

REPOPA integrates research knowledge, expert know-how and real world policy making for promoting physical activity in structural policy making. Moreover, it establishes structures and best practices for future health promotion actions and strategies. The initiative is coordinated by the University of Southern Denmark (SDU).

Background

Strong scientific evidence shows that physical activity practiced on a regular basis is important for maintaining health. Many societies and institutions, including European Union, have launched policies and recommendations to enhance physical activity. However, they are not always based on research evidence. They are also seldom cross-sectorial - although we know that e.g. environmental planning, educational and occupational settings as well as politicians, civil society & citizens are relevant stakeholders in establishing sustainable and accountable physical activity programs and interventions in communities as well.

Aims

REPOPA will assess the needs, role and use of research evidence in physical activity policy making (WP1). It will study ways evidence from research is combined and negotiated with 'other kinds of evidence' in cross-sector policy making process (WP1, WP2, WP3). Further, it will explore innovative ways to translate research evidence into policy making process, including game simulation and stewardship guidance (WP2 & WP3). The results will be further translated into guidance and tools to enhance evidence-informed policy making in Europe (WP4); in addition to the dissemination of results and lessons learned, country-specific platforms will be supported to enhance sustainability in evidence-informed policy making (WP6). Finally, the project's outcomes and impact on policy development process will be evaluated (WP5).

Expected results

- ✓ Increase the use of research evidence in physical activity policy making;
- ✓ Improve the understanding and draw closer the collaboration between academia and policy makers and across sectors;
- ✓ Develop better methodological competences; and empower citizens in physical activity policy making.

Partners

- University of Southern Denmark, Unit for Health Promotion Research, Denmark (coordinator)
- Tilburg University, The Netherlands
- Netherlands Institute for Health Promotion, The Netherlands
- National Institute for Health and Welfare, Finland
- Babes-Bolyai University, Romania
- The National Research Council, Italy
- University of Ottawa, Canada
- Research Centre for Prevention and Health, Capital Region Denmark, Denmark
- Herefordshire Primary Care Trust, United Kingdom

“You researchers tend to push your **scientific opinion**, but we policy makers have to take into account many other opinions”

(Danish policy maker)

Time & funding

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REPOPA partners at the kick-off meeting Nov 2011, Glostrup, Denmark