The Distributed Infrastructure on Population Health (DIPoH)

In Europe, increased attention is given to better exchange of and access to health data, which is further highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Population health information combines the domains of health status, health determinants and healthcare systems performance at individual and population level. Effective secondary use of health information provides opportunities for comparative research across countries and over time to increase the knowledge base in Europe and underpin policy decision-making. This research requires a timely and topical supply of high quality health information.

DIPoH offers a European Infrastructure for population health information, facilitating open, interconnected and data-oriented population health research across Europe.

DIPoH has the following objectives:

- **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.**

- **To provide better integration and strengthening of research networks and population health data sources in Europe, through metadata catalogues and trainings.**

DIPoH provides researchers and policy-makers with four services:

1. **One-stop shop** for EU health information research: providing metadata catalogues on health and health care data sources, research networks, guidelines and tools. It facilitates access and (re-)use of European information on population health and health care systems.

2. Investing in **innovation** in health information development for population health research: supporting researchers in using pan-European health data in a distributed way, linking different data sources and making their research FAIR and ELSI compliant.

3. **Building capacity** to actively promote interoperability and tackle health information inequalities: encouraging exchange of best practices and expertise regarding population health and healthcare research starting from the phase of designing data collections to analysis, monitoring, reporting and curation. Dynamic training of the health research community involves both the data producers, data curators and data users.

4. Strengthening the health research community in developing methods for **knowledge translation research** to support decision-making processes: improving the health of the European citizens and increasing the efficiency of both our health care systems and policy decisions.

In its distributed nature, DIPoH operates through a central coordination office and builds on a backbone of national nodes that are spread across EU countries, and pan-European domain specific research networks and their research communities.

DIPoH is a product of the **Joint Action on Health Information** (www.inf-act.eu) and has applied to join the European Research Infrastructures landscape through a submission to the ESFRI roadmap 2021. DIPoH's expected yearly operational cost is 10M €.

DIPoH is currently supported by 15 European countries, and 8 research networks across Europe.

DIPoH's success has led to the implementation of **PHIRI** (www.phiri.eu),as a practical rollout of DIPoH in the area of COVID-19. Additionally, DIPoH will serve as a cornerstone for the implementation of the future European Health Data Space.

The DIPoH consortium is active in the new Joint Action for the European Health Data Space (TEHDAS), and European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) projects.

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