

## VIRTUAL MOBILITY (VM) GRANT REPORT TEMPLATE

This report is submitted by the VM grantee to VNS Manager, who will coordinate the approval on behalf of the Action MC.

**Action number:** CA18218

**VM grant title:** The implementation of a framework on BoD evidence use in practice

**VM grant start and end date:** 04/10/2021 to 29/10/2021

**Grantee name:** Elena Pallari

**Description of the outcomes and achieved outputs (including any specific Action objective and deliverables, or publications resulting from the Virtual Mobility).**

*(max. 500 words)*

During the sessions, participants worked on drafting an outline of the KT framework based on the contextual parameters on their respective country and selected disease area as the priority topic. For example, a representative member from Norway, following consultations with relevant methodologists and other stakeholders successfully engaged with policy-makers on the NCD strategy, focused on the estimation of disability-adjusted life-years at the national level and created short briefs. Such transferrable lessons, could be of value to other participating members. This was a particularly useful outcome from the virtual mobility initiative. Further plans include to create a series of case-studies and reports from different countries to inform the development and implementation of guidance in strengthening the use of BoD evidence. Such outputs form part of the Action deliverables but also contributing not only in academic research prioritisation but also in public health decision-making. Moreover, the initiative enabled the identification of prioritization areas within KT such as drafting challenges that are context-specific and devising strategies to mitigate them e.g. poor stakeholder engagement in smaller countries (Malta, Cyprus), resource utilization in big countries (Scotland, Ireland) and working on the impact of the message through BoD data and visualisations.

**Description of the benefits to the COST Action Strategy (what and how).**

*(max. 500 words)*

The Virtual Mobility grant allowed the direct engagement of members of the Network who expressed an interest in the KT working group and studies on the use of BoD evidence in practice. The virtual sessions help with organizing a space for the members to participate, provide ideas and also actively engage and discuss their ideas, suggestions and experience. It is considered that both genders were represented through this collaborative initiative. There was a great participation from countries across Europe as well as NIC and IPC (e.g. Taiwan) bringing us a step closer in strengthening this collaboration. A further benefit has been the initiation of a further virtual working series (beyond the virtual grant, but as a result of it) that will probably continued during the Covid-19 pandemic. Further, the idea of the KT workshops and virtual session is to set the basis on guiding KT of BoD in various European countries for setting priorities and developing a prototype for use by different stakeholders involved or influencing policy-making.

**Description of the virtual collaboration (including constructive reflection on activities undertaken, identified successful practices and lessons learned).**

*(max.500 words)*

This virtual collaboration was split up in a five theme part. Part A included a reminder of what the activities and goal of the KT group are and introduced the purpose of the virtual sessions. This included a short powerpoint presentation. Part B was a discussion with participants around their expectations that such a virtual collaboration should be about and a discussion around some of the activities that can be undertaken going forward. Part C was the brainstorming session where participants were split into smaller working groups and reflected on their experience on challenges of using BoD data in practice and ways to overcome these. The whole session lasted just over 1 hour. Some of the lessons learned include the need to engage with stakeholders to demonstrate the value of BoD and develop to promote the use of BoD data. The virtual grant provided the opportunity to interested members of the network to come together and think of ways to enhance the value of using BoD data. Additionally, the activities from this collaborative initiative will continue for members to contribute to the development of a KT toolkit for burden of disease studies. The virtual sessions focused on how to develop an evidence brief practical guidance for the use of evidence from burden of disease studies (BoD) in research, policy or clinical practice.

Screenshot/photo from the workshop sessions



