



**Autumn School of Health Information and Evidence
for Policy-making
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Scope and purpose

Health information is essential to assess country health situation and needs, develop national health plans and programmes, and monitor and evaluate progress towards goals and objectives. This is particularly relevant in the WHO European Region where solid health information is required to monitor the implementation of the health policy framework Health 2020, which encompasses six overarching targets and a series of indicators. This makes health information an indispensable resource to support policy makers. Health information availability alone, however, is not sufficient to guarantee its usefulness; optimal quality of this information is equally important. Improving the quality of information, and translating this into policy requires an understanding of common issues affecting 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 the international scientific literature. Central collection, integration and dissemination of existing health information knowledge, as well as tools, methods and good practice examples are lacking for the most part.

The World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe, through its Division of Information, Evidence, Research and Innovation (DIR), has established the Autumn School on “Health Information and Evidence for Policy-making” which aims to improve national capacity in the use of relevant health information and 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 addressing 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/knowledge integration and policy.

The learning methods of the course will include a mixture of lectures, exercises and group work. The exercises will be based as much as possible on national (or regional/local) data, as well as problems and questions brought in by the participants from their personal work environment.

Aims of the course

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

- discussing national health information system components
- learning about public health indicators in general and the Health 2020 targets and indicators and monitoring framework in particular;
- learning about data needs and methods for monitoring health inequalities;
- assessing available data sources for Health 2020 indicators and assessing the quality of the data coming from these sources;
- learning about quality criteria for health reporting and making policy recommendations on Health 2020 priorities;
- learning about tools and good practices for narrowing the gap between research and policymaking and focusing on the translation of evidence into policy.

Throughout the course, participants will be asked to link what they have learned to a schematic overview of their national health information systems which they have prepared prior to the course. Thus the course will result in insights and solutions for improving the national health information systems that are directly applicable to the participants' national situations.

Participant profile

This course is aimed at public health experts working on the interface of health information/evidence and policy. This means experts who are engaged in data analysis and health information synthesis with the aim to inform policy making, reporting health information to the Ministry of Health and/or advising the Ministry of Health based on health information. These can be experts from for example health information and statistics departments of the Ministries of Health, public health institutes, universities and comparable "knowledge institutes" or national statistics offices.

The course is not aimed at experts who are mainly dealing with the collection and processing of health data, such as statisticians and database administrators.

The Autumn School aims to stimulate broad capacity building in the Member States and as such is set up as a basic training with a fixed programme. Therefore it aims at new participants each year.