

PHIRI

Population Health Information
Research Infrastructure



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PHIRI Rapid Exchange Forum: A key tool for cross-country exchange in times of crisis

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The Population Health Information Research Infrastructure for COVID-19:

- a **European mechanism**, that aims to
- facilitate and support **data-driven population health research**
- and **exchange of best practices**
- to support **decision making**

41

partners

30

countries

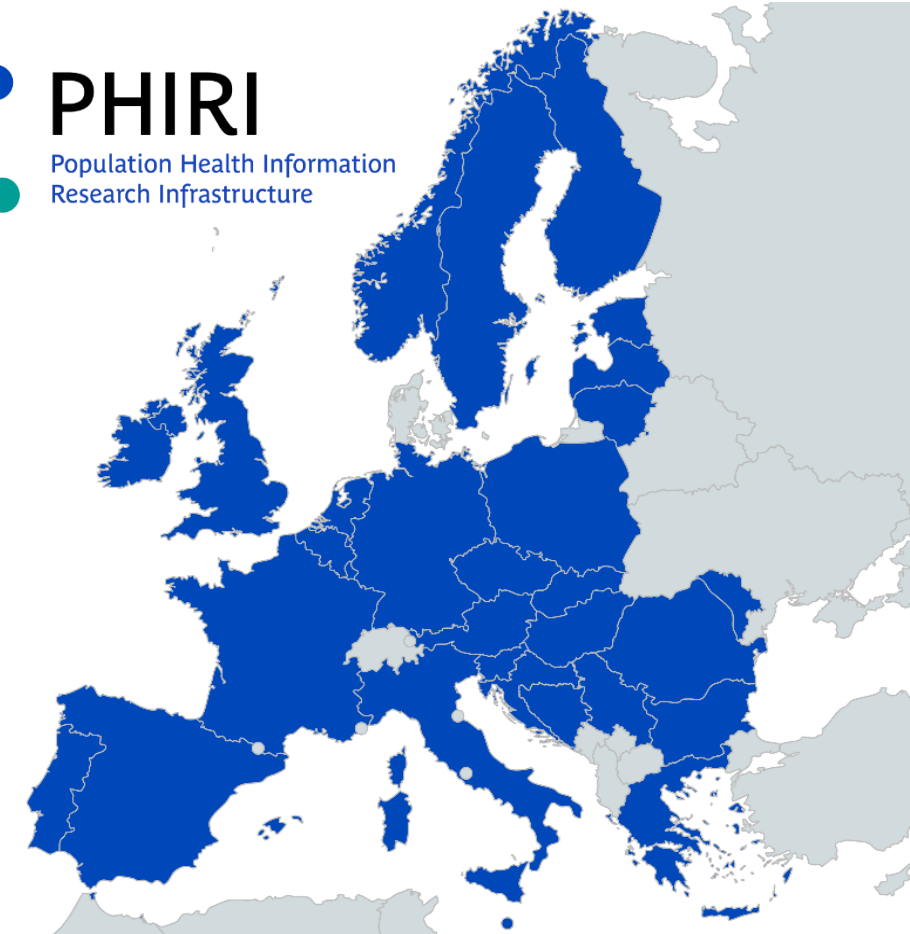
3

years



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Population Health Information Research Infrastructure



Map of PHIRI Partners

Rapid Exchange Forum – REF@PHIRI

The Rapid Exchange Forum is a **structured platform for regular quick exchange of fellow countries, policy advisors, commission services and researchers** in the joint efforts to manage the COVID-19 pandemic, and increasingly addresses also topics beyond COVID-19.

The REF offers...

1. rapid responses to research and policy questions that are raised in countries
2. to promptly disseminate internationally agreed guidelines, standards and reports
3. to exchange (best) practices among countries regarding COVID-19
4. to provide expertise to policy considering the shifting landscape of evidence

→ **Personal exchange of information, best practices and expertise as an indispensable pillar supporting the PHIRI network and infrastructure**

Target groups

ACTORS from competent authorities,
their **ADVISORS**,
RESEARCHERS and **STAKEHOLDERS**

REF as a one-stop shop for rapid information exchange

Services:

1. **Bi-weekly, 1-hour online meetings** in a moderated, structured format; pre-agreed current topics contributed by the participating countries
2. **Support for urgent country requests and ad-hoc questions** (ad hoc queries by countries)

In addition, REF **Special Editions** are held regularly, where experts of international organizations present relevant findings and recent international activities related to COVID-19.

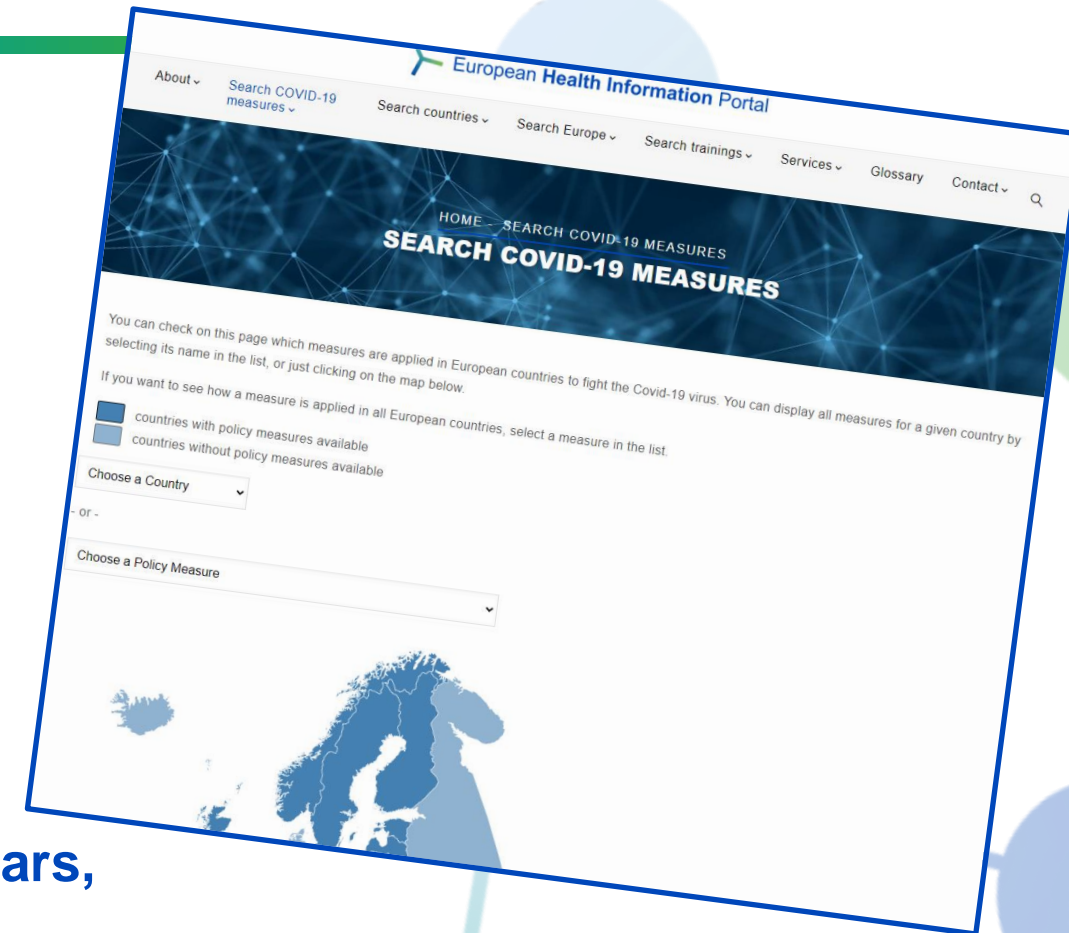
Attendees are national project partners, national experts (advisors to ministers and heads of agency), representatives of expert networks (e.g., Healthy Cloud), EU services (ECDC, JRC) and stakeholders (e.g., ELIXIR, VACCCELERATE, PREPARE Cluster)

REF as an information provider

Regular collection and mapping exercise of

- Experts (by thematic fields)
- Policy and impact measures and
- Guidelines, initiatives, projects and information sources related to the COVID-19 pandemic in EU Member States by web search and interviews

→ Disseminated via REF-meetings, phiri.eu, webinars, conferences and the Health Information Portal



REF in numbers (October 2022)

Countries participated in PHIRI WP 8 REF meetings



- Total number of countries that have participated in REF-meetings
- Average number of attendees per REF-meeting
- Number of REF-meetings
- Number of Special REF Editions
- Number of country requests and ad-hoc queries answered
- Total number of answers received by countries to REF-meeting questions, country requests and ad-hoc queries

29

23

44

5

31

~ 1100

Topics covered (examples)

Fake certificates
Risk classification
Vaccination hesitancy
Vaccination compliance
Communication strategies
Protecting vulnerable groups
Covid-19 vaccinations for children
Testing strategy COVID-19 deaths & mortality statistics Mental health
Masks Surveillance of hospitalized COVID-19 cases Mass testing
Long-term monitoring and surveillance strategies
Tourism Health screenings for refugees from Ukraine Long COVID
Preparing for autumn/winter 2022
Healthcare workforce conditions
Whole Genome Sequencing
National vaccination plans
Vaccination certificates
COVID-19 forecast
Antibody testing
BA.2 sub-variant
Omicron variant

REF bolstering pandemic preparedness

Examples for specific topics covered in the REF meetings that have been most beneficial for national crisis management/response teams:

- Vaccination strategy – AT, BE, IE, MT, SRB
- Testing & reporting strategies – DE, MT, LV, ES
- Death Certificates and Digitalisation - BE
- Non-pharmaceutical measures (especially in schools) – AT, UK
- Long COVID (management) – DE, IT
- Tourism and travel (certificates incl. acceptance of recovery cert., validity, testing) – AT, MT, IE
- Vaccination compliance/vaccine hesitancy – IE
- ICU – BE, AT
- Cost-effectiveness of vaccinations and NPIs - PT

REF on the Health Information Portal

<https://www.healthinformationportal.eu/rapid-exchange-forum>

Since **February 2021**, answers to REF questions by consenting participating countries are published and searchable by key words after each REF meeting on the Health Information Portal



European Health Information Portal

Search countries ▾ Search Europe ▾ Search trainings ▾ Serv

HOME - RAPID EXCHANGE FORUM

RAPID EXCHANGE FORUM

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The screenshot displays the 'Search Topics And Questions' interface on the Health Information Portal. It features a search bar and a 'SEARCH' button. Below the search bar, there are two tables of search results. Each table has columns for 'Topic', 'Question', 'Date', and 'Document(s)'. The first table shows results for the 31st Rapid Exchange Forum, including a question about health screening for refugees from Ukraine. The second table shows results for the 40th Rapid Exchange Forum, including a question about healthcare workforce conditions before and since the pandemic. The 39th Rapid Exchange Forum results include a question about comparing the European COVID-19 situation at the beginning of Summer 2020 and 2021 with Summer 2022. The 38th Rapid Exchange Forum results include a question about protecting vulnerable groups. The bottom right corner of the screenshot features the European Union flag and text indicating funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101018317.

Topic	Question	Date	Document(s)
31st Rapid Exchange Forum: Health screening for refugees from Ukraine	Health screening for refugees from Ukraine <ul style="list-style-type: none">Is there any health screening protocol that is being put in place for arriving refugees from Ukraine in your country at the moment (concerning COVID-19 screenings)?COVID-19 certificates from Ukraine certificates in the Commission Implementing Regulation on mandatory stipulations for entry of refugees when it comes to COVID-19 vaccination offer for arriving refugeesAre (and if so how are) additional vaccination offers for arriving refugees from Ukraine in your country?	14-Mar-	
30th Rapid Exchange Forum: Long-term surveillance strategies	Long-term pandemic monitoring and surveillance <ul style="list-style-type: none">Was the 'state-of-emergency' activated in your country in other emergency legislation set in place in your country and surveillance system, including regulatory sources? Did your constitution already include provisions for such a situation?		
40th Rapid Exchange Forum: Healthcare workforce conditions	Healthcare workforce conditions before and since the pandemic <ul style="list-style-type: none">In your country, what were<ul style="list-style-type: none">the average hours worked per week by doctors/nurses before the pandemic vs. now?the average monthly salary of doctors/nurses before the pandemic vs. now?If possible, please provide separate answers for both:<ul style="list-style-type: none">doctors/nurses in hospitals anddoctors/nurses in the outpatient sector	01-Aug-2022	40_REF_minutes_questions_update_20220808.pdf
39th Rapid Exchange Forum: Comparing Summer 2020/21 to 2022	Comparing the European COVID-19 situation at the beginning of Summer 2020 and 2021 with Summer 2022 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Is the current overall COVID-19 situation in your country similar to that at the beginning of the two previous Summer seasons (2020 and 2021), or are there clear differences?Have the expectations expressed in last summer seasons regarding the European pandemic status in the Summer of 2022 come true, or has the situation developed differently from what was expected?What do you expect for the 2022 Autumn season?	18-Jul-2022	39_REF_minutes_questions_update_20220727.pdf
38th Rapid Exchange Forum: Protecting vulnerable groups	Protecting vulnerable groups	04-Jul-	

COVID-19 Measures Page on HIP

- Information per country or per measure
- Provided by countries
- Complementary to ECDC and JRC measures website (active till 30/9)

<https://www.healthinformationportal.eu/search-countries/search-covid-19-measures>

European Health Information Portal

About ▾ Search COVID-19 measures ▾ Search countries ▾ Search Europe ▾ Search trainings ▾ Services ▾ Glossary Contact ▾

HOME - SEARCH COVID-19 MEASURES

SEARCH COVID-19 MEASURES

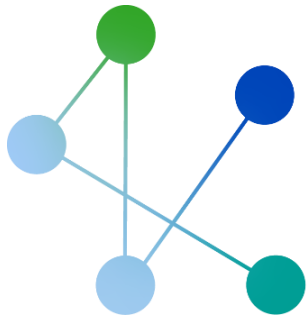
You can check on this page which measures are applied in European countries to fight the Covid-19 virus. You can display all measures for a given country by selecting its name in the list, or just clicking on the map below.

If you want to see how a measure is applied in all European countries, select a measure in the list.

countries with policy measures available

countries without policy measures available

Choose a Country ▾



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