


EVIPNET EUROPE STRATEGIC PLAN 2013–2017

Despite significant investments in health research worldwide, there remains a considerable imbalance between what is scientifically known and what is translated into policy throughout the world. To close the research-to-policy gap, EVIPNet Europe – a regional arm of the global Evidence-informed Policy Network (EVIPNet) – was launched in October 2012 by the WHO Regional Office for Europe.

EVIPNet Europe supports governments to implement WHO'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 (KT) culture. To this end, EVIPNet Europe:

- is a network of communities of practice, supporting evidence-informed policy-making (EIP) in the Region;
- promotes and applies two of the core Health 2020 principles: “whole-of society” and “whole-of-government”;
- increases country capacity to develop EIP on health system priorities;

- functions as a cross-society, multistakeholder partnership between health policy-makers, researchers and civil society;
- enhances countries' abilities to develop a transparent and responsive public sector that is prepared to respond to citizens who are holding their governments accountable for decision-making;
- routinely draws upon the best practices and lessons learnt from other EVIPNet regional networks around the world; and
- works directly with – and seek to influence through its network of country teams – funders of health research so that they might better respond to on-the-ground needs and realities.

EVIPNet Europe strives towards a phased implementation plan that follows four strategic directions.

1. **Support KT networks.** EVIPNet Europe will assist in the establishment of country teams, which are national networks dedicated to strengthening innovative health partnerships among researchers, policy-makers and civil society in their respective

Vision

EVIPNet Europe envisions a Region in which high-quality, context-sensitive evidence routinely informs health decision-making processes, which ultimately serve to strengthen health outcomes across the region.

Mission

The mission is to foster, expand and strengthen networks supporting evidence-informed decision-making. These networks of health policy-makers, managers, researchers, members of civil society, practitioners and international actors (among others) will operate on multiple levels. Collectively, these networks will advance EIP, regularly accessing, appraising and applying context-sensitive research evidence.

Values

The values underpinning this work include the following.

Equity: strengthening of pro-poor, pro-equity health systems able to offer accessible, high-quality services to all.
Trust and mutual respect: promoting sustainable partnerships based on trust, commitment, routine communication and open access to information.

Empowerment: respecting and promoting the sovereignty, priorities, and needs of individuals, institutions, national governments and regions; empowering members to work together to develop their full potential in pursuit of EIP.



countries in order to enhance EIP. These country-level teams will be complemented wherever required and made feasible by the establishment and/or strengthening of regional and subnational networks.

2. **Strengthen KT capacity.** Recognizing the limited capacity of KT in the region, EVIPNet Europe will provide technical assistance, mentorships and exchanges, plus routine capacity-building workshops to improve the skill base of its network members.
3. **Support KT innovations.** EVIPNet Europe facilitates the development of KT strategies and tools tailored to the priorities of the countries in the WHO European Region.
4. **Catalyse KT at regional and national levels.** EVIPNet Europe promotes awareness and creates a commitment to improve the culture and practice of KT and EIP. EVIPNet Europe recognizes that country teams will be most successful and sustainable in regional and national environments that value the contribution of KT in health systems research and policy.

EVIPNet Europe will employ two cross-cutting strategies to accomplish these strategic directions (Fig. 1): improve access to relevant national and international knowledge resources, and share experiences and self-evaluation of KT models to ensure that EVIPNet Europe continually learns from its experience.

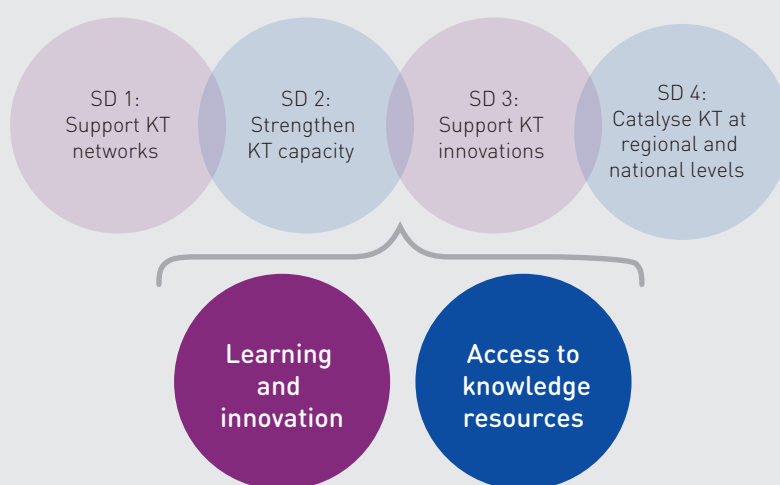
From the *Strategic Plan 2013–2017*, EVIPNet Europe anticipates the following achievements:

- vibrant communities of country teams where institutions and individuals actively exchanging knowledge and experiences in their networked response to complex health system research, policy and practice issues;
- effective issue-, stakeholder- or language-specific KT networks;
- innovative KT methods and techniques adapted to the European context; and
- skilled KT practitioners and institutions.

Partnerships: fostering dynamic partnerships between governments, nongovernmental and community organizations, civil society, science and academe, the private sector and health professionals to amplify and prioritize the perspectives of the member countries.

Sustainability: believing that the changes it seeks to bring must be sustainable in the long term.

FIG. 1
CROSS-CUTTING THEMES SUPPORTING EACH STRATEGIC DIRECTION



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THE WHO REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE

The World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations created in 1948 with the primary responsibility for international health matters and public health.

The WHO Regional Office for Europe is one of six regional offices throughout the world, each with its own programme geared to the particular health conditions of the countries it serves.

MEMBER STATES

Albania	Finland	Malta	Slovenia
Andorra	France	Monaco	Spain
Armenia	Georgia	Montenegro	Sweden
Austria	Germany	Netherlands	Switzerland
Azerbaijan	Greece	Norway	Tajikistan
Belarus	Hungary	Poland	The former
Belgium	Iceland	Portugal	Yugoslav
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ireland	Republic of Moldova	Republic of Macedonia
Bulgaria	Israel	Romania	Turkey
Croatia	Italy	Russian	Turkmenistan
Cyprus	Kazakhstan	Federation	Ukraine
Czech Republic	Kyrgyzstan	San Marino	United Kingdom
Denmark	Latvia	Serbia	Uzbekistan
Estonia	Lithuania	Slovakia	
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