

Call for Expression of Interest to serve as Cochrane trainer supporting the knowledge translation capacity building initiative of the World Health Organization (WHO) Evidence-informed Policy Network (EVIPNet) Europe

EVIPNet is a [global initiative](#) by the WHO with the aim of increasing country capacity in developing health policies informed by the best available research evidence (more information below). In the WHO European Region, it is a capacity building mechanism of the European Health Information Initiative.

Cochrane is a non-governmental organization in official relations with WHO. WHO/PAHO and Cochrane are already joining efforts to support and promote the usage of systematic reviews in evidence-informed health decision-making. To further strengthen the collaboration also in the WHO European Region, Cochrane will facilitate the delivery of WHO capacity building activities provided to EVIPNet Europe countries, building on its strength of producing systematic reviews. To commence this collaboration, Cochrane contributors are sought, who are interested in contributing their technical and training skills to advance evidence-informed policy making in Europe. Selected Cochrane contributors will first of all benefit from a WHO train-the-trainer (TTT) programme, after which they will co-facilitate up to three EVIPNet Europe workshops per year.

All expressions of interest shall be emailed to euevipnet@who.int, with “TTT to serve as Cochrane trainer supporting capacity building efforts of the WHO EVIPNet Europe” in the email’s subject line. Please enclose your CV and a brief letter of motivation (maximum one page) describing your skills and experience as they relate to the core and specific areas of expertise. This is a unique opportunity to join an inspiring network of evidence-informed policy-making in Europe, and to contribute your skills to evidence-informed decision-making.

For more information on the collaboration, please see below or contact:

WHO Regional Office for Europe

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Cochrane

- Sylvia de Haan, Partnerships Coordinator at Cochrane, sdehaan@cochrane.org
- Dario Sambunjak, Learning and Support Officer, dsambunjak@cochrane.org

1. Objectives of the capacity building initiative

Given Cochrane’s and EVIPNet Europe’s complementary nature of work, the objective of this initiative is to create a pool of regional trainers that can support EVIPNet Europe’s 19 member countries in developing national capacity in evidence-informed policy-making (EIP). Future WHO EVIPNet Europe capacity building workshops are foreseen to be co-facilitated by a Cochrane and an EVIPNet member both trained in EIP methodologies, each building on their comparative advantages. These future workshops shall focus on the development of Evidence Briefs for Policy.

EVIPNet key tool: Evidence Briefs for Policy

An Evidence Brief for Policy starts with a priority policy issue and then draws on the best available global research evidence (usually systematic reviews) alongside local data and studies that address the local context and realities.

2. Benefits of the initiative

Participants in this initiative would become part of the EVIPNet pool of trainers and provide trainings for EVIPNet Europe members in Eastern European and Central Asian countries¹. Cochrane and its contributors could benefit from the close collaboration with countries incl. senior policy-makers and technical experts, expanding their technical and facilitation skills in EIP, as well as by becoming part of a global, vibrant network. Furthermore, the participants of the initiative, in addition to providing facilitation during future workshops, can also learn about research to policy debates elaborated during these workshops. This learning may inform their work in their own national and institutional settings.

3. The EVIPNet Europe capacity building initiative Phase 1: Train the trainers:

- Who: Cochrane contributors, EVIPNet Europe “national champions”
- Objective: to train and enable Cochrane contributors and EVIPNet Europe “national champions” to become EVIPNet Europe facilitators
- Facilitator: Senior expert with long-standing, international experience with EVIPNet
- Training blocks: A sequence of online training sessions (via webinars) towards the end of 2016/beginning of 2017 and a face-to-face TTT workshop in spring 2017.
- Methods: Lectures, panels, debates, presentations, films, discussions, brainstorming, readings, role-plays, simulation games, task groups, case studies, demonstrations and other interactive methods to train facilitation skills.
- Add-on: EVIPNet Europe “national champions” who are 1) implementing EVIPNet, its activities and tools on national level and 2) experienced in facilitating related trainings, will be present during the TTT workshop for peer-support and to increase participants’ learning.

4. The EVIPNet Europe capacity building initiative Phase 2: workshop facilitation

Following the TTT programme, the Cochrane contributors are expected to (as EVIPNet Europe facilitators):

- Facilitate of up to 3 EVIPNet Europe workshops per year (2.5-4 day workshop) over a period of at least three years
- Prepare the workshop(s) with the help of the EVIPNet Europe TTT facilitation guide (presentations and content are already prepared, but might have to be adapted to the local context) (<1 day preparation)
- Conduct of follow-up activities if required, e.g. support participants in the development of an Evidence Brief for Policy (<2 days follow-up activities)

5. Support by the WHO Secretariat of EVIPNet Europe

The WHO Secretariat of EVIPNet Europe provides continuous support as required to backup participants/future facilitators in the best way possible:

- EVIPNet Europe TTT facilitation guide: The content of the guide can either be used as a blue-print, or if desired slightly adapted to the local context, e.g. enriched with additional examples.
- The WHO Secretariat will:
 - a. Provide technical support and facilitate interaction within the Network; and
 - b. Invite participants to join the EVIPNet Europe online community on a platform called *Yammer* which will allow them to interact with members and facilitators of the Network, as well as to share knowledge and lessons learned
- Exchange and mentoring with senior facilitators

¹ Albania, Bulgaria, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine

6. Requirements to participate in the capacity building initiative

Participants should meet the below requirements (essential and desirable) to be eligible for taking part in the training, and to make the most of this opportunity:

- Being Cochrane contributor from the WHO European Region (essential)
- Master-level degree or PhD in public health/health systems/health policy, or related fields (essential)
- Relevant work experience with research and/or policy (essential)
- Excellent language skills in English (verbally and in writing) (essential)
- Experience and skills in conducting systematic reviews (essential)
- Experience and skills in training on systematic reviews, scientific communication, knowledge translation or facilitating networks of practice (desirable)

7. Remuneration and budget

The following costs can be borne by the EVIPNet Europe Secretariat at the WHO Regional Office for Europe

- Travel costs for the TTT workshop and up to 3 EVIPNet Europe workshops per year
- Per diem
- <2 days of follow-up activities (remunerated according to WHO remuneration standards) to support the EVIPNet Europe members in implementing the newly acquired skills and knowledge, if required

8. References

EVIPNet Europe - key documents:

- [Strategic Plan 2013-17](#)
- [Brochure](#)
- [Flyer](#)
- [Q&A](#)
- [Success story from the Republic of Moldova](#)
- [Report from the third multicountry meeting, Trakai, Lithuania, 2015](#)

Website: www.euro.who.int/en/evipnet; www.global.evipnet.org

Annex:

Background

The following provides a first overview of EVIPNet Europe, its development, goals and activities. For more information, please consult the reference list at the end of this document or get in touch with your contact persons at the WHO Regional Office for Europe (below).

EVIPNet's development

Over the last few years, increased international attention has been attributed to bridging the gap between health research and policy-making. In 2005, the World Health Organization (WHO) launched EVIPNet with the aim to empower and strengthen country policy-makers, researchers and civil society to use evidence in policy-making. Influenced by the successful implementation in other regions, the WHO Regional Office for Europe (WHO/Europe) established its regional network in October 2012: EVIPNet Europe, which supports the implementation of the new European policy framework Health 2020 and the European Health Information Initiative.

"I would highlight two very simple benefits [from EVIPNet Europe]. One is the improved access to systematized tools and methods for using more evidence in policy-making and knowledge translation, and the other is the excellent platform for networking with and learning from other experts involved in EIP."

Marge Reinap, Head of WHO Country Office, Estonia

What does EVIPNet Europe do?

EVIPNet Europe focuses on national empowerment to address policy challenges in the participating countries. With the understanding that each country needs to develop its own capacity in EIP, EVIPNet Europe aims to support national stakeholders in gaining knowledge, skills and experience in fostering the systematic and transparent use of evidence in health policy-making.

Promoting an environment favourable to the systematic use of evidence in policy-making requires continuity and a larger scale of human resources able to find and use research evidence to inform work related to prioritizing problems and developing and implementing policies and programs.

EVIPNet Europe's capacity building activities

Capacity building activities are the heart of EVIPNet Europe, taking place on national and multi-country level. Capacity building activities can be related to finding, appraising and using evidence, or link to a certain methodology like writing evidence briefs for policies, or organizing and facilitating policy dialogues.

Participants of EVIPNet Europe workshops include a wide range

of stakeholders such as public health planners, health system managers and health researchers. The primary objectives of the workshops are to strengthen the participants' capacity to a) acquire, assess, adapt and apply research evidence, and b) at a fundamental level, prepare evidence briefs for policy and organize policy dialogues. By the end of the workshops, participants will have a greater knowledge and skills in EIP and more specifically to EVIPNet's methodologies and their application.



EVIPNet Europe TTT in Slovenia, 2014 (c) WHO

EVIPNet Europe workshops are based on the principle that in order to sustain the learning, participants need to be active and have time to reflect: it is centred on the learner. The role of the facilitator is not only to expertly present the material and guide participants through the various sessions, but to draw on and share the collective knowledge among the participants. This approach will make it more relevant to the participants and thus increase the likelihood of having a lasting impact.

EVIPNet training workshops worldwide

As a global network, EVIPNet capacity building workshops have been ongoing for more than 10 years throughout the world. The workshops have always received very good evaluations by their participants who are now working as facilitators globally – using the skills they acquired and receiving follow-up support by WHO.