

## Best Information through Regional Outcomes: Defining a European Diabetes Data Dictionary

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**Background:** BIRO is a 7-country consortium developing a series of standardised diabetes indicators for reliable comparison across Europe. Funded by DG-SANCO, the project has close links with the European Core Indicators in Diabetes (EUCID) project. In order to allow accurate comparisons of indicators, a standardised currency for data storage and aggregation is required.

**Methods:** Clinical datasets used by partner institutions were collated and common items analysed for consistency of recording and data definition. Where necessary, data mappings and algorithms were specified in order to allow partners to meet the standard definitions. Each partner's data was assigned a "validity" weighting describing how well it could meet the agreed definition. These mappings and standardised definitions have been used to create an electronic directory for diabetes care, providing the foundation for the BIRO data repository.

**Results:** The minimum dataset defined contains 68 data items (47 defining clinical data; 21 specifying geographical demography). Each item contains a standardised definition and, where necessary, translational mappings or calculations. For each of these data items, considerable metadata has been accumulated describing the characteristics of the data within partner sites, including quality, completeness, reliability and validity.

**Conclusions:** The development of data dictionaries and data standards can be used to improve the quality, relevance, consistency and comparability of national information about health. A European minimum common dataset and data dictionary has been developed that is applicable using existing clinical datasets for Diabetes. Funding has recently been secured to continue the rollout to over 20 countries via the EU-BIROD project.