

EUROPLAN

European Project for Rare Diseases National Plans Development

Coordinated by the Italian National Centre for Rare Diseases

Italian National Institute of Health

2012-2015



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THE DELPHI PROCESS FOR SELECTING INDICATORS

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THE DELPHI PROCESS

- A qualitative research technique for consensus building
- Communication is organised in a group of experts in order to achieve their opinion in a systematic way and to group subjective judgments
- Every expert can express his/her own opinion anonymously



THE PROCEDURE

Delphi proceeds in a series of rounds

Round 1: Experts are invited to provide opinions on a specific matter, based on their knowledge and experience. These opinions are grouped together under a limited number of headings and statements drafted for circulation to all participants on a questionnaire;

Round 2: Participants rank their agreement with each statement in the questionnaire. The rankings are summarised and included in a repeat version of the questionnaire;

Round 3: Participants rerank their agreement with each statement in the questionnaire, with the opportunity to change their score in view of the group's response. The rerankings are summarised and assessed for degree of consensus: if an acceptable degree of consensus is obtained the process may cease, with final results fed back to participants; if not, the third round is repeated.



METHODOLOGICAL ISSUES

- **EXPERTS SELECTION:** the potential **bias** in the selection of participants can be overcome by using a different mixture of participants.
- **ACCURACY OF THE ANSWER:** because of the **danger** of deriving **collective ignorance** rather than wisdom (consensus does not mean finding the “correct” answer), the literature recommends that the results should, when possible, be matched to observable events (pilot study in EUROPLAN II)



RESULTS FEEDBACK

- *Agreement* with statements is usually summarised by using the **median** and *consensus* assessed by using **interquartile ranges** for continuous numerical scales.
- Feeding back the group's response enables participants to consider their initial ranking in relation to their colleagues' assessments, but it is not compulsory to conform to the group view.
- *Outliers* (e.g. those in the lower and upper quartiles) must **comment/provide** written justification for their responses



EUROPLAN INDICATORS SELECTION

- **Usefulness** and **feasibility** of data collection are the two main **criteria** that EUROPLAN II identified for selecting a limited number of indicators among those produced by EUROPLAN I
- The participants to this workshop are the group of experts involved in selecting the indicators according to the Delphi process



EUROPLAN INDICATORS FOR RARE DISEASES NATIONAL PLANNING



The image shows a login page for the EUROPLAN project. The background features abstract blue and white wavy lines. The text on the page reads: "EUROPLAN" in large blue letters, followed by "European Project for Rare Diseases National Plans Development" in smaller text. Below that, it says "Project coordinated by the Italian National Centre for Rare Diseases" and "Italian National Institute of Health". The years "2012-2015" are displayed in a larger font. To the right of the text is a circular arrangement of yellow stars. Below the text are two input fields: "Username:" and "Password:". Below these fields is a button labeled "Enter".

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Username:

Password:

Enter



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