

WP8: RAPID EXCHANGE FORUM – SPECIAL EDITION

In order to avoid duplication of work and support information exchange on COVID-19 activities, we believe it is essential to promote exchange between expert groups already in place. In this regard, [PHIRI](#), the Population Health Information Research Infrastructure, organizes every three months a **Rapid Exchange Forum (REF) – Special Edition**, where key experts of international organizations who are working in the field of COVID-19 can present their main COVID-19 activities as well as their boards/expert groups.

The goal of the **Rapid Exchange Forum – Special Edition** is to act as a matchmaker between COVID-19 related international activities of organisations or expert groups that are already in place or that have been set up during the pandemic to exchange information on measures related to COVID-19.

Read more about the Forum [here](#).

1ST SPECIAL EDITION RAPID EXCHANGE FORUM MEETING ON 15/02/2021

Guest speakers and topics:

- **Eurostat:** “EuroWDC: the European data collection on weekly death counts”
- **OECD:** “Overview of OECD work on COVID-19”
- **ECDC:** “PHIRI Rapid Exchange Forum – Special Edition ECDC Activities”
- [Minutes of the meeting](#)

2ND SPECIAL EDITION RAPID EXCHANGE FORUM MEETING ON 26/04/2021

Guest speakers and topics:

- **The European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies:** “Tracking Health Systems Response to COVID-19”
- **OECD:** “OECD work on mental health”
- **WHO:** “WHO EPI (Expanded Programme on Immunization) department”
- [Minutes of the meeting](#)

3RD SPECIAL EDITION RAPID EXCHANGE FORUM MEETING ON 17/05/2021

This Special Edition REF meeting was organised for the **European Public Health Week**. Everyone interested in the work of PHIRI was given access to this EUPHW Special Edition REF meeting. Claudia Habl (AT) and Petronille Bogaert (BE) introduced the PHIRI project as well as WP8 - Rapid Exchange Forum for external participants. Topic of the meeting: “Criteria regarding the validity of vaccination certificates for travel purposes”.

ABOUT THE RAPID EXCHANGE FORUM

The Rapid Exchange Forum offers a structured and highly needed platform for regular quick exchange of fellow countries, policy advisors, commission services and researchers in the joint efforts to manage the COVID-19 pandemic within the PHIRI Consortium. The bi-weekly 1 hour online meetings, have a moderated, structured format, with the aim to obtain up-to-date information on topics that serve as a basis for **health policy decision making**. Responses by the countries (backed up by evidence like national reports, guidelines, etc.) are compiled and shared via a devoted platform immediately after the meeting.

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.

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