

WP2: INFODEMIC MANAGEMENT

At the same time as we are experiencing a pandemic, the world is also experiencing an “**infodemic**”: an overabundance of information (some accurate and some not) that occurs during an epidemic. In this situation, fake news and rumors (**misinformation**) appear on the scene, along with manipulation of information with doubtful or deliberately bad intent (**disinformation**). It becomes harder for people to find trustworthy sources and reliable guidance when they need it.

PHIRI, the Population Health Information Research Infrastructure, believes that the identification of best practices for handling the COVID-19 pandemic at public health and clinical management level should also include the **COVID-19 response to the infodemic**. In this regard, PHIRI is actively organizing different activities to discover **experiences, lessons learned and good practices** regarding the management of the COVID-19 infodemic and **build resilience** to mis/disinformation in citizens.

INFODEMIC MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

This workshop aimed to gather and present **experiences, lessons learned and good practices** on infodemic management during the COVID-19 pandemic in Europe. Infodemic management has been approached in many different ways in the European countries, depending on their capacity, the resources and the institutions involved. **What worked/did not? What profiles** were (or should have been) involved in infodemic management? **What tools** were useful? What could be done to **be prepared** for the next crisis? Find all the guests' presentations, recordings and much more in the dedicated [Goodie bag](#).



FACT-CHECKING COVID-19 WORKSHOP

Experts with different backgrounds (from masters of big data to journalists) presented **key contemporary topics** where communicating science to the general public is essential but not an easy task. Sequentially, experts from the University of Liverpool and the University of Dundee introduced the [Vaccinating News chatbot](#) – a tool which aims to increase **resistance to mis/disinformation in citizens** by teaching them how to spot **fallacies** (arguments that appear to be valid but are not) and identify **deceptive or misleading stories**. Read more about the tool and watch the recording of the event [here](#).



WORKSHOP AT THE EUROPEAN HEALTH FORUM GASTEIN (EHFG) 2021

A workshop at the EHFG covered the topic of misinformation in a broader framework. Available, accessible, reliable and comparable health data is key for protecting population health and managing health systems at stake. The question is, **does health data help to prevent mis- and disinformation or does it broaden the scope?** Or do we simply fail at communicating the right messages? The PHIRI workshop at the EHFG took place in September 2021. The recording of the meeting is available [here](#).

WHO TRAINING IN INFODEMIC MANAGEMENT

In order to **successfully address and mitigate** the current infodemic and promote more effective future response, the WHO organized a **full infodemic management training** to support the country pandemic preparedness. The PHIRI coordination team had the opportunity to join the training and connect with 254 people from 117 countries to develop further their understanding in infodemic management and continue in the development of infodemic activities within the PHIRI project. Read more about the training [here](#).

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