidence relevant to a policy issue, along with the important health system governance, delivery and financial considerations for viable policy options and key implementation considerations.

**Step 4: convening a deliberative dialogue**, to capture the tacit knowledge, views and experiences of those who will be involved in or affected by decision-making about the policy issue; and identify key next steps for different constituencies.

**Step 5: supporting policy choice and implementation.**

**Step 6: monitoring and evaluation** of activities.