Minutes

1st General Assembly

Evidence-Based Research Network

Thursday, 6 October 2022 from 9.00-10.00pm (Online)

**Number of participants:** 35

**Names of some of the participants:** Karen Robinson, Michaela Kosticova, Kim van der Braak, Jana Babjakova, Caroline Blaine, Angelo Maria Pezzullo, Silviya Aleksandrova-Yankulovska, Nicoletta Riva, Malgorzata Bala, Judith ter Schure, Alena Langaufová, Raluca Sfetcu, Vesna Vucic, Danijela Ristic-Medic, Tiziano Innocenti, Miloslav Klugar, Tiziano Innocenti, Mona Nasser, Klara Brunnhuber, Hans Lund, Jennifer Yost

**Background for establishing the EBRNetwork**

Since December 2014, the EBRNetwork’s steering committee has been working to promote an evidence-based approach when planning new research and when interpreting new results in the context of existing evidence.

This committee applied for a European COST Action three times and was finally successful in 2018, having secured the formal support of Western Norway University of Applied Sciences in Bergen, Norway.

Thanks to the support from COST Association, the COST Action called EVBRES (Evidence-Based RESearch) was established, aiming to promote networking and capacity building for EBR in health science. Since 17 October 2018, this COST Action has attracted participants from 37 European countries as well as from near-neighbouring countries and international partners.

The usual duration of a COST Action is 4 years but due to the pandemic, we have been granted a 6-month extension. This means that on 16 April 2023, funding for EVBRES (and hence the EBRNetwork) will come to an end.

**To enable the EBRNetwork to continue its important work, we are proposing to formalise the “Evidence-Based Research Network” (EBRNetwork).**

The first step towards this goal was a public General Assembly for all interested in supporting the work of EBRNetwork, **carried out on Thursday, 6 October 2022 from 9.00-10.00pm (CEST).**

# Agenda minutes

1. **Introduce the concept of “Evidence-Based Research”**

Hans Lund shortly presented the concept of EBR.

1. **Introduce our suggestion for the strategy for EBRNetwork**  
   Karen Robinson introduced the suggestion for an overall strategy for EBRNetwork. This includes the **Vision**: “A world in which the cultural norm and expectation is that decisions about research are based on transparent and systematic use of evidence. Or, a world that we do not need EBR/EVBRES. The **Mission**: Transparent and systematic use of evidence to inform decisions about research. The Goals (with Objectives): EBR part of research culture - Advocate for changes in research environment - Conduct research to inform methodology and implementation - Develop engagement strategies, including scientific products.
2. **Introduce our charter for running the EBRNetwork**

Klara Brunnhuber introduced the suggestion for a charter for EBRNetwork. The includes Three main sections: (1) General information about EBRNetwork:   
Name, based in Norway, not-for-profit, hosted by an institution through an associated agreement, purpose; (2) Governance structure: Board of Trustees, Secretariat, Steering Committee, Founding Steering Committee, Members, Subcommittees; and (3) Membership, key regulations, processes & policies:   
Eligibility, categories, voting rights, annual dues, resignation & termination, meetings, Conflict of Interest, financial aspects & audit, use of outside experts, amendments to Charter/Strategy/Business model, dissolution of EBRNetwork.

1. **Introduce our business model for the EBRNetwork**  
   Miloslav Klugar introduced the suggestion for a business model for EBRNetwork. The future business model for our continuation of EBRNetwork must be a multicomponent Business Model with several funding sources. We consider the following **Funding sources**: (1) Membership fee; (2) Grants; (3) Sponsorships; (4) Revenue from products, events and services; and (5) Donations.  
   We can give the following **Reasons for joining**: (1) You will support the promotion of EBR; (2)You will receive a discount for EBR conferences, webinars, courses and alike; (3) You will participate in development and discussion related to the EBR concept; (4) You will participate in EBR related research and publications; and more
2. **Ask for the formal support from the General Assembly for the founding steering committee** (see below).  
   The plan for establishing the EBRNetwork was outlined and included the following: The establishing General Assembly (this meeting) will approve a Founding Steering Committee (FSC). The FSC will make an agreement with Western Norway University of Applied Sciences (HVL), Campus Bergen, Norway, to host the EBRNetwork. The FSC will also initiate the preparation of the 4th EBR Conference and secure a smooth transfer of activities from EVBRES to EBRNetwork.  
   The suggested FSC was presented, and the General Assembly gave an unanimous support to the FSC
3. **Announce the date for the next General Assembly.**  
   The date was not possible to share at 6 October 2022, but while writing the minutes we know now that the next General Assembly will be Monday 4 December at HVL in Bergen, Norway (in-person).

The approved Founding Steering Committee

1. Caroline Blaine, BMJ, UK
2. Klara Brunnhuber, Elsevier Ltd, UK
3. Miloslav Klugar, Masaryk University, Czech Republic
4. Hans Lund, Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, Norway
5. Mona Nasser, Plymouth University, UK
6. Karen Robinson, Johns Hopkins University, USA
7. Jennifer Yost, Villanova University, USA

Hans Lund

24 February 2023