

## Evidence-informed Policy Network (EVIPNet) Europe

*Stakeholder consultation meeting, Chişinău, the Republic of Moldova, 17–18 June 2014*



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### Introduction

EVIPNet Europe is an initiative of the WHO Regional Office for Europe. It aims to increase country capacity in developing health policies informed by the best available research evidence – in line with and support of "Health 2020" (1). EVIPNet Europe institutionalizes knowledge translation (KT) – the process of fostering research use in policy-making – through the establishment of national country teams (so-called knowledge translation platforms). These groups plan and implement KT activities at country level. The following summarizes the stakeholder consultation meeting in the Republic of Moldova (MDA).

### Situation analysis

EVIPNet Europe was launched in 2012 and initiated a pilot phase in three countries (MDA, Slovenia and Tajikistan) to test the feasibility of the EVIPNet methodology. The pilot activities begin with a situation analysis (SA), which aims to increase understanding about interactions among a country's research and policy-making communities to determine where and how best to establish the national country team. The SA findings will help to identify:

- how the key characteristics of the country might influence the development and institutionalization of a country team ;
- the functions of the national health research and policy-making systems that could influence evidence-informed policy-making (EIP) at a national level;
- governance structure and processes of health systems research and opportunities to promote EIP; and
- opportunities for collaboration with key actors in strengthening research–policy interactions.

### National dialogue to validate SA findings

In MDA, two national consultants conducted the SA between February and June 2014. The stakeholder consultation meeting was held to validate the SA findings and strategize the establishment of a country team. The meeting objectives were to:

- inform key stakeholders about the SA key findings;
- enable dialogue and engagement on the SA;

- identify specific opportunities and challenges for the country team establishment; and
- brainstorm on national issues and priorities.

### Outputs of the stakeholder meeting

The stakeholder meeting yielded outputs that are context specific and relevant to the current EIP landscape in MDA. They delivered the following outputs:

- the validation of the SA findings;
- prioritized opportunities, challenges and recommendations;
- a list of potential host locations;
- selection criteria for location of the country team;
- a list of potential influential stakeholders on the country team;
- potential members for the Steering Group, an advisory function for the country team; and
- a first draft of terms of reference for the national steering committee.

### Opportunities and barriers

Some of the key challenges identified included (i) a lack of system and organization for centralizing and sharing scientific evidence, (ii) a lack of enforcement of the Code of Science and Innovation on EIP, (iii) limited research on health systems, and (iv) limited collaboration between researchers and policy-makers. Key opportunities to catalyse EIP and secure a country team are to build upon the existing policy consultation practices, including round-table and health forums, and to increase civil society involvement. The full report will further elaborate recommendations for actions for each opportunity and barrier.

### The proposed strategy on the establishment of a country team in MDA

- **Establish an ad hoc team** to take advantage of the current momentum to develop an evidence brief for policy and conduct a policy dialogue, which will help to demonstrate and pilot the process and effectiveness of EVIPNet approaches and make the work of EVIPNet Europe more tangible and visible. The Ministry of Health is to identify and propose a subject area for the evidence brief based on the available evidence.
- **Create a steering committee** comprising key EIP stakeholders to take the findings of the SA forward and explore next steps in the establishment of the country team.

### Reference

1. WHO Regional Office for Europe. Health 2020: a European policy framework and strategy for the 21st century. Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2013 (<http://www.euro.who.int/en/publications/abstracts/health-2020-a-european-policy-framework-and-strategy-for-the-21st-century>, accessed 6 May 2015).
2. WHO Regional Office for Europe. EVIPNet Europe first stakeholder consultation meeting in the Republic of Moldova, 17–18 June 2014. Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2014 (unpublished report, available upon request).