

PHIRI

Population Health Information
Research Infrastructure

Digital Health Certificate and Registry

Task 8.4:

COVID-19 related international
guidelines, initiatives, projects and
information sources

– Róbert Láng (HU)

REF meeting

24th October, 2022



Death certificate - EUROSTAT

The **death certificate**, is a record of the fact of death of an individual. It provides important personal information about the deceased and about the circumstances and cause of death.

However, this information varies from country to country. Some countries have **separate forms for administrative and medical information**.

There also exist **two international models** for the medical information:

- the international form of the medical certificate of cause of death, and
- the certificate of cause of perinatal death.

Electronic death certification - EUROSTAT

Electronic death certification a fully electronic certification of the medical certificate of cause of death, i.e. the certifier completes and signs off an electronic form (on the computer). The form is then electronically sent to the relevant authorities.

In some countries the certifier completes the medical certificate on paper but all the information on this certificate is later entered in electronic format by somebody else, and all this information is available electronically to the compiler of the statistics. While this is not electronic death certification, it is a system that shares many of the benefits of electronic death certification.



Electronic Death Reporting System Online Reference Manual

A Resource Guide for Jurisdictions

CDC - December 2016



Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS) - CDC

An Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS) is a secure, web-based system for electronically registering deaths. An EDRS simplifies the data collection process and enhances communication between medical certifiers (medical examiners/coroners and health care providers), funeral directors, and local and state registrars as they work together to register deaths.

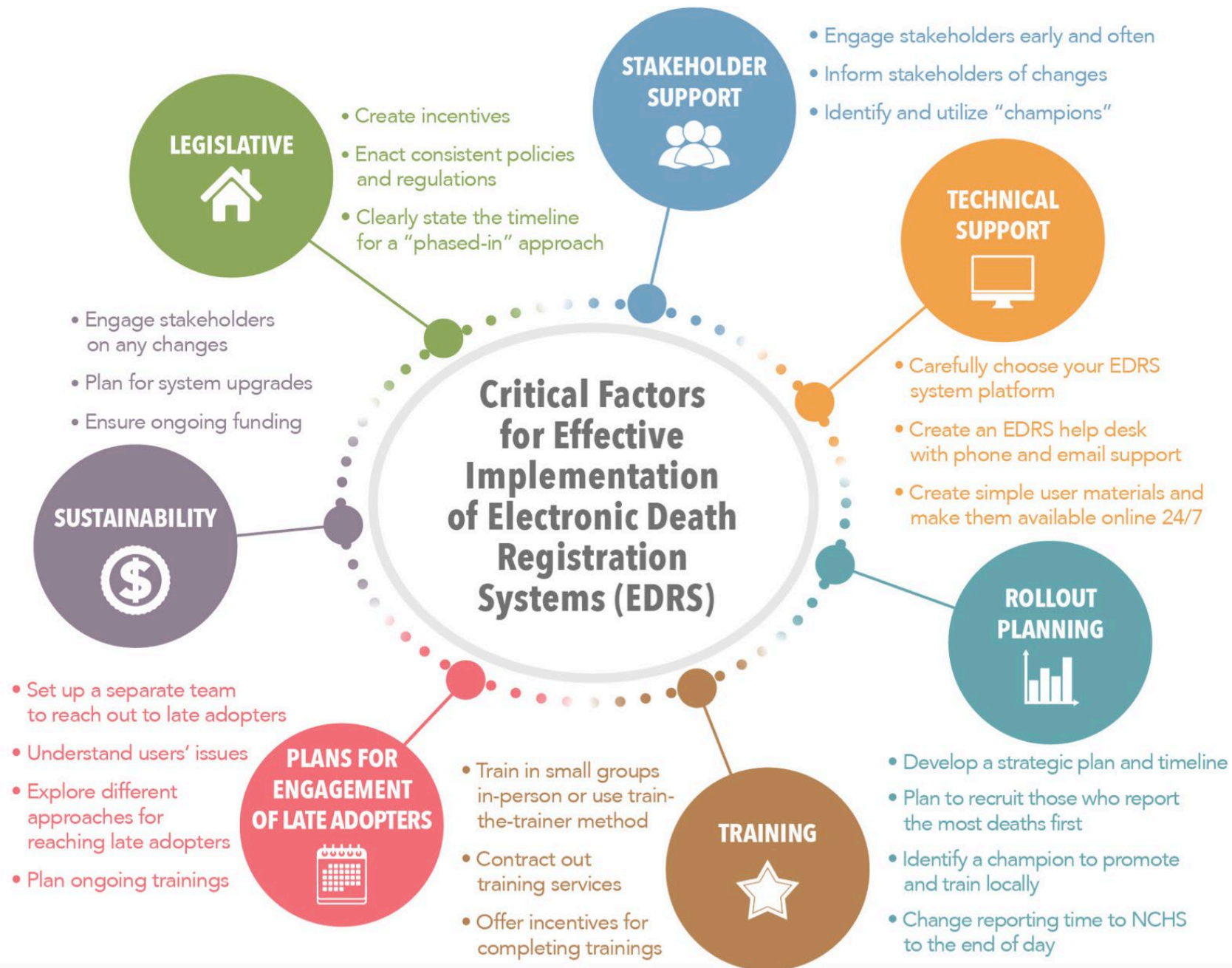
Benefits of EDRS:

- Web-based and securely accessible at any time and across multiple locations
- Can incorporate error-checking applications to improve data quality
- Enables users to complete the death registration process faster and with fewer errors
- Enables electronic processing of death certificate amendments

Death report

- The death report life cycle is complex
- The life cycle of reporting death data begins at the time of death and ends after the data are reported, cleaned, and placed in a final data set
- There can be multiple instances in the process where the timeliness and accuracy can be compromised.
- Implementing an EDRS ensures timely and accurate death certificates and, in turn, accurate mortality data that can be used in epidemiological studies and public health evaluations used to improve health care services and programs

Critical Factors for Implementing an EDRS






Critical Factors and Effective Methods in the Implementation of Electronic Death Registration Systems





Stakeholder Support

- Engage stakeholders early in the EDRS development process
 - Involve stakeholders throughout the EDRS development, launch, implementation, and maintenance process to obtain and keep their buy-in on the system
 - Engage “champions”—work with stakeholder leaders to have them spread the word to their constituents to promote the EDRS. They can also be local technical support and help with registration
 - Inform stakeholders of any changes to the system
 - Have someone from the state vital statistics office participate in professional associations and serve on association boards, if appropriate
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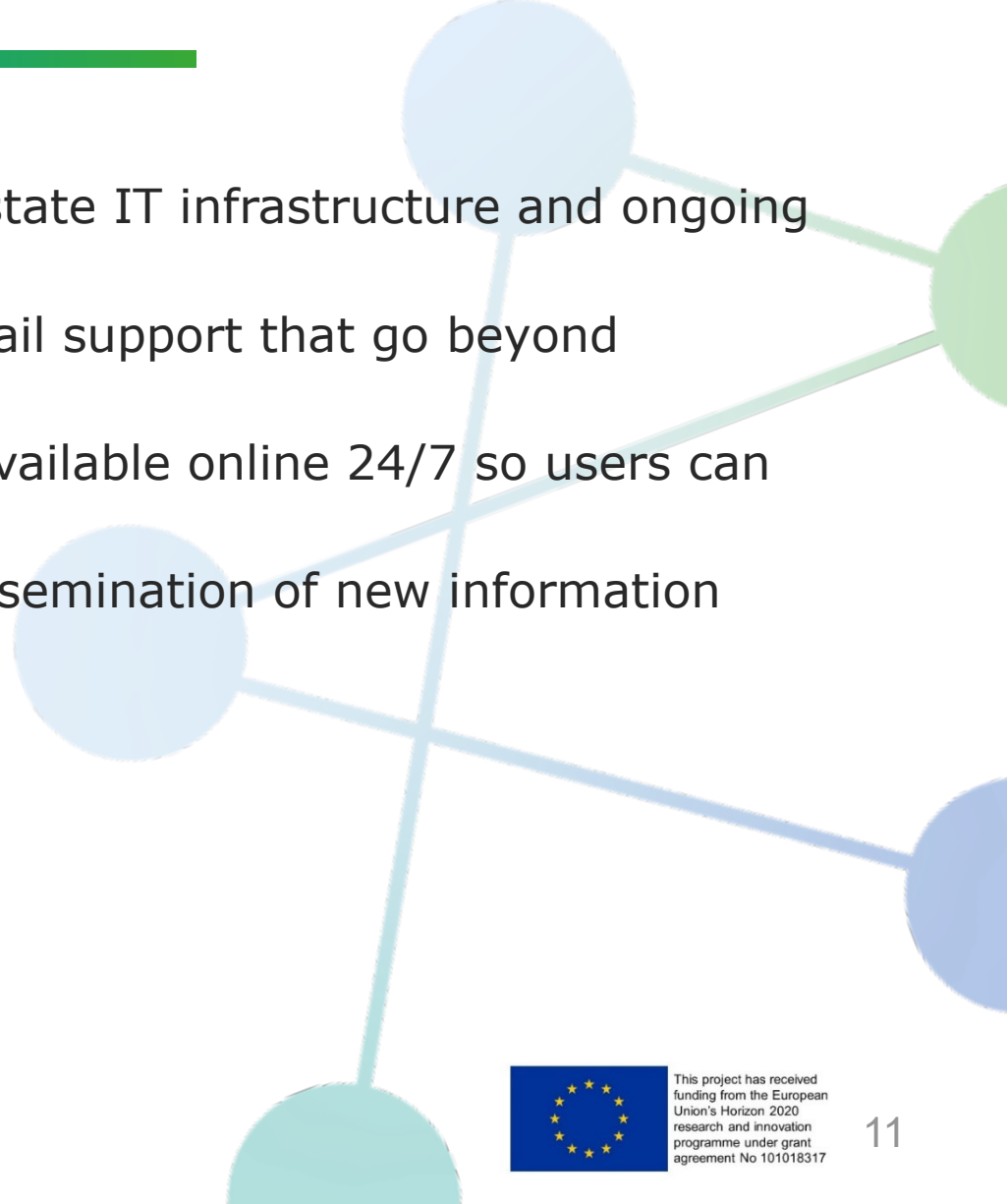


Legislation

- Legislation strongly supports EDRS implementation
- Consistent regulation and enforcement (across institutions, facilities, and regions) most beneficial



Technical Support

- Ensure that EDRS software is compatible with state IT infrastructure and ongoing IT support is available
 - Create an EDRS help desk with phone and e-mail support that go beyond traditional work hours
 - Create simple user materials and make them available online 24/7 so users can answer their own questions
 - Manage user lists for rapid notifications and dissemination of new information and updates
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Training

- Best type of training is in-person small group training; if in-person small group training is not possible, conduct in-person train-the-trainer sessions
- If in-person training is not practical, webinars can be employed



Rollout Planning

- Two methods: statewide “blitz” or regional phased approach
- Both approaches are equally effective if properly planned from the beginning
- Develop a strategic plan and timeline and adjust as needed
- Identify champions to promote and train on the system at their facility or in their association

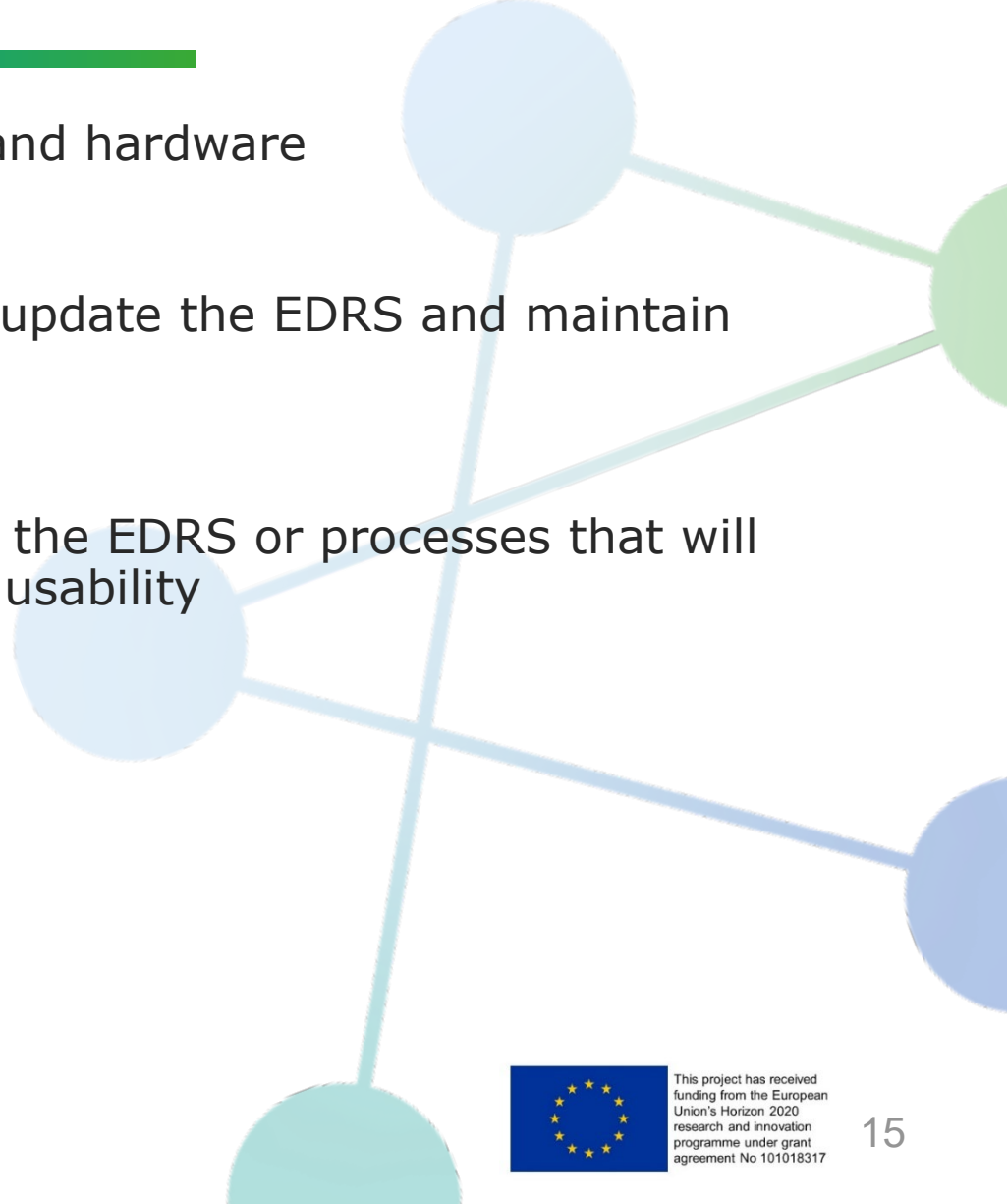


Plans for Engagement of Late Adopters

- Understand why the user does not want to submit death records electronically
- Set up a separate team to reach out to late adopters
- Plan ongoing training for new users and re-trainings for current users of the system



Sustainability

- Plan for system upgrades to the EDRS software and hardware
 - Ensure there is ongoing funding to deploy and update the EDRS and maintain user engagement
 - Be flexible to incorporate necessary changes to the EDRS or processes that will improve outcomes such as timeliness, quality, and usability
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Electronic Death Certificates to Improve Accuracy of COVID-19 Mortality Figures - INSERM PRESS OFFICE, 06 APR 2020

- In order to obtain accurate mortality figures on the COVID-19 pandemic, the data provided by the various entities authorized to issue death certificates need to be collected quickly.
- Although it is possible to declare deaths electronically, this channel is underutilized despite the considerable time-saving it represents for data processing on a national scale.
- The **widespread deployment** of electronic death certification should enable rapid acquisition of the figures needed, in order to improve monitoring of the pandemic.

France - Background

- Since 2007, **Inserm** via its Epidemiological Center on the Medical Causes of death (CépiDc) has provided the **CertDc app**, which **enables doctors to produce and electronically certify death certificates**, and as such provide rapid notification of information on the causes of death and the profiles of the deceased (sociodemographic and administrative information).
- The **more widespread use of electronic death certification would minimize delays in accessing COVID-19 mortality data** and make it possible to more rapidly obtain accurate and reliable mapping of the pandemic.
- The **widespread implementation of electronic death certification is therefore encouraged, with work being done to raise the awareness of the various health care players via the Regional Health Agencies**, in order for all data to be notified under better time conditions.



ANNEX

- INTERNATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR CERTIFICATION AND CLASSIFICATION (CODING) OF COVID-19 AS CAUSE OF DEATH – WHO/PAHO

GUIDELINES FOR CODING COVID-19 FOR MORTALITY

The document provides information about the ICD-10 codes for COVID-19 and includes mortality classification (coding) instructions for statistical tabulation in the context of COVID-19. It includes a reference to the WHO case definitions for surveillance.

New ICD-10 codes for COVID-19:

- U07.1 COVID-19, virus identified

<https://icd.who.int/browse10/2019/en#/U07.1>

- U07.2 COVID-19, virus not identified

➤o Clinically-epidemiologically diagnosed COVID-19

➤ Probable COVID-19 Suspected COVID-19

<https://icd.who.int/browse10/2019/en#/U07.2>

ICD-11 International Classification of Diseases, 11th Revision – 11 February 2022

The World Health Organization (WHO) Eleventh Revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11) has come into effect

RA01.0:

Code for the confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19.

RA01.1:

Code for clinical diagnosis (suspected or probable) of COVID-19.