The Burden of Disease due to COVID-19: Towards a harmonization of population health metrics for the surveillance of dynamic outbreaks.

Caoimhe Cawley, Elena von der Lippe, Aline Anton, Milena Santric Milicevic, Natalya Glushkova, Kairat Davletov, Alexander Rommel

European Burden of Disease Network, 3rd WG Meeting, 26.01.2022

BoCO-19 Project Aims

Overall aim → **Specific objectives**

- To harmonize BoD methodology for pandemic monitoring and the surveillance of dynamic outbreaks, using COVID-19 as an example

- Development of a harmonized methodology
- Implementation of BoD indicators
- Dissemination of methodology and results

Main features

➢ **Scientific network and platform**

- The project enables scientific networking and methodological exchange

- Funded by German MoH - Global Health Protection Programme

  www.ghpp.de, https://ghpp.de/en/projects/boco-19/

- Project Coordination: **Germany** (Robert Koch Institute)

- Coordination support: **Serbia** (University of Belgrade),   **Kazakhstan**

  (Al-Farabi Kazakhs National University)

- Project is also supported by **Burden-EU COST Action,** and **WHO Regional**
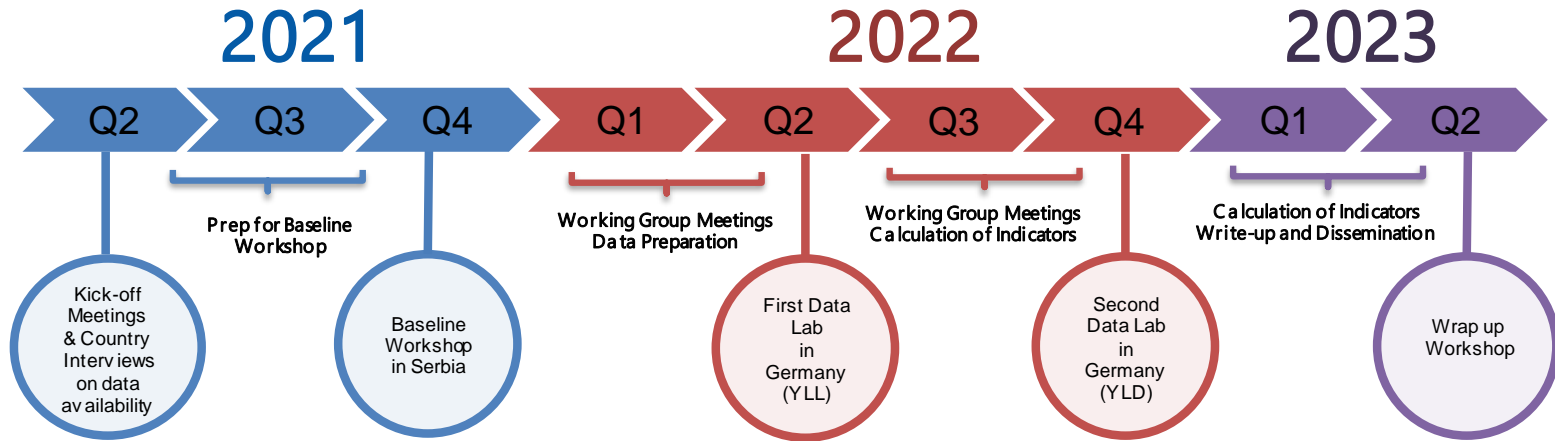
  and Country offices

Project Partners

- 7 partners in South-East Europe

- 7 partners in Caucasus/Central Asia

- Project duration: 1 May 2021 – 30 April 2023

Coordinator - GERMANY	
Partners	
South-East Europe	Southern Caucasus / Cental Asia
1. **Serbia** 2. Albania 3. Bosnia and Herzegovina (2 partners) 4. Kosovo 5. Montenegro 6. Turkey	1. **Kazakhstan** 2. Azerbaijan 3. Georgia 4. Kyrgyzstan 5. Mongolia 6. Ukraine 7. Uzbekistan

BoCO-19 timeline

2021

| Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |

Prep for Baseline Workshop

Kick-off Meetings & Country Interviews on data availability

Baseline Workshop in Serbia

2022

| Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |

Working Group Meetings Data Preparation

Working Group Meetings Calculation of Indicators

First Data Lab in Germany (YLL)

Second Data Lab in Germany (YLD)

2023

| Q1 | Q2 |

Calculation of Indicators Write-up and Dissemination
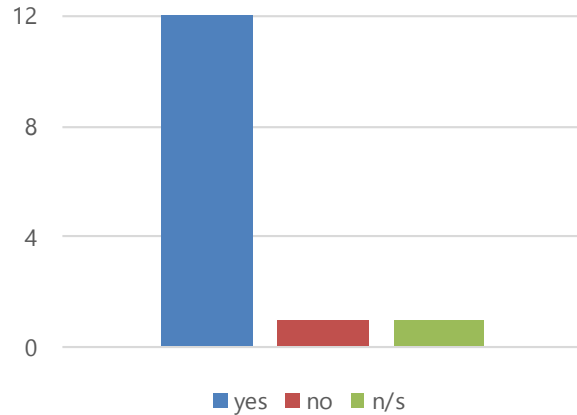
Wrap up Workshop

WP1: Project Kick-off and Preparation

- Discussion of project aims and goals

- Introduction to BoD concepts

- Individual country interviews (data availability, data quality and limitations)

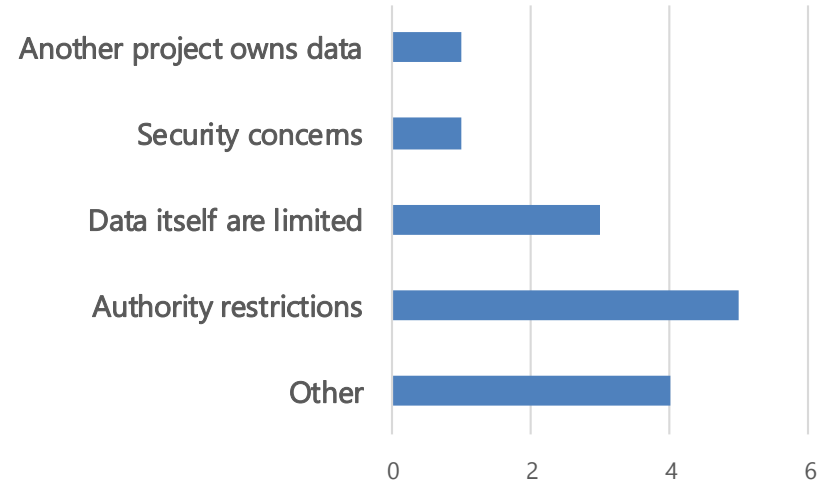- Preparation for Baseline Workshop

Data availability

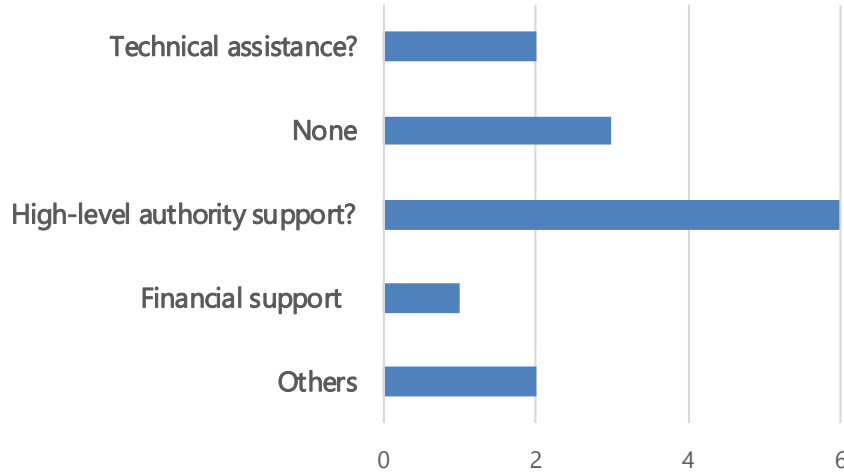## COVID-19 data at least partially available

Legend: yes (blue), no (red), n/s (green)

If data not accessible or only partially accessible – reasons for this

Reason	Value
Another project owns data	1
Security concerns	1
Data itself are limited	3
Authority restrictions	5
Other	4

Data availability

What support is needed to get access to data?

Category	Value
Technical assistance?	2
None	3
High-level authority support?	6
Financial support	1
Others	2

How long approx. needed to get access to data?

Category	Value
n/s	2
1-10 days	6
2 weeks/20 days	2
1-3 months	4

WP2: Baseline Workhop
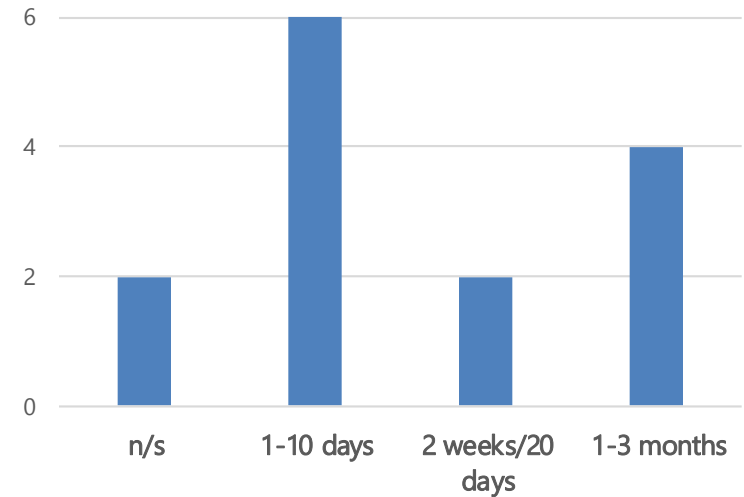
- BoD training (general concepts, burden of COVID-19)

- Creation of three Working Groups:

  i) **Data WG**: Preparation and collection of data

  ii) **Methods WG**: Methodological challenges and solutions

  iii) **Writing group**: Discussion of potential publications and communication/dissemination

WP2: Methods

- Life Expectancy tables – GBD and possibly also a regional aspirational LE table

- Standard Population – GBD World Standard Population

- Underestimation of COVID-19 deaths and Excess Mortality

- Choice of disease model and input parameters

Key messages

- Timely information on the impact of COVID-19 on population health is needed, with methods which allow for international comparability

- BoCO-19 establishes a network of international partners and provides support and capacity building for calculation of the burden of COVID-19.