

## National Nodes

In many European countries, health information activities are scattered over several institutes and regular coordination and communication among these institutes is often missing. This leads to duplication of activities, limited interoperability and linkage of data between institutes, inhibited exchange of data and loss of opportunities for supporting research or policy making.

The Population Health Information Research Infrastructure ([PHIRI](#), 2020-2023), supports European countries to overcome these barriers by setting up **National Nodes**. The central idea is to increase communication among key players in a systematic way. The National Node format is not fixed, but compatible and adaptable to the national organization of the health information system of the country.

### Definition of a National Node:

A National Node is an organizational entity, often linked to a national institution or governmental unit that functions as a national liaison and brings together relevant national stakeholders in the country in a systematic way. The relevant stakeholders may include, for example, the national statistical office, the national public health institutes, representatives from ministries of health, research and/or science, and others. In addition, a National Nodes may function as a discussion and advisory forum in matters of health data and information both for national or international matters.

National Nodes are playing a key role in PHIRI: they feed this Research Infrastructure and its online [Health Information Portal](#) with relevant sources, data, experts, tools and guidelines. Vice versa, they report relevant international information to their country. To support the development and the well-functioning of the National Nodes, PHIRI organizes regular meetings where representatives of each National Node present their main achievements since the last meeting and their planned activities to learn and be inspired by the other countries. Since the start of the project, four National Node meetings have been organized within PHIRI centered around the following topics: countries' involvement in the [European Health Data Space](#), contributions to and development of the Health Information Portal, future crisis preparedness at the national and international level and the future of PHIRI.

### 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.

### ABOUT THE HEALTH INFORMATION PORTAL:

The [Health Information Portal](#) is a one-stop shop facilitating access to **population health and health care data, information and expertise** in Europe. With the support of numerous National Nodes across Europe, it provides services and tools necessary for researchers to discover and access different health data sources. At the same time, it supports its users by providing information on the most up to date capacity building activities available in Europe, actively contributing to the creation of expertise in the countries for a better use of health data for research and policy decision-making.

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