

# Towards evidence informed policymaking

*All relevant stakeholders need to be on board...*

**E**vidence-informed policymaking is supported by the REsearch into POlicy to enhance Physical Activity (REPOPA) project. It integrates research knowledge, expert know-how and real world physical activity policymaking. The needs and priorities of policymakers are taken into account and the views of all stakeholders are respected.

There is strong research evidence, as well as common understanding, that physical activity is good for health. Research evidence also shows that in addition to individual motivation and other factors, environmental facilitators are essential for sustainable physical activity. This means that societal sectors such as educational and occupational settings, environmental and technical planning and social and health sectors are key stakeholders, in addition to civil society.

REPOPA recognises that real world decision-making happens in the intersect of research evidence, characteristics of population and setting, values, resources and priorities of practice and political actors. This is expressed by a policymaker:

**"You researchers tend to push your scientific opinion, but we policymakers have to take into account many other opinions."**

Thus to enhance informed policymaking all relevant stakeholders need to be on board. REPOPA takes this challenge and will develop new ways to work in collaboration and partnership towards evidence-informed policymaking in physical activity.

## Objectives

REPOPA has started its work by analysing physical activity policies in the partner countries. The goal is to assess the needs, role and use of research evidence in physical activity

policymaking (WP1). In the second year two interventions will test innovative ways to combine research evidence, priorities and realities of policymakers in developing genuinely cross-sector policymaking process (WP2, WP3). The results will be further developed into practical tools and guidance (WP4) as well as structures to create sustainability in evidence-informed policymaking in Europe (WP6). Evaluation will include the project process and outcome but will also gauge the impact of policies (WP5).

## Expected results:

- Increase the use of research evidence in physical activity policymaking;
- Create closer collaboration between academia and policymakers and across sectors;
- Develop better methodological competences; and empower citizens in physical activity policymaking.

## Time and funding:

- Five years: October 2011 to September 2016;
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## Partners:

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- Tilburg University, the Netherlands;
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