

F R E S H E R N E W S L E T T E R
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www.foresight-fresher.eu
Foresight and Modelling for European Health Policy and Regulation
* Newsletter *



Dear Readers,

We would like to warmly welcome you to this very first edition of the FRESHER newsletter!

The *raison d'être* of FRESHER lies in its significant contributions to the knowledge and understanding of chronic non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and their complex interlinkages with social, economic, environmental factors and risk behaviours. Research and insights acquired during the project will result in an adequate public decision-support tool to assess and test future policies with the aim to tackle the burden of chronic NCDs and their impacts and to move Europe toward a healthier future.

This first issue of the newsletter provides a general overview of the project and its members, reports on the first highlights and activities, and introduces our communication and stakeholder engagement channels. As the project evolves, our bi-annual newsletters will feature interviews with partners and external experts, reporting on project accomplishments, special contributions on our foresight activities and updates on stakeholder engagement and on the policy dialogue.

If you would like to make any comments or suggestions for future articles or features, please do not hesitate to contact us!

Your EPHA Team
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M E E T T H E T E A M



Project family photo: Representatives of all project partner organisations and the OECD were gathered in Marseille

FRESHER brings together ten research groups, including leaders in the management of large European Foresight projects and highly experienced health policy modelers, in an interdisciplinary team engaged in Foresight and Modelling for European Health policy and regulation. Under the leadership of Professor Jean-Paul Moatti, Partner Université d'Aix Marseille (AMU) is responsible for the scientific coordination of the project as well as its internal and external representation.

The project benefits from a privileged partnership with the **OECD** whose Chronic Disease Policy (CDP) Model will be used as a point of departure to develop an empirically-based dynamic micro simulation model, capturing social, behavioural and psychological risk factors for NCDs as well their health, education, labour-market and fiscal consequences for three European regions through one unified population modelling framework.

In our next edition, we will look at the OECD's CDP model, scope and benefits of dynamic micro simulation models and report on the ongoing work to extend the model scope within FRESHER.



REPORT OF THE FRESHER KICK-OFF MEETING

The kick-off meeting of the FRESHER project was held on the 2 and 3 March and was hosted by the French University of Aix-Marseille. Representatives from all project partners, as well as from the OECD, were present at the meeting.

Ms Ann Uustalu, from European Commission - DG Research and Innovation, opened the session with a presentation on 'Public Health research and foresight', highlighting the current situation in Europe and the challenges that lie ahead in the health and wellbeing sectors. Following the introduction, all partners were talked through the project's approach and methodological strategy and presented their research protocol, explaining the methodology they are planning to follow.

Professor Jean-Paul Moatti also stressed the importance of creating synergies with similar research projects; **Paula Santana and Monica Oliveira**, representatives of **EURO-HEALTHY**, a twin research project that also aims to assess health determinants, discussed the



Project Manager Andrea Ricci, Istituto di Studi per l'Integrazione dei Sistemi (ISIS)

possibilities to collaborate with FRESHER. Both projects could benefit from sharing evidence for determinants and drivers, aligning for scenario narratives, and reflecting on policy analysis and recommendations.

Next immediate project steps were set to include, among others, targeting stakeholders for the policy dialogue and identifying additional scientific experts for external input, in the framework of the **Scientific Advisory Board** and the **Stakeholder Committee**.

Stakeholder Committee

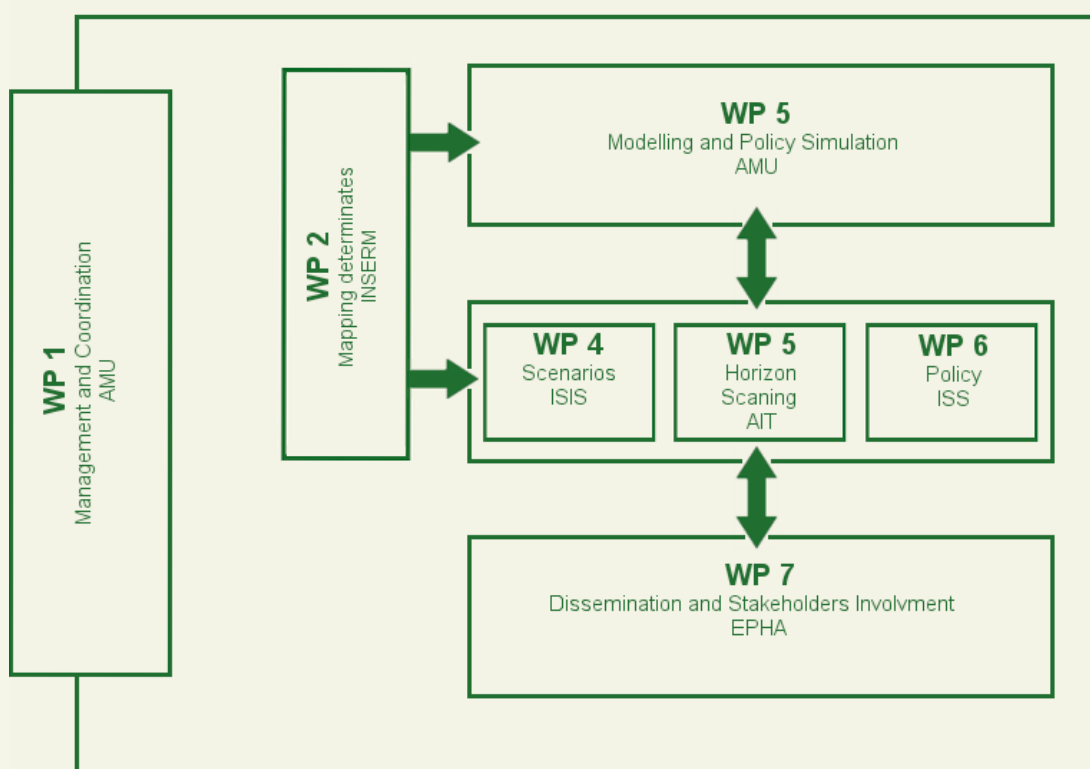
The Stakeholder Committee (SC) will comprise 15 representatives from public health CSOs, health promotion and prevention alliances, academics and policymakers. Involved all along the scenario building process, the SC will follow the progress of the work plan implementation, assess the societal value of the project, provide input for policy recommendations and help to ensure that the advancements achieved by FRESHER are disseminated in a user-friendly manner.

Scientific Advisory Board

The SAB will include, among others, the members of the OECD Economics of Prevention Expert Group that features experts in health policy and public health within all of the EU countries in the Northern and Southern regions of Europe and the majority of countries within the Central/Eastern region. The SAB will assess the scientific value and coherence of the project with respect to the international state of the art.

P R O J E C T S T R U C T U R E

As our research aims to explore a broad public health issue from different angles, the FRESHER project is made up of **seven interdisciplinary work packages** that benefit from the large set of competences represented in the project consortium.



FRESHER is made up of seven interdisciplinary work packages that benefit from the large set of competences represented in the project consortium. In order to fulfil goals set by the projects, FRESHER combines the insights from the exploration of current literature and data on evaluation of risk-factors and NCDs prevention and treatment policies (WP2), from possible scenarios for the future of health and health care (WP3 & 4) and from an organized policy dialogue with key European decision-makers and public health stakeholders (WP6 & 7).

All these efforts will converge to elaborate and produce inputs for an empirically based micro-simulation model capable of quantifying the current and future health and economic impacts of risk factors and test new policy options and policy combinations (WP5). An intensive effort will be devoted to translating results of qualitative scenarios and quantitative simulations into the definition and discussion of the future agenda for health research and health policies (WP6 & 7).

F R E S H E R G O E S O N L I N E



The site experience is designed in a way that you are never more than two mouse clicks away from what you need or welcoming still should you only want to peruse. With the use of clear drop down menus, graphical and text links, and buttons at the bottom of pages the user is never in a cul-de-sac not knowing where to turn. Another method of navigation is the search function, which can be defined to search the whole site or only subsections by key words.

In May of this year we excitedly launched the **FRESHER website**, giving the end user access to all information regarding the project. In a user friendly environment the visitor can discover the aims and activities of the project in only a few simple navigable clicks. The Project Partners are promoted at the forefront of the site, giving straightforward links to the homepages of each as well as a breakdown of their involvement in the project.

These features have been put in place so as work proceeds with the project and the amount of data produced grows, we are happy that the foundations are in place to populate the site further whilst maintaining a user friendly experience.



All interested parties and relevant stakeholders are invited to join.

Join our LinkedIn Group!

Joining the FRESHER LinkedIn group is an easy way to stay informed and discuss all NCD related inputs, research findings and project related activities.

This group represents an engagement platform for dynamic interactions between stakeholders from various backgrounds and for triggering multidisciplinary inputs: Policy-makers, academic experts, NGOs, representatives from the relevant industries, and researchers from related projects are all welcome to join the group and share their inputs and points of view.



Follow FRESHER on Twitter!

Keep abreast of the latest FRESHER developments, engagement opportunities and news from our project partners!

FIRST WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT



Organized by partner AIT, the first regional workshop will take place in Vienna on September 15th. Bringing together 25 international experts, this consultative meeting will serve to further identify, explore and assess health key trends and related drivers. Thus, missing and possible new future key drivers, as well as their interrelations, will be added, visualized and further explained. The scope of the exercise will prioritize all variables links with health, well-being, health behaviour and health system and the social, environmental and economic factors that have a strong influence on those variables.

This horizon scanning exercise will include not just the drivers evident in the literature, but also factors such as international trade, migration, shifting agricultural practices, nutrition in schools, social isolation etc. The clustering of the key trends and drivers will be conducted in a participatory way, using 'World Café' methodology as an effective and flexible format for dialogue. The results of this workshop will build the basis for the scenario building exercise in which multiperspective global scenario narratives will be elaborated and linked to a set of policies options and targets.



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