

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 data flows across HIS, whilst monitoring the (broader) 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 when assessing their own HIS/ HI data flows.
3. Potentially **identify data sources** that may not have been used or fully exploited yet and feed them to the [Health Information Portal](#).
4. **Create opportunities for engagement and knowledge exchange** with national stakeholders and authorities.
5. Contribute to **capacity building** across Europe, which in turn can contribute towards reducing HI inequalities within and between countries.
6. Identify key recommendations for **resilient HIS** and towards **increased preparedness** for future crisis.

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, Italy, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway and Portugal by the end of the project (November 2023). [Italy](#), [Portugal](#), [Ireland](#), [Malta](#), Norway, Hungary and Netherlands were assessed in 2022.

WHAT EVENTS WERE ORGANISED ABOUT THE COVID-19 HIS ASSESSMENTS?

Two online public events were organised outlining the methodology and preliminary findings from the COVID-19 HIS assessments performed so far, with the aim to exchange knowledge on strengths, weaknesses and best practices. One event was organised on the 20th May 2022 during the [European Public Health Week](#), and a [midterm project multi-stakeholder meeting](#) was organised on the 23rd June

2022. Both events were held in collaboration with the [TEHDAS](#) (Towards the European Health Data Space) Joint Action and were widely attended.

www.phiri.eu/wp3
PHIRI.coordination@sciensano.be
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