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How universities of applied sciences could support public health services in the realization of their mission?

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Background & Aim: The ageing of the population makes pressure on the public health services to plan and anticipate the health resources which will be required in a few years. But generally, these services don't have access to the decision support systems required to realize efficiently their mission. In this context, our university of applied sciences can be a partner to make evidences available in their daily operations.

Method: The Cochrane initiative provides us a useful and rigorous methodology to implement evidence based practices (EBP). But the resources required to make it "by the book" are rarely available in the true life. In addition, the EBP are traditionally applied in the clinical field, but not so frequently in the public health and healthcare organization. Our approach is more applied and simpler than the Cochrane methodology, but it may be useful to support the health deciders in their daily work.

Results: Our team is currently involved in different projects in collaboration with the public health and government services. In this conference, we will report our findings but also the successes and the difficulties we encountered in these collaborations.

Conclusions: One of the missions of the universities of applied sciences should be the development of new knowledge transfer methodologies in order to improve the implementation of scientific results into the practice. This aim requires the development of innovative approaches which maximize the scientific rigor, but simultaneously stay accessible to the practitioners. For example, the development of a partnership with non-scientific stakeholders involved in the health policy development and its implementation, is one of these challenges which should be considered.