



**Autumn School of Health Information and
Evidence for Policy-making**
Location tbc
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DRAFT

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Scope and purpose

Health information is essential for the assessment of a country's health situation and needs, the development of national health plans and programmes and the monitoring and evaluation of progress towards goals and objectives. This is particularly relevant in the WHO European Region, where sound health information is required in order to monitor the implementation of Health 2020, the European health policy framework, which encompasses six overarching targets and a series of indicators. This makes health information an indispensable resource for the support of policy-makers. The availability of health information alone, however, is not sufficient to ensure its usefulness; the optimal quality of such information is equally important. Improving the quality of information and translating this into policy require an understanding of common issues that affect quality, comparability and appropriate approaches for reporting.

A large number of national and international organizations, networks and projects are active in the European Region in the area of public health information, monitoring and reporting. However, the expertise in this field is heavily fragmented and largely undisclosed in international scientific literature. In general, there is a lack of central collection, integration and dissemination of existing health information knowledge, as well as tools, methods and examples of good practice.

The WHO Regional Office for Europe, through its Division of Information, Evidence, Research and Innovation, has established the Autumn School of Health information and Evidence for Policy-making, which seeks to improve national capacity in the use of relevant health information and the generation of evidence to address country-specific questions and issues. The set of targets and indicators defined for Health 2020 receives a particular focus.

To this end, a five-day course which addresses the full cycle of public health monitoring and reporting has been developed. It is aimed at participants working at the interface of data analysis, research and knowledge integration and policy.

The learning methods of the course will include a combination of lectures, exercises and group work. The exercises will be based, to the extent possible, on national, regional or local data, as well as issues and questions raised by participants from their personal work environment.

Overall aims

Participants will explore the full chain from data to policy recommendations for the Health 2020 indicators, using data from their own country as far as possible. This includes:

- discussing national health information system components;
- learning about public health indicators in general and the Health 2020 targets, indicators and monitoring framework in particular;
- acquiring knowledge of data needs and methods for monitoring health inequalities;
- assessing available data sources for Health 2020 indicators and the quality of the data arising from such sources;
- learning about quality criteria for health reporting and about making policy recommendations in line with Health 2020 priorities; and
- gaining knowledge of tools and good practices for narrowing the gap between research and policy-making, with a focus on the translation of evidence into policy.

Throughout the course, participants will be requested to link the knowledge that they have acquired to a schematic overview of their national health information system, prepared prior to the course. The course will therefore result in insights and solutions for improving national health information systems that are directly applicable to the participants' national situations.

Participant profile

This course is aimed at public health experts working at the interface of health information and/or evidence and policy. These are experts who are engaged in data analysis and health information synthesis in order to inform policy-making, in reporting health information to the Health Ministry and/or in advising the Ministry on the basis of health information. They may be experts from health information and statistics departments of ministries of health, public health institutes, universities, comparable knowledge institutes or national statistics offices.

The course is not aimed at experts who are primarily involved in the collection and processing of health data, such as statisticians and database administrators.

The Autumn School seeks to stimulate broad capacity-building in Member States and, as such, is set up as a basic training course with a fixed programme. As a result, it is aimed at new participants each year.