

# PHIRI

Population Health Information  
Research Infrastructure

# COVID-19 Health Information System assessments

Miriam Saso, Petronille Bogaert, Nienke  
Schutte and Marika Borg



[www.phiri.eu](http://www.phiri.eu)



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# COVID-19 Health Information System assessments

- Aim:
  - ✓ Map the **COVID-19 health information system (HIS)** that monitors the effects of COVID-19 on population health: identifying strengths and weaknesses
- Objectives
  - ✓ Learn from best practices
  - ✓ Capacity building: reducing health information inequalities
  - ✓ Recommendations for resilient HIS
- Assessors trained to use adapted [WHO tool](#)
- Covering: data collection, analysis, reporting, knowledge translation, governance & resources

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## WP3: COVID-19 HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEM ASSESSMENTS

Within PHIRI, *the Population Health Information Research Infrastructure*, Work Package 3 (WP), task 3.1 aims to map the health information systems (HIS) that monitor the effects of COVID-19 on population health. This assesses the COVID-19 health information flows in countries through virtual country visits.

The virtual country visits will be carried out in selected European countries that are part of the PHIRI consortium. After attending a workshop, assessors from several countries will perform targeted interviews with key national players that process COVID-19 population health information. The following domains will be covered: resources, indicators, data sources, data management, national HISs data quality/information products, and dissemination and use.

**WHY COVID-19 HIS ASSESSMENTS?**  
The assessments are expected to:

1. Result in the identification of strengths and weaknesses of the different data flows monitoring the wider effects of COVID-19 in the examined countries.
2. Provide opportunities for other countries to learn from the experiences that will be gained during the assessments, and build on these
3. Potentially identify data sources that may not have been used or fully exploited yet.
4. Create opportunities to engage and exchange with national HI stakeholders and authorities.
5. Contribute to capacity building in European countries, which in turn may lead to the reduction of health information inequalities between countries.

**WHEN ASSESSING THEIR OWN HEALTH INFORMATION DATA FLOWS.**

**HOW WILL THE COVID-19 HIS ASSESSMENTS BE ORGANIZED?**  
An adapted version of the *Health Information System assessment tool* (developed by the WHO Regional Office for Europe and adapted by *InfAct*) will be used to perform the assessments. Each assessment includes a preparatory desk report, interviews with local stakeholders, a final report including a SWOT analysis and SMART recommendations, and a follow-up stakeholder meeting. After the country visits, a one-pager will describe the COVID-19 HIS for population health in the country and a report will provide recommendations to support countries' health information systems' resilience.

**WHICH COUNTRIES WILL BE PART OF THE COVID-19 HIS ASSESSMENTS?**  
The assessments will be performed in Austria, Belgium, Greece, Hungary and Italy by the end of 2021 and extended beyond from 2022 onwards. Expressions of interest are welcome.

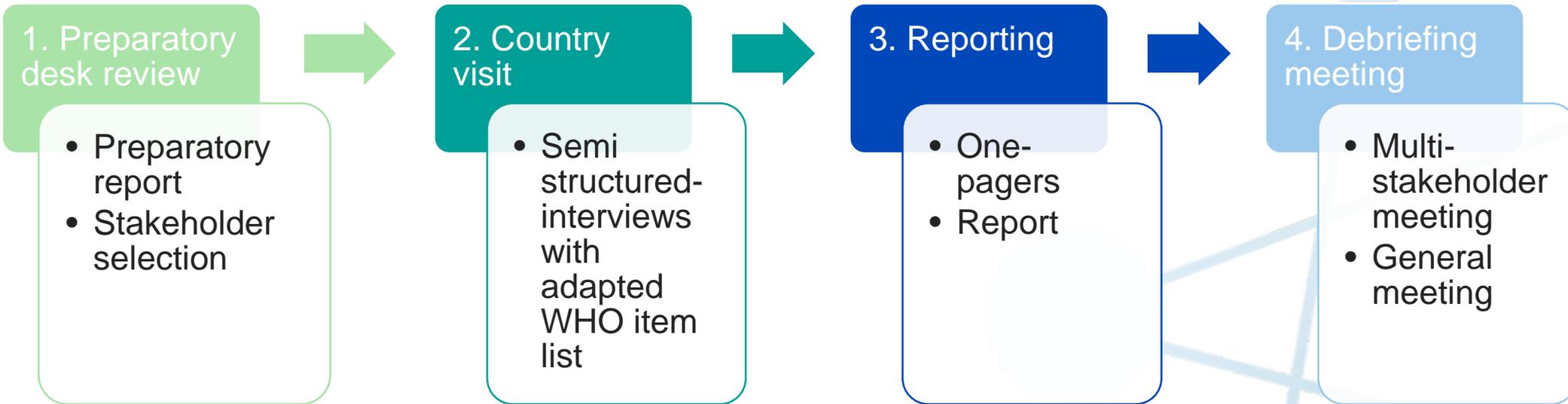
**WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT ROLES IN THE COVID-19 HIS ASSESSMENTS?**  
**Assessor:** act as independent, professional assessors, create engagement and carry out the assessment.  
**Observer:** provide support during the assessment based on previous experience with the assessment methodology and map potential overarching outcomes across the assessments.  
**Contact person(s) in the assessed country:** act as the national liaison during the assessment, provide the assessors with relevant documentation, organize the peer assessment (planning the meetings with the stakeholders).

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[PHIRI\\_coordination@sciensano.be](mailto:PHIRI_coordination@sciensano.be)  
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# Process



# Findings

## Assessments

-  Italy (December 2021 / January 2022) – 6 interviews
-  Portugal (March 2022) – 4 interviews

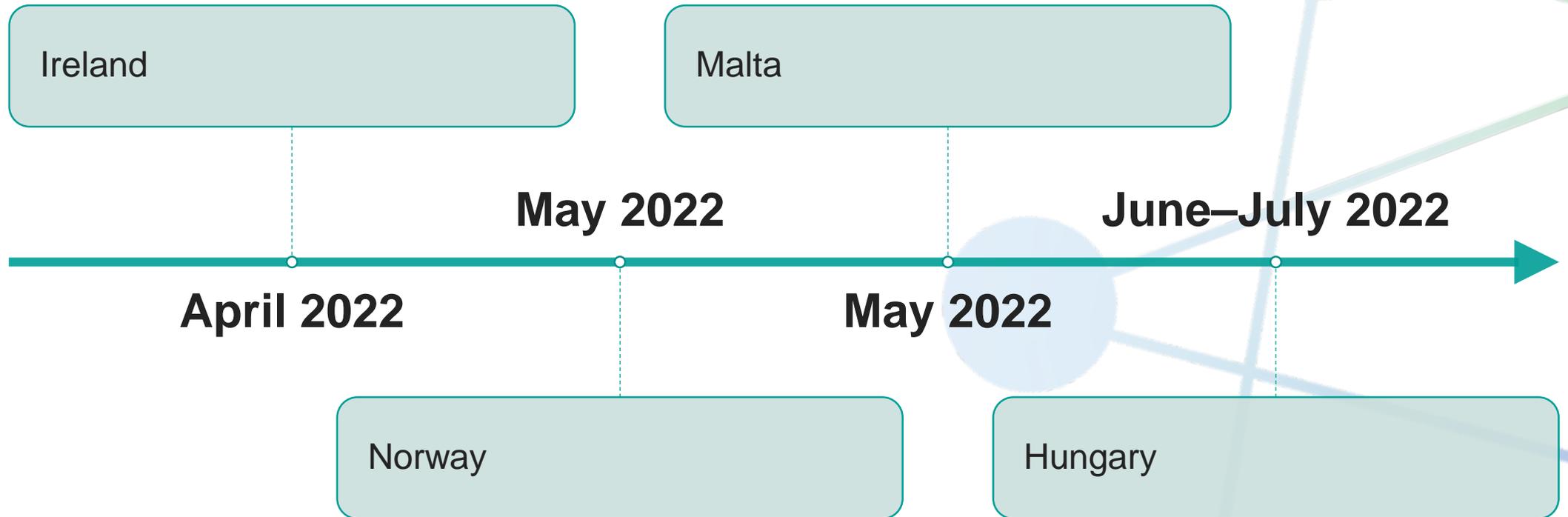
## Best practices

- Strong vaccination information system implemented before the COVID-19 crisis hit (IT)
- Strong and rapid technological surveillance system set-up (PT)
- Pivotal role of telemedicine during COVID-19 (PT & IT)
- Data dashboards and regular reports (publicly) available (PT & IT)
- Ad hoc health surveying during COVID-19 (IT & PT)
- Communication between different stakeholders (IT)

## Concerns

- Elements of the COVID-19 surveillance system operating based on national state-of-emergency or other emergency decrees (IT)
- Integration of the newly developed systems during COVID-19 for routine surveillance beyond COVID (PT)
- Challenges with human resources (IT & PT)

# Preparations underway



# Next Steps

- Sharing of outputs: reports and one pager document
- Next assessments:

