

## WORK PACKAGE 3: COVID-19 HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEM ASSESSMENTS

In 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, assessing the COVID-19 health information flows in countries through virtual country visits.

**Virtual country visits** are carried out in selected European countries that are part of the PHIRI consortium. After attending a series of workshops, assessors from several countries are performing targeted interviews with key national players that process or govern COVID-19 population health information. The following domains are covered: data collection and data sources, data analysis and data management, development and use of indicators, human and technical resources, knowledge translation, reporting and dissemination.

### WHY COVID-19 HIS ASSESSMENTS?

The assessments are expected to:

1. Result in the **identification of strengths and weaknesses** of the different health information system 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.

### HOW ARE THE COVID-19 HIS ASSESSMENTS ORGANIZED?

An adapted version of the [Health Information System assessment tool](#) developed by the WHO Regional Office for Europe, including the add-on module on Infectious Diseases, is used for the assessments. Each assessment includes a preparatory desk report, interviews with national (and regional) stakeholders, a final report including a **one-pager** describing the COVID-19 HIS for population health in the country, a SWOT analysis and SMART recommendations, and a follow-up stakeholder meeting.

### WHICH COUNTRIES WILL BE PART OF THE COVID-19 HIS ASSESSMENTS?

The assessments are performed in Austria, Belgium, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway and Portugal by the end of the project (November 2023). [Italy](#), Portugal, Ireland, Malta and Norway were assessed in the first semester of 2022.

### 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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