

Baseline Evaluation Report

EConDA (Economics of Chronic Diseases)

Prepared by: Robin Ireland

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CONTACT DETAILS:

HM Partnerships, Health Equalities Group

151 Dale Street

Liverpool

L2 2JH, UK

Tel: (+44) (0)151 237 2686

E: robin.ireland@heartofmersey.org.uk

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1. Background and aim of work package

Chronic diseases such as cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes and respiratory disease are responsible for over 86% of deaths in Europe each year. Chronic diseases have a large impact on health and social care costs and in the current climate of austerity, prevention of these diseases should be a key priority.

The aim of the EConDA project (Economics of Chronic Diseases) is to aid member states to develop, select and implement more cost effective policies to improve chronic disease prevention and impact upon populations with the highest rates of premature deaths from chronic diseases and reduce health inequalities.

HM Partnerships is leading on the evaluation of this project (work package 3), with the aim to evaluate the impact of the EConDA project.

This first evaluation report was drafted in September 2013 and covered the period April to September 2013.

Annual evaluation reports will be prepared in April 2014 and April 2015.

2. EConDA specific objectives

1. Achieve consensus among key international organisations on methodology for measuring cost-effectiveness of interventions to prevent, screen and treat chronic diseases (Coronary Heart Disease, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, Kidney Disease, Type 2 diabetes);
2. Develop an epidemiological disease model;
3. Develop a demonstration model for integrated approaches to address cost-effectiveness of various interventions for chronic disease prevention;
4. Implementation of the model in specific countries (Lithuania, Bulgaria, UK, Netherlands, Greece, Portugal, Finland, Poland)
5. Validation of the model;
6. Publish and disseminate an evaluation of the study.

3. Evaluation questions

1. Has consensus among key international organisations on methodology for measuring cost-effectiveness of interventions to prevent, screen and treat chronic diseases been achieved?
2. Has an epidemiological disease model been developed?
3. Has a demonstration model for integrated approaches to address cost-effectiveness of various interventions for chronic disease prevention been developed?
4. Has the model been implemented in the specified countries?
5. Has the model been validated?
6. Have the project results been widely disseminated?

4. Evaluation methodology

We will conduct a process evaluation to understand what has happened in the delivery of the project; whether each work package has achieved its objectives; and whether there were any unexpected outcomes or learning during the project.

The process evaluation will comprise:

1. A brief email-based survey with work package leaders. This will investigate questions such as:
 - i. What is the intention of the work package?
 - ii. Has the work package developed as intended?
 - iii. Has the intended target group been reached?
 - iv. What has been the impact of the work package?
 - v. Any short-term measures?
 - vi. Any unexpected outcomes?
 - vii. What are the next steps/recommendations for the work package?

2. Telephone and face to face interviews with work package leaders. These will investigate issues raised in the survey in more depth
3. Document analysis of all key project documents, and monitoring of press reports and journal articles relating to the project

5. Evaluation Outputs

5.1. Evaluation plan

Produced in month 2 (by 15 June 2013). This will describe work package 3, which sets out to evaluate the impact of the EConDA project.

5.2. Baseline evaluation report

This document. This is a review of progress thus far. Specifically we will check that work packages 4 (Consensus on methodology for measuring cost-effectiveness of interventions) and 5 (Develop a disease model) are progressing to timetable and/or if there are any problems in implementation.

5.3. Annual evaluation report

For month 12 (by 15 April 2014). Following the Steering Committee meeting (19 March), all work package leaders will be surveyed by email to be followed by telephone interviews if required.

5.4. Annual evaluation report

For month 24 (by 15 April 2015). All work package leaders will be surveyed by email to be followed by telephone interviews if required.

5.5. Final evaluation report

To be produced at the conclusion of the project in October 2015. This report will include sections on each work package, all deliverables including details of dissemination, such as press reports and journal articles relating to the project.

6. Interim Findings

Process Evaluation (April to September 2013)

An e-survey was carried out in August - September 2013 for all work package leaders to assess progress of the work packages against project outputs and milestones to identify issues and any unexpected outcomes.

All WP leaders (WPs 1-5) whose work has commenced responded to the e-survey.

6.1 Main findings

Work package outputs and progress to date are described below. This draft report will be presented to the EConDA Steering Meeting on 9th October 2013 and will be subsequently amended as required.

WP1 - Project Coordination (UK Health Forum)

The project is progressing well. Support has been given where required to partners who have queries, questions, changes to the contract etc.

All milestones have been met:

- The Cooperation Agreement was signed by all partners
- Circulation of contract
- Project formally commenced on 15 April 2013 (it will conclude on 14 October 2015)
- Initial 'kick-off' meeting held on 25 April 2013 at EAHC, Luxembourg
- Dates of steering group meetings agreed
- Financial reporting system established (including monthly expenses sheets)
- Administrative system established (email circulation, monthly timesheets, travel arrangements etc.)

Next steps:

- Continue collecting timesheets and expenses
- Facilitate regular collaborators meetings with WP leaders
- Oversee other work packages
- Respond to collaborators' queries
- Make payments where necessary

WP2 – Dissemination of Research Results (European Society of Cardiology)

The main dissemination of the project's findings will obviously develop later but initial milestones are being met:

- An information leaflet has been produced
- Protocol paper for BMC public health is in preparation
- A visual identity has been established for EConDA with a distinctive logo and colours (as used in this report)
- A website presenting the project's objectives, partners and methodology is being developed by the UK Heart Forum (the EConDA project is described on the organisation's own website : <http://www.ukhealthforum.org.uk/who-we-are/our-work/modelling/econda-project/>)
- A website brief has been agreed and a contractor assigned

Next steps:

- Dissemination of leaflet
- Development of the website
- Publicise calendar dates of meetings

WP3 – Evaluation of the Project (HM Partnerships, Health Equalities Group)

The evaluation is progressing as planned. An e-survey was circulated to WP leaders in August. However due mainly to summer holidays, responses were slow with the delay affecting the baseline evaluation report (this report).

All milestones have been met:

- An evaluation plan was produced in May 2013
- A baseline evaluation report was produced in October 2013 (this report)

Next steps:

- An annual evaluation report will be produced in April 2014.

WP4 – Reaching Consensus on methodology for measuring cost-effectiveness of interventions (European Heart Network)

The work package is developing as intended. Some recruitment issues delayed the draft writing.

Only a few organisations have an expert in the cost effectiveness of interventions to prevent, screen and treat chronic diseases. This may impact on the result of the consensus meeting (see below).

Milestones have been met:

- Preparatory meetings have taken place between the EHN and UKHF
- A literature review has been produced: *Cost-effectiveness of interventions to prevent, screen and treat chronic diseases: A review. Rtveldze, K, Webber, L, Mishra, D, Marsh, T.*
- A qualitative study has been completed: *Qualitative analysis – expert testimony on the best methods measuring cost-effectiveness of chronic diseases. Webber, L, Mishra, D.*

Next steps:

- Finalise literature review
- Seek publication of qualitative study
- A consensus meeting of expert health economists has been arranged to take place on 10-11th December 2013, Brussels

WP5 – Development of a disease model (UK Health Forum) in eight countries (Bulgaria, Finland, Greece, Lithuania, Netherlands, Portugal, Poland and UK).

This work package is still at the development stage.

All milestones have been met.

- A meeting has been held at the University of Groningen to develop kidney disease model and conceptualise cost-effectiveness module

Next steps:

- Continue coding and building disease models beginning with diabetes
- Continue conceptualizing the CHD model

There are a number of data limitations; lack of incidence data for selected countries (particularly Bulgaria and Greece).

WP6 – Development of a Cost-effectiveness model (University of Groningen)

To be commenced.

WP7 – Validation (UK Health Forum)

To be commenced.

7.0 Conclusions

The process evaluation has shown that the project is progressing well and there are few issues of concern.

Data limitations including a lack of incidence data for some countries are a problem that will need to be addressed and their impact assessed.

The consensus meeting of expert health economists in December is a significant next step and the further development of the EConDA website will assist with future dissemination.