



World Health  
Organization

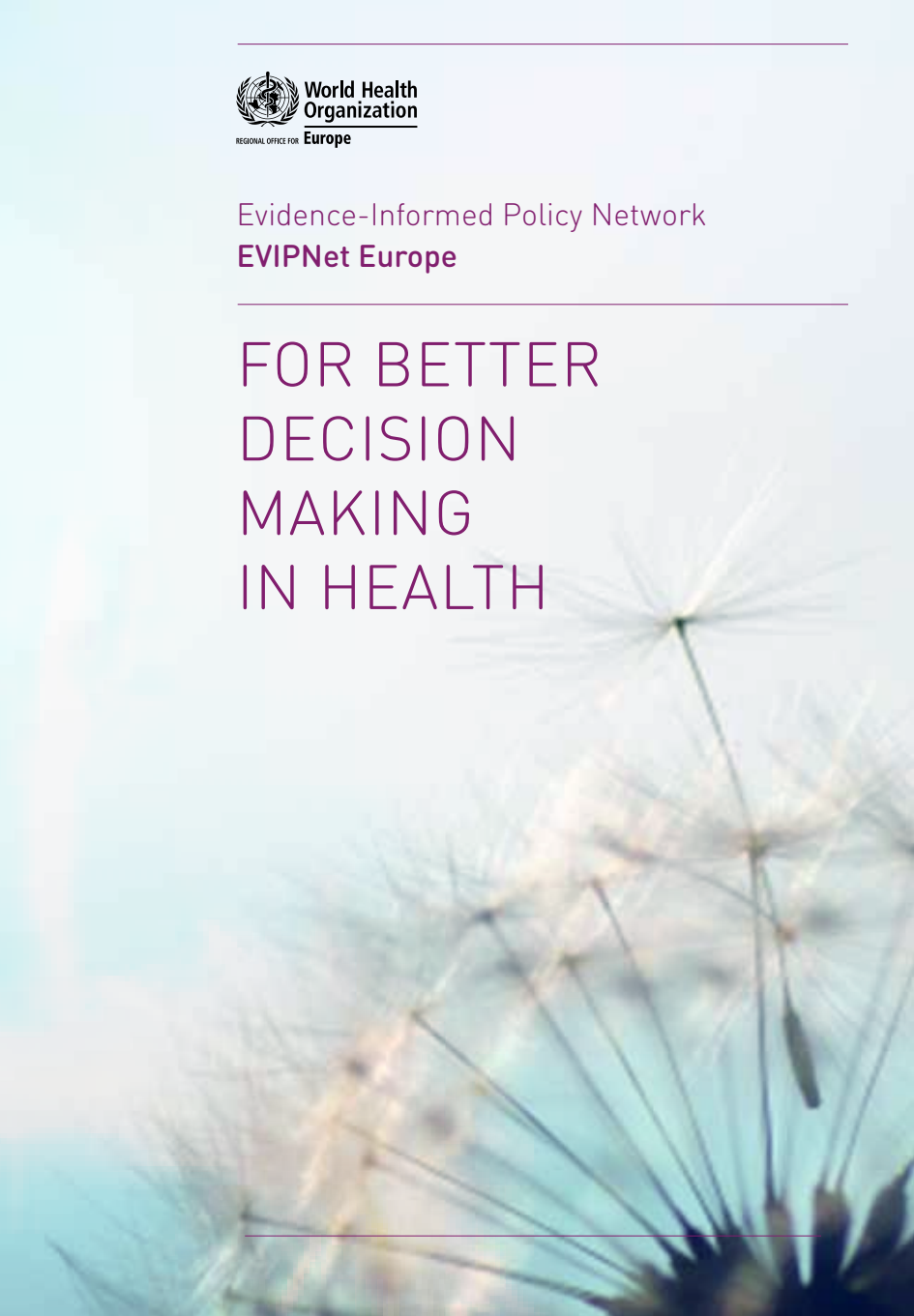
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR  
Europe

Evidence-Informed Policy Network  
**EVIPNet Europe**

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FOR BETTER  
DECISION  
MAKING  
IN HEALTH

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# LINKING RESEARCH TO ACTION WITH THE BEST AVAILABLE EVIDENCE

The **Evidence-Informed Policy Network (EVIPNet)** is a WHO initiative that promotes the systematic use of health research evidence in policy-making.

## WHY IS IT NEEDED?

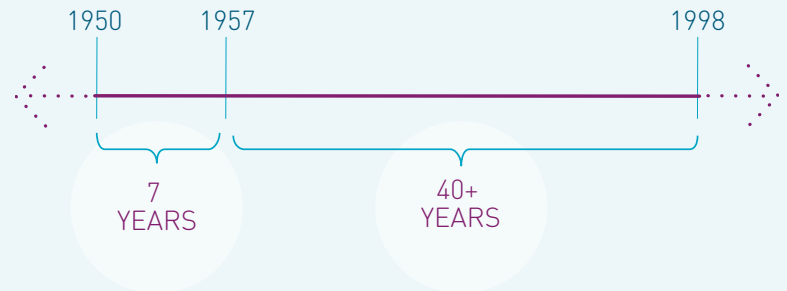
Commercial lobbies and political dynamics, among other factors, too often influence and distort research and decision-making.

For example, by 1950 evidence already showed a direct link between cigarette smoking and lung cancer. Nevertheless, the first legislative action was not taken until 1957 and ministries of health from around the world took more than 40 years to give WHO the mandate to establish the Tobacco Free Initiative in 1998. Five years later, this evolved into the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC). **Five million deaths a year could have been saved in that time.**

**With EVIPNet Europe actively linking research and policy, delays between producing and applying research will dramatically shorten.**

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## RESEARCH-POLICY GAP ON SMOKING CAUSING CANCER



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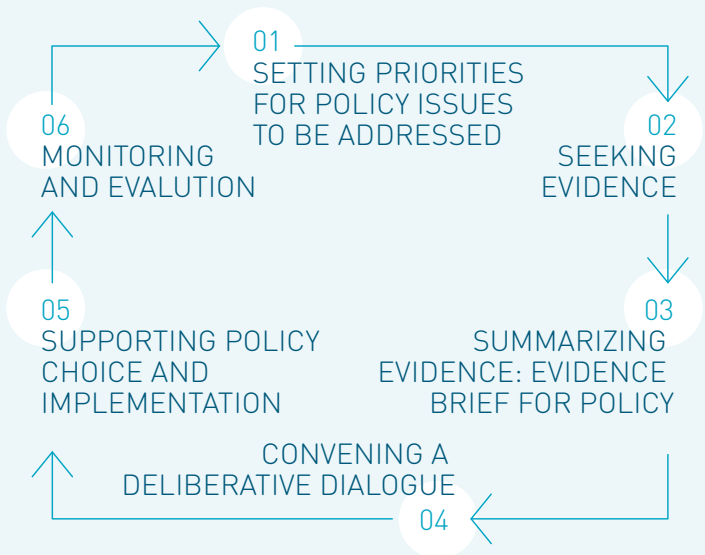
*Source:* WHO global report: mortality attributable to tobacco. Geneva; World Health Organization; 2012 ([http://www.who.int/tobacco/publications/surveillance/rep\\_mortality\\_attributable/en](http://www.who.int/tobacco/publications/surveillance/rep_mortality_attributable/en), accessed 4 June 2014).

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# WHAT IS EVIPNET EUROPE'S AIM?

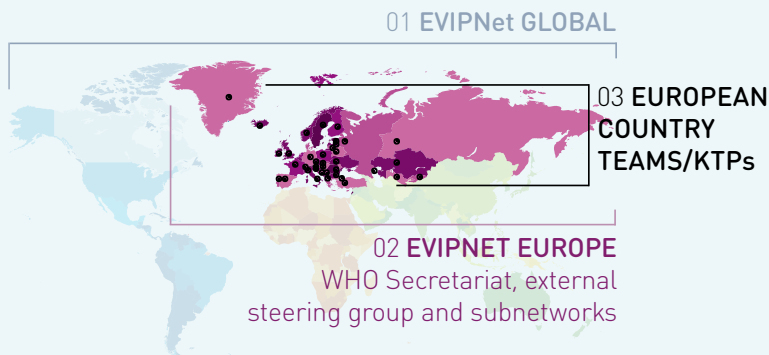
EVIPNet Europe is a *key support mechanism* for the implementation of the European policy framework Health 2020.

The knowledge translation platforms (KTPs) established through EVIPNet Europe will help countries to translate knowledge into policy as illustrated below:



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# GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE



Country KTPs are the fundamental unit of EVIPNet, driving national agendas for fostering evidence-informed policy-making.

At the regional level, EVIPNet brings members of these platforms together. Often sharing similar problems, they exchange their experiences and lessons learned. In the WHO European Region, the WHO Secretariat of EVIPNet Europe (advised by its steering group and subnetworks) give technical assistance to and empowers its KTPs in promoting evidence use in policy-making.

At the global level, EVIPNet brings together experts and institutions from around the world to design new approaches to knowledge into action, to determine best practices and to offer support for capacity building.

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# WHAT MAKES EVIPNET EUROPE STRONG?

EVIPNet Europe responds to Member States' needs to strengthen the use of research evidence in health system policy- and decision-making.

EVIPNet Europe benefits from WHO's leadership and experience in knowledge translation, including a wealth of lessons learned from EVIPNet's global implementation over the past decade, its tested tools and methodologies, and its explicit mandate in knowledge translation conferred by World Health Assembly resolution WHA 58.34 in 2005.

EVIPNet Europe successfully promotes partnerships and interactive approaches among health system policy-makers and other stakeholders, including researchers, civil society, funders and health professionals to increase the use of research evidence as a central input to policy-making.

EVIPNet Europe empowers countries through bottom-up approaches that strengthen countries' capacity for stewardship in evidence-informed policy-making.

In fostering a culture of evidence-informed policy-making, EVIPNet Europe promotes:

- (i) a more transparent, participatory decision-making culture, which increases citizens' trust in government; and
- (ii) the development of policies that lead to better health outcomes for populations.

WHO is widely trusted for its technical and scientific expertise and normative work, and works closely with the highest levels of decision-makers within national ministries of health. An impartial broker, WHO has conferred legitimacy and convening power to EVIPNet's members at the national and global levels.

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# LINKING RESEARCH TO ACTION!

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Find more information  
on EVIPNet Europe  
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