Dear REPOPA Newsletter readers,

We would like to thank all Work packages leaders and partners for their contribution to this Newsletter issue as well as to the REPOPA work this past academic year.

Our REPOPA enterprise has made its first big milestone of the first 18 months reporting and WP1 final reporting. We have not yet received any feedback from EC but, anyway, now our baseline data for REPOPA have been collected. These rich data enable us to build the rest of the work in the project.

This Newsletter summarizes the status of each work package (WP) of REPOPA. The Newsletter has been put together by Natasa Loncarevic, who is the new REPOPA secretary for the next 9 months. The virtual REPOPA coordinating office is open the whole summer.

The coordinating team:
Arja R Aro, Maja Larsen and Natasa Loncarevic, wishes you all a wonderful summer and relaxing holidays.
Update on WP1:  
*Role of evidence in policy making*  
*By Riitta-Maija Hämäläinen*

The main tasks of WP1 have been the identification of national and regional/local policies for policy analysis, analysis of policy documents and stakeholder interviews to identify what kind of evidence was used and how it was used to develop the policy. Also the existing infrastructures for knowledge exchange (such as centers of expertise, evidence centers, knowledge brokers, and the potential web-based provision of research evidence) have been identified and reviewed. Based on the research findings both a framework and indicators for assessing and analyzing evidence-informed policy development have been suggested. The research results have been reported to the European Commission, at various national and international conferences and in national journals and in near future also in international journals.

Update on WP2:  
*Research in policy making – game simulation*  
*By Ien van de Goor and Hilde Spitters*

WP2 aims at investigating if a policy game can be helpful in stimulating use of (research and other) evidence in the HEPA policy development process. A policy game can improve communication, collaboration and commitment between stakeholders and thereby stimulate actual use of evidence available. So far both a research protocol and a detailed plan have been developed to see which steps need to be undertaken to develop and play a policy game. Monthly Skype meetings and a workshop have taken place to get better understandings of what a ‘policy game’ is by all partners in WP2, the Netherlands, Denmark and Romania. Most effort has been put into the development of a so called systems analysis in local HEPA policy in all three countries. This shows the most important stakeholders in the local policy development process, the driving forces and their relationships. The following months these systems analyses will form the basis to develop the generic policy game. In November 2013 the game will be played in the Netherlands, in spring 2014 in Denmark and in fall 2014 in Romania.
Update on WP3:

*Stewardship approach for efficient evidence utilization*

By Maja Larsen

In WP3, physical activity related policy cases have been chosen for interventions in the participating countries: The Netherlands, Italy and Denmark. Baseline measurements have been carried out and interventions have started in Italy and Denmark. In The Netherlands, this process has just started up as well. The interventions all aim at integrating research evidence with other sources of knowledge via close collaboration between policy makers, practitioners and researchers. This is done via workshops, discussion groups, telephone meetings, policy briefs etc. The scope of the interventions is for example inter-sectoral collaboration, indicator development for evidence informed policy making, inclusion of vulnerable groups etc. The interventions will all be ended and post-measurement carried out by March 2014.

Update on WP4:

*Implementation and guidance development*

By Adriana Valente

The main objective of WP4 is to draw together the results, developed methods, frameworks, indicators and best practices resulting from WP1-3, testing, validating and negotiating these products among the stakeholders.

Core WP4 activities have been scheduled from month 40 of the project (January 2015). From the beginning of the project attention has been placed on the way in which the findings produced in WP 1-3 can be effectively acquired as inputs and used in WP4 activities. The stakeholder analysis built within WP6 will also give a relevant input to the construction of the international panel for the Policy Delphi. Among the results of WP1-3, the identification of barriers/facilitators to the use of evidence and research findings in policy making appears to be one of the topics of particular interest for WP4. It has been decided that the Italian team coordinating the WP4 will keep in strict contact with WP2 and WP3 teams, also before the official start of WP4, for a continuous check and for the acquisition of all preliminary findings.
Work Package 5:  
**Evaluation**  
By Susan Roelofs

Work package 5 is responsible for process and outcome evaluation of the REPOPA project. Through a participatory consultation process with the Consortium, the Evaluation Plan has been finalized and received ethics approval. The evaluation framework includes internal and external evaluation components, measurement indicators, and five data collection instruments to assess such aspects as collaborative team processes, development of networks within the Consortium and with external policy stakeholders, junior researcher capacity building, application of the research-to-action cycle, and use of the RE-AIM approach (Reach, Effectiveness, Adoption, Implementation, Maintenance). Baseline data collection is underway. Internal monitoring reports will feed results into Consortium decision-making processes to strengthen project activities and potential impact.

Work Package 6:  
**Dissemination**  
By Diana Rus

In WP6, each partner has participated in the reporting of the dissemination activities from their own country using the reporting templates developed as part of WP6. A new reporting system has been put in place, switching from quarterly reporting system to six months reporting system.

The template for country specific platform has been developed and included in the dissemination and communication plan of the Consortium. Therefore, for the next period WP6 leaders will encourage each partner to start developing its country specific platform taking into consideration the templates provided in order for each partner to have its platform running for 12 months, and implement it by the end of REPOPA project. New promotional materials are being developed for the new phases of the project and dissemination of new available project data.

Work Package 7:  
**Coordination**  
By Arja R Aro

From the administrative perspective, the first periodic reporting to EC has been the main task lately. We managed to do everything more or less on time, for which I warmly thank the partners.

With a partly renewed coordinating team I look forward to an interesting autumn.

First of all, in the end of August REPOPA will have two sessions at the IUHPE (International Union for Health Promotion and Education) conference in Thailand: a symposium and a workshop. When the academic work after summer starts again in Europe, we should start to see the first WP1 empirical results translating into scientific papers. We are also very pleased to have a WP1 workshop accepted to the European Public Health Conference, which will be organized in Brussels immediately after our REPOPA annual Consortium meeting in Tilburg, the Netherlands.