

Fostering population health research in a (post)pandemic Europe

POPULATION HEALTH INFORMATION RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE (PHIRI) 1 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

[PHIRI's](#) 1st Anniversary will take place on November 30rd. PHIRI invites all her consortium partners and key national and international stakeholders, including (but not limited to) European research networks in the domain of population health, national public health coordination entities and institutes, international organizations and European research infrastructures and projects to join this event.

PHIRI will showcase the main outcomes of the project and put these outputs into perspective in order to fuel discussions around 3 themes that are at the core of PHIRI: 1) crisis preparedness & rapid policy and research responses; 2) research questions on the impact of COVID-19 on population health and future perspectives; and 3) a common vision on the future of facilitating the secondary use of health data.

Theme 1: crisis preparedness & rapid policy and research responses.

The COVID-19 crisis had a huge impact on the daily lives of citizens. The pandemic has proven to be more than a health crisis; it is a human, economic and social crisis, impacting people, societies and economies at their core. To fight the current pandemic and future ones, countries need a strong Health Information System (HIS) with structures and mechanisms for protection, prevention, preparedness and response systems. Furthermore, a solid network of countries and their health institutes is of eminent importance for collecting and disseminating information and generate new (evidence-based) information as needed. Finally, there are large differences between European countries in both the quality and availability of population health data and huge diversity of health information activities in Europe. Therefore, capacity building exercises play a key role in promoting interoperability in the network and tackle health information inequalities.

Related PHIRI outcomes

- [The PHIRI Rapid Exchange Forum](#) and its [Special Editions](#)
- [COVID-19 Health Information System assessments](#)
- [European School for Public Health](#)
- [PHIRI's Network of National Nodes](#)

Theme 2: research questions on the impact of COVID-19 on population health and future perspectives

As the vaccine coverage increases in most European countries, the wider implications of the pandemic are emerging. These effects reach well beyond the immediate mortality and morbidity aspects and include consequences on long term health and wellbeing, such as delayed prevention, diagnosis and medical treatment, as well as exacerbation of the social differences and increase in mental health problems. Different study designs, research methodologies, indicators and data pathways are employed to measure COVID-19 impact in the population at large and marginalized subgroups. In order to understand future health impacts of health crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic, scenarios can be developed that analyze possible short and long term consequences regarding direct and indirect health impacts and indemnity the most important societal challenges arising from these developments.

Related PHIRI outcomes

- [Research Methodologies](#)
- [Research use cases](#)
- [Foresight and scenario modeling](#)

Theme 3: a common vision on the future of facilitating the secondary use of health data

The fragmented population health data space in Europe inhabits a variety of data sources of uneven quality, variety and velocity and is collected in multiple data hubs with different data definitions, coding or storing solutions, different governance models and access policies for reuse and sharing. As a result, it is hard to provide research evidence that is relevant, accurate and timely for rapid policy responses. Efforts are needed to strengthen the synergy in the EU by facilitating comparative research, efforts of data linkage, pan-European (re)use of data, methods, sharing of expertise and results, and better involvement of national experts and data hubs, and pan-European research networks by building a European Health Data Space. Population and patient health data should be made available at individual and aggregated level from many sources, among others, disease registries, administrative health and non-health databases, surveys and health examinations, and cohorts of populations and patients. This will allow for analysis and queries searches in a federated way ensuring FAIRness of data and taking into consideration the sensitivity of the data.

Related PHIRI outcomes

- [Health Information Portal](#)
- [Federated Architecture of PHIRI](#)
- [Stakeholder involvement](#)
- PHIRI and the EHDS