

BRIDGE Health: BRIdging Information and Data Generation for Evidence-based Health Policy and Research.

The BRIDGE Health project answers to the call towards a sustainable health monitoring and reporting system in the DG SANTE Work Programme 2014 of the Public Health Programme of Community action in the field of health (2014-2020). Accordingly, the objective of BRIDGE Health is to work towards a European health information (EU-HI) and data generation networks covering major EU health policy areas by promoting the coordination and convergence of existing key projects in health information. The aim is to work towards a comprehensive, integrated and sustainable EU-HI supporting evidence-based health policy and research for the EU and MSs by providing blueprints and/or concepts of building blocks for a future EU-HI structure.

Throughout the project, BRIDGE Health aims to work on generic objectives. These objectives are the transversal layers throughout the project that bring together the expertise developed within each specific health information domain to tackle following generic objectives:

- ensure sustainability of key health information activities that have been run under the past EU-health and research framework programmes and enhance synergy among these activities;
- enhance the transferability of health information and data for policy and improve the utility and use of data and indicators for stakeholders in policy making, public health surveillance and health care;
- reduce health information inequality within the EU and within MSs;
- develop a blueprint for a sustainable and integrated EU Health information system by developing common methods for
 - (a) method of standardization of health information gathering and exchange between population health and health systems information within and between Member States;
 - (b) methods of standardization of data quality assurance systems;
 - (c) methods of health information priority settings and
 - (d) harmonization of ethic-legal issues.

The project bridges the best of the EU projects in domains of population and health system monitoring, indicator development, health examination surveys, environment and health, population injury and disease registries, clinical and administrative health data collection systems and methods of health systems monitoring and evaluation.

The project was launched in May 2015 and will be running for 30 months, delivering at midpoint a concept paper. The concept paper will include the scope, tasks, activities and governance structure, of a future EU-HI System Infrastructure. It will present the strengths and limitations of a set of possible structures. The concept paper will be presented in a form that can serve as a draft agreement between interested MS, candidate and EEA/EFTA countries and international organizations on the construction of a EU-HI infrastructure.