



Minutes – Meeting of European Implementation Networks

Date: 07.06.2023
Time: 15.30 – 17.30 CET
Attendees: Cecilie Varsi (EIC, Norway), Thomas Engel (NIMP, Norway) Lauren Clack (IfIS, Switzerland), Sabina de Geest (IMPACT, Switzerland), Heather Rogers (EIC, Spain), Alvaro Sanchez (Spain), Femke van Nassau (NIC, AmsCIS, Netherlands), Monika Finsterwald (INFo-P, Austria), Monika Sztankay (INFo-P, Austria), Barbara van der Linden (EIC, NIC, Netherlands)

Minutes

Meeting goals:

- Update from the EIC, national networks, and implementation science hubs across Europe
- Discussion of collaboration opportunities

News from EIC (Cecilie Varsi)

- General Assembly: The next General Assembly will be on October 25th, 2023, which will include the EIC Board elections. The EIC is seeking 4 new board members, preferably with greater diversity compared to the current Board (in terms of countries represented, gender, etc.). Applications are welcome via email along with a short video presentation.
- Members: The EIC currently has approximately 1000 members from over 40 different countries.
- EIC Strategy: The EIC has developed a strategic plan that outlines 5 strategic goals along with corresponding activities.
- We work closely with national networks in the following ways:
 - The biannual conference: EIE2023 in Basel (CH), and EIE2025 in Newcastle (UK).
 - Webinars: Topics are provided by networks, with organization handled by EIC.
 - Working groups: The Early Career Implementation Professional (ECIP) Working Group is one example; proposals for additional working groups are welcome.
 - Annual national network meetings.
 - Support for new networks.

German-speaking Network (Monika Finsterwald and Monika Sztankay)

- Network activities: Steering group meetings are held every 3 months, along with regular newsletters, a virtual implementation café, an online survey on challenges to implementation in German-speaking countries, and sessions at EIE2023 including a fishbowl discussion and a get-together after the event.
- Informal structure: The network operates with an open and welcoming structure, allowing everyone to participate in its development.
- No formal connection to IMPACT in Switzerland: The EIC does not have a formal affiliation or connection with IMPACT in Switzerland.

Spanish Network (Alvaro Sanchez)

- Activities: The organization of the Implementation Research Conference is scheduled for June 12-14, 2023, in Bilbao (ES). The conference will include a workshop on implementation mapping.



- The conference website will be used to promote the new implementation network alongside 25 research groups (originating from the existing primary care network).
- There are plans to enhance contact and collaboration with the EIC.

IMPACT Network, Switzerland (Sabina de Geest)

- IMPACT was founded in 2019 and includes 10 university departments.
- Goals of IMPACT:
 1. Showcase implementation science projects conducted by Swiss researchers and institutions.
 2. Provide networking opportunities.
 3. Offer training opportunities.
 4. Leverage funding options for implementation science in Switzerland.
- Activities to operationalize the network's goals: Annual conferences, quarterly webinar series, publications on network and conference contents, social media presence, and a website with access to webinars.
- A new strategic plan has been developed with several changes, including:
 - Emphasizing strong science.
 - Expanding the network to include implementation practitioners.
 - Enhancing skills through training in implementation science and promoting quality educational opportunities.
 - Continued efforts to leverage funding, which remains challenging.
 - Additional goal: Advancing methodology.
- There is no funding for the organization of the network, and all work is carried out by volunteers. There is a need for more formalization and structure.
- There are plans to broaden the network's focus to include environmental sciences.

Institute for Implementation Science and Health Care, IfIS (Lauren Clack)

- Research Institute at the University of Zurich Medical faculty founded in 2020.
- Includes 5 professorships for research and teaching, along with a management team for practical consulting and training, such as the masterclass in implementation science.
- IfIS staff members are active members of IMPACT.
- Since 2023, IfIS has officially hosted the EIC, with ongoing exploration of collaboration opportunities.

Norwegian Network for Implementation Research (Thomas Engell)

- Established in 2020 with a board consisting of 6 members and a network coordinator.
- The network has 150 official members and over 600 focus group members.
- Network activities include:
 - Annual conferences featuring publications on organization and conference proceedings
 - Quarterly webinars
 - Network meetings at conferences
 - Reviewing funder call texts
 - Managing a Facebook group
 - Lecturing and providing workshops
- Ongoing discussions involve:
 - Considering consultation services.
 - Launching a new official plan and website.



- Exploring funding opportunities for the network.
- Planning a webinar series with Danish and Swedish colleagues, with potential expansion to European attendees.

Netherlands Implementation Collaborative (Femke van Nassau)

- NIC was launched at EIE2021 following an extensive consultation and preparation period.
- The plan for 2020-2023 involves coordination at ZonMw, a funding agency, and an 8-member steering committee.
- Focus areas include implementation science, implementation practitioners, and practice.
- Activities:
 - Knowledge exchange during the "Week of Implementation"
 - Webinars
 - Meet-ups
 - Newsletters with 200-300 subscribers
 - Social media engagement
 - Networking.
 - Working Groups:
 - Education, including training overviews and accreditation of traineeships for implementation fellows.
 - Methods and tools, offering consultation services.
 - Research, focusing on knowledge agendas, connecting researchers, lobbying for implementation science programs, and spin-off projects.
 - Symposium on "25 years of implementation" by ZonMw (September 26th) in collaboration with NIC.

Amsterdam Centre for Implementation Science (AmsCIS) (Femke van Nassau)

- Comprised of researchers and an advisory committee with a mission to:
 - Provide knowledge, skills, and training.
 - Raise awareness about implementation.
 - Facilitate networking.
 - Host an implementation knowledge hub.
 - Develop educational modules.
 - Chair the implementation research workgroup of NIC and the sport and physical activity network.
 - Potential plans to expand the sport network to include members from other countries, alongside the emerging European sport professionals network.

UK Implementation Society (Alexandra Zieman)

- The acting chair, Tom Jefford, is currently traveling.
- The society has experimented with various payment models, initially with individual paid memberships, then transitioning to free memberships due to a decrease in numbers.
- Currently seeking more active trustees and an administrator change, along with a website revamp.



- The main upcoming activity will be the next EIE in the UK in 2025, in collaboration with the annual UK implementation conference by King's College London and regional networks.
- A successful activity includes online journal clubs for health and social work members, focusing on discussions of scientific papers.

Implementation Network Ireland and Northern Ireland (Katie Burke)

- The current chair is traveling, with Katie as a stand-in.
- The network has approximately 150 members and a board of 6 members.
- The network spans under two governments and was initiated in 2013 by a group of practitioners and policy professionals.
- Plans are underway to broaden the network to include researchers.
- Membership is free.
- The network holds 2 meetings per year, with the last one focusing on the implementation of gender-based violence policies.

Nordic Implementation Interest Group (Per Nilsen, Sweden - per email 7-6-2023)

- The Nordic Implementation Interest Group, as shown on the EIC website, no longer exists formally, but a mailing list is now managed by Ann Catrine Eldh, who previously led a seminar series that has not been continued.
- Kristin Thomas and Per Nilsen organize the annual international PhD implementation science course, conducted each autumn since 2011.
- In May 2023, an "implementation science week" featured researchers from the Netherlands and Hong Kong visiting Linköping University, with participation from several PhD students with implementation projects.
- Activities between Per and Kristin (Sweden) involve collaborations with Danish and Norwegian researchers to enhance Nordic collaboration, including presentations and discussions.

Discussion topics:

- **Difference between national networks and implementation (science) hubs:** Relationship with EIC, representation of networks on the board.
- **Financing models for networks:** Organizational membership, contributions by individual members, financing from certification/accreditation, representation on boards - exploring models and variations, along with pros and cons. Relationship with funding organizations.
- **Government realization of the need for implementation infrastructure and a coordinating organization**
- **Focus on implementation science and/or practice:** Broadening perspectives.
- **Terminology:** Use of "implementation" as a binding or dividing term, with a goal of sustainability and societal impact through implementation methods. Exploring other relevant terms while acknowledging the value of professionals in implementation.
- **Professionalization of implementation:** Moving towards the recognition of implementation as a profession, with increasing integration into the basic training of care professionals and specialization.



- **International collaboration in implementation research:** Utilizing networks as potential sources of funding, particularly for topic-specific areas such as diabetes and cancer. EIC's role in facilitating connections through working groups and channels. Financing support for non-profit research groups and national networks.
 - **Collaborative webinar series:** Exploring opportunities for joint hosting between EIC and national networks, potentially biannually, and bringing national webinars to EIC for broader exposure.
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