# National Nodes

In many EU Member States and associated countries, health information activities are scattered over several institutes. Regular coordination and communication among these institutes is often missing. This leads to duplication of activities, limited interoperability and linkage of data between institutes, inhibited exchange of data and loss of opportunities for supporting research or policy making.

The Joint Action on Health Information (InfAct, www.inf-act.eu, 2018-2021) and its successor, the Population Health Information Research Infrastructure (PHIRI, www.phiri.eu, 2020-2023), support European countries to overcome these barriers by setting up **National Nodes.** The central idea is to increase communication among key players in a systematic way. The National Node format is not fixed, but compatible and adaptable to the national organization of the health information system.

**Definition of a National Node:**

The National Node is an organizational entity, often linked to a national institution or governmental unit that functions as a national liaison and brings together relevant national stakeholders in the country in a systematic way. The relevant stakeholders may include, for example, the national statistical office, the national public health institutes, representatives from ministries of health, research and/or science, and others. In addition, the National Nodes may function as a discussion and advisory forum in matters of health data and information both for national or international matters. Examples include aspects of the governance of data, indicators and health reporting at the international level and health information stakeholders at national level.

National Nodes are foreseen to play a key role in the Population Health Information Research Infrastructure. The National Nodes would feed this Research infrastructure and its online Health Information Portal with relevant sources, data, experts, tools and guidelines. Vice versa, they would feed relevant international information to the country.

## ABOUT PHIRI:

The PHIRI project implements a Population Health Information Research Infrastructure, facilitating open, interconnected and data-oriented population health research across Europe. It aims to improve collaboration and exchange of good practices between European countries regarding collection, evaluation, accessibility and reuse of health data, and to promote sharing of expertise. In addition, it strives to provide better integration and strengthening of research networks and population health data sources in Europe, through metadata catalogues and trainings.

## ABOUT THE HEALTH INFORMATION PORTAL:

The Health Information Portal is a web based platform which is developed within InfAct and PHIRI as a basis for the Health Information Research Infrastructure. The portal will be the gateway for potential users to make use of the services of the Research Infrastructure. These include the catalogue for population health data, tools, experts, and guidelines; capacity building and trainings information; Innovation in health information tools and methodologies; and decision-making support.

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