

Draft Scope and Purpose

Global Evidence-to-Policy Summit

How evidence is catalyzing societal changes – towards a more equitable, sustainable and resilient world

15–17 November 2021

Background

Evidence-informed policy-decision-making is essential to accelerate the achievement of the health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Triple Billion targets as outlined in the Thirteenth General Programme of Work 2019–2023 (GPW 13) of the World Health Organization (WHO). The Evidence-informed Policy Network (EVIPNet) is a global network and community of practice that shares a vision to work towards a world in which high-quality, context-sensitive evidence routinely informs health decision-making processes and make these decisions more transparent and accountable to patients and citizens. EVIPNet pursues this goal by fostering the implementation and institutionalization of evidence-informed policy activities in its Member States. The collective experience of COVID-19 has provided an unprecedented opportunity to assess the evidence-policy-society nexus. To take stock of and explore the lessons learned during the pandemic, the organization of a WHO Summit is being proposed.

Goal

The global Summit will bring together researchers and policy-makers from WHO Regions and international institutions, Member States, universities, research institutes and partners to identify common challenges, share lessons learned, and provide recommendations supporting evidence-informed decision-making to spur progress towards the SDGs and Triple Billion targets.

Objectives

- (1) Identify key lessons learned on the evidence-policy-society interfaces, and catalyze learning.
- (2) Share knowledge, create dialogue and provide opportunities for collaboration across sectors and disciplines between those engaged in producing, translating and using knowledge, and those who fund or ‘do’ evidence mobilization for policy and practice.
- (3) Advance the institutionalization of evidence-informed policy-making and strengthen multisectoral partnerships and collaboration at country/regional/global levels.
- (4) Chart the way forward for evidence-informed decision-making in a post-COVID-19 world.

Outputs

- Summit statement: EVIPNet Call for Action to promote effective research-to-policy-society systems;
- Special issue on the case studies in '*Eastern Mediterranean Health Journal*' (to be translated and also published in '*Pan American Journal of Public Health*');;
- Launching a global evidence-to-policy coalition: Aligning support behind identified good practices and country needs.

Outcomes

This Summit will take stock of lessons learned related to COVID-19 and chart the way forward to strengthen and sustain research-to-policy-society systems, and increase country resilience against current and future crises.

Audience

Policy-makers, researchers, EVIPNet members, civil society, press/media and other stakeholders interested in promoting the research-policy-society interfaces.

Approach

The virtual Summit will be a public event. It will consist of:

- Plenary sessions (keynote speeches and panels) on 15 and 17 November 2021
- Side events (organized by WHO at headquarters, regional and country offices levels, and EVIPNet member countries).

The Summit will be made available via web stream.