

Neville Calleja

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR HEALTH INFORMATION IN A SMALL STATE

STRUCTURE

1. **National Health Registers** – responsible for the maintenance of national registers and databases related to them.
2. **Public Health Surveys** – responsible for the conducting of surveys as required and any databases related to them
3. **Research and Statistical Consultation Services** – which facilitates research exercises by providing data as well as analysis and interpretation of statistical reports.

REGISTRIES WITHIN DHIR

- ✘ National Mortality Register
- ✘ National Cancer Register
- ✘ National Obstetric Information System
- ✘ Malta Congenital Anomalies Register
- ✘ National Hospital Information System
- ✘ Injury Database
- ✘ National Transplant Register
- ✘ National Dementia Register

The National Registers actively participate in the EU, International Associations and projects to ensure and preserve the highest international standards of functioning.

RESEARCH WITHIN DHIR

- ✘ The role of the research section is to participate in EU and international projects and conduct national studies such as:
 1. Health Interview Survey – 2002
 2. European Health Interview Survey – 2008, 2014
 3. EDSIM pilot study – 2009
 4. Health Examination Survey pilot study – 2010/2011
 5. Elderly Needs Assessment Survey - 2012

The research team is in charge of fulfilling data requests coming from students, researchers and any other individuals requiring health information, while also supporting the Ministry and other departments with surveys and statistical analysis.

The research section also supplies information to international organizations conducting projects, comparative league tables and indices.

COLLABORATING WITH ...

World Health Organisation (WHO)

EUROSTAT

**International Agency for Research on Cancer
(IARC)**

**International Clearinghouse for Birth Defects
Surveillance and Research (ICBDSR)**

**European Surveillance of Congenital
Anomalies (EUROCAT)**

EUROPEAN EXPERIENCE

- ✘ DHIR has been utilising WHO funds for research since its inception.
- ✘ Currently benefiting from Public Health Programme (PHP) funds, administered by the EAHC, and from FP7 funds, administered by DG Research

2011 – PUBLIC SECTOR FINANCIAL CRISIS

- ✘ Health Ministries in a number of Eastern European countries closed down their health information departments
- ✘ How can health information be relevant?



2007 - MALTA

- ✘ Universal health coverage, incl primary & secondary care – free at point of delivery
- ✘ Public health sector started facing financial constraints due to increased prices of medical technology & new drugs, and increasing demand.
- ✘ Rationale for Department for Health Information was questioned.



FINDINGS OF AUDIT



- ✘ Registers were producing only annual reports which few people found useful.
- ✘ Little research was happening using this data.
- ✘ No data was permeating to the policy level.

Health Information

CHALLENGES

× Size!

President



Equal Opportunity Commissioner
L. Alexieva-Grund

Data Protection Commissioner
Dr. J. Lekschas

Occupational Safety
K. Mätzke

Advisory Board
external

Social Counseling
A. Weber / Y. Janczak

Research Council
internal

Quality Management
K. Holschbach-Bussian

Department 1
Infectious Diseases
Prof. Dr. M. Mielke

FG 11
Enteropathogenic Bacteria and
Legionella
Prof. Dr. A. Flieger

FG 12
Measles, Mumps, Rubella, and
Viruses Affecting
Immunocompromised Patients
Prof. Dr. A. Mankertz

FG 13
Nosocomial Pathogens and
Antibiotic Resistances
PD Dr. G. Werner

FG 14
Hospital Hygiene, Infection
Prevention and Control
Prof. Dr. M. Anwand

FG 15
Gastroenteritis and Hepatitis
Viruses, Enteroviruses
Prof. Dr. C.-Th. Bock

FG 16
Mycotic and Parasitic Agents and
Mycobacteria
Dr. A. Aebischer

FG 17
Influenza and Other Respiratory
Viruses
PD Dr. T. Wolff

FG 18
HIV and Other Retroviruses
Prof. Dr. N. Bannert

FG 26
Mental Health
N.N.

FG 27
Health Behavior
N.N.

FG 28
Social Determinants of Health
N.N.

Respiratory Infections
Prof. Dr. W. Haas

FG 37
Healthcare Associated Infections,
Surveillance of Antibiotic Resistance
and Consumption
Dr. T. Eckmanns

Biosafety Level-4 Laboratory
*Dr. Andreas Kurth
(ad interim)*

ZBS 6
Proteomics and Spectroscopy
*Dr. P. Lasch
(ad interim)*

Administration
Dr. A. Engelbert

ZV 1
Personnel Department
S. Schuckert

ZV 2
Budget/Procurement
M. Ploch

ZV 3
Construction and Technical Services
D. Reichenbacher

ZV 4
Information Technology
Organisation/Controlling
Dr. M. Goltz

ZV 5
Internal Organisation
I. Abramowitsch

CHALLENGES

- ✘ Size!

 - + Human resources

 - + Finances

- ✘ Very difficult to recruit



“Small is beautiful”

Richard Bergström, EFPIA



LINKAGE

- ✘ All Maltese citizens have a unique identity card number.
- ✘ Used in all circles of official life.
- ✘ Available in all administrative sources.

- ✘ Not typically available in survey sources, unless explicitly consented.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR LINKAGE

- ✘ Data Protection Act 2001
- ✘ Public Health Act 2003
- ✘ Statistics Act 2002
- ✘ Health Act 2013

In addition, all DHIR data sources are registered with Data Protection Commission and processes recorded in Data Protection Manual produced in collaboration with DPC.

ENABLERS

- ✘ Non-medically trained senior management
- ✘ Demand for evidence based strategies
- ✘ Evidence driven funding instruments

HOSPITAL PLANNING



- ✘ New oncology hospital with ERDF funding:
 - + Evidence base
 - ✘ Justify need
 - ✘ Planning
 - + Target indicators

- ✘ Close collaboration with project team



IC-CENTRU TAL-ONKOLOGIJA



**SIR
ANTHONY
MAMO**
ONCOLOGY CENTRE

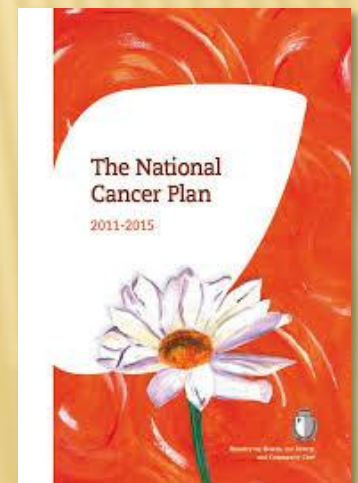
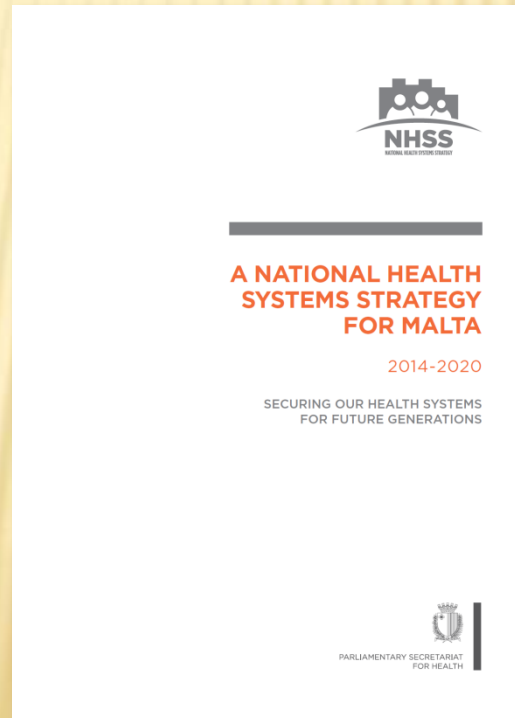
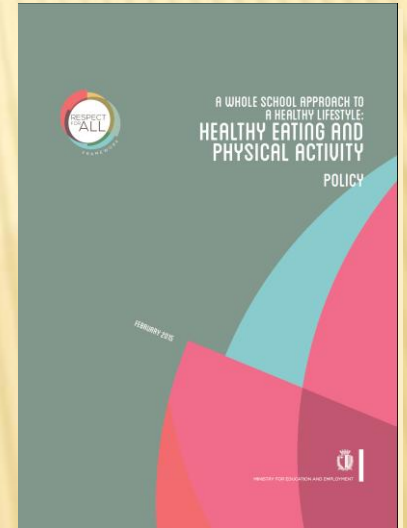
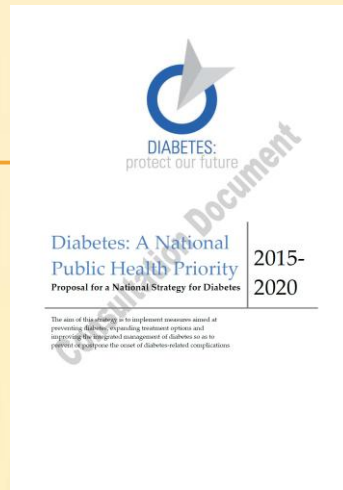
HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT

- ✘ New drugs
- ✘ New technologies
- ✘ New entitlement policies



STRATEGY SETTING

- ✘ Evidence base
- ✘ Setting of targets
 - + Targets
 - + Monitoring structures
- ✘ Health system performance assessment
 - + Link to policy cycle



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN EU

- ✘ Joint Assessment Framework – SPC
- ✘ Thematic Assessment Framework – ECFIN
- ✘ HSPA Expert Group
 - + Quality of care
 - + Integrated care
 - + Coordination with other international entities
- ✘ Commissioner Andriukaitis pushing for European HSPA
- ✘ BRIDGE project; plans for sustainable approach to health information across EU



C 272/80

EN

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COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION

of 14 July 2015

on the 2015 National Reform Programme of Malta and delivering a Council opinion on the 2015 Stability Programme of Malta

(2015/C 272/21)



Where to?

ONTARIO HSPA - POLICY CYCLE

