

## EIE2021: Supplementary Call for Abstracts

### It takes more than a vaccine. Changing behaviours and boundaries for a post-Covid reality

Covid-19 is changing the world. After many months of constant crisis management, Europe and the rest of the world are closer than ever to disseminating the first effective vaccines that have been - or are about to be – approved, leading decision makers to breathe a sigh of relief.

While this indeed is substantial progress, new questions have emerged about how to produce, distribute, and provide the vaccines at scale and unprecedented speed. Furthermore, there is agreement that vaccines cannot be the only instrument helping societies to live with this virus. Specific individual behaviours - such as mask wearing or social distancing - will still be required. Organisations - offices and fitness centres as well as schools, hospitals and family centres - will still need to think about how they organise their staff, work and customer contact in ways that decrease the risks of infection and transmission. And systems will need to decide which policies to use - and how - when considering imposing targeted restrictions - be it in the form of travel bans or quarantine rules - aimed at slowing down a spread or protecting vulnerable groups in society.

These issues all raise tricky questions about,

- *WHICH* complex interventions and systems changes are needed to create a post-Covid normality; and
- *HOW* to best implement these interventions and changes in helping societies to live with the coronavirus and to slowly return to “normal” - a state in which shops, theatres, and concert halls can remain open; unrestricted travel is possible; weddings can be celebrated; in-person therapies and support can be provided safely; and hospitals can easily cope with both Covid-19 patients and others who require their services.

With this in mind, those working in implementation, knowledge translation, behaviour change and related fields are confronted with challenging questions:

- What exactly is it that implementation science can tell us about what is necessary to help individuals as well as organisations and systems to change their behaviour and adjust to long-term post-Covid realities?
- In which way will the delivery and implementation of human services need to be adjusted to these realities?
- How should policies and other complex interventions aimed at normalising societies be utilised and implemented in the coming time?

Questions such as these will be at the centre of the “Covid-19 track” at the European Implementation Event 2021.

In opening this supplementary call for abstracts, we invite you, working in implementation science or practice – be it as a researcher, organizational leader, intermediary, policy developer, consultant or in any other role – to share your experience with Covid-19 focused implementation work. You may have conducted this work in health, mental health, education, or different areas of social welfare. You may have worked with programs, practices, policies, organisational or systems change.

We invite submissions related to the overarching topic of the EIE2021 - **Crossing Borders, Overcoming Boundaries** - and address,

- which particular border(s) their work will help / has helped to cross, and
- how this will change / has changed which boundary/ies.

Particularly welcome will be submissions from multi-national, interdisciplinary teams representing a cross-border / boundary-changing approach or culture. This includes submissions focused on how to change the boundaries of the field of implementation science and practice itself, thereby providing direction for how to develop it in the decade ahead.

The formal requirements for submitting your abstract are outlined in our submission template, which you can download from our website. Please submit your abstract by **January 25, 2021**. We will notify presenters in mid-February 2021.