



B.I.R.O.

Best Information through Regional Outcomes

A Public Health Project funded by the European Commission, DG-SANCO 2005

B.I.R.O. Kick Off Meeting

Monday 05 December 2005, Hotel La Villa et Perusia, Perugia, ITALY

Project overview

BIRO Project rationale

The plan of the BIRO project is motivated by the need to overcome some of the frequent barriers posed by problems like:

- insufficient utilization of information systems by clinicians and policy makers
- poor linkage between regional data sources and European statistical agencies
- limited application of sophisticated statistical routines in European health reports
- inadequacy of software available in the public domain
- insufficient use of medical records due to increasing privacy concerns
- lack of standardized approaches for secure data transmission

BIRO Project aims

The project aims to support the European Community in the following directions:

2. enhancing its capacity to combat a specific health concern, diabetes, and a number of risk factors and complications directly related, including obesity, impairment, social exclusion, and the much higher risk of adverse effects among aged subjects;
3. supporting policy-making through the systematic evaluation of different strategies for health care and prevention based on a scheme that is generally valid for all chronic diseases.

BIRO Project general objective

“to build a common European infrastructure for standardized information exchange in diabetes care, for the purpose of monitoring, updating and disseminating evidence on the application and clinical effectiveness of best practice guidelines on a regular basis”

BIRO Project specific objectives

- identification of a set of clinical guidelines based on the scientific literature
- selection of a European minimum dataset for international comparisons
- adoption of common health and quality indicators for routine monitoring of diabetes outcomes
- finalisation of a concept and data dictionary for information exchange and data processing
- definition of standardized statistical analyses, in the form of report templates.
- design and implementation of a relational data model
- design and implementation of statistical methods for the production of health reports
- validation of a secure protocol for international communication and shared data analysis
- customisation and development of specialized software to be deployed in the public domain
- linkage of the different components in a user-friendly reporting facility
- dissemination of all results through a web portal and a specialized publication

