

## W23

### **How to improve research collaboration in general practice among European countries?**

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**Background:** Promoting the implementation of collaborative research studies in General Practice is among the key objectives of the European General Practice Research Network (EGPRN), the research network of WONCA Europe. Significant differences among European countries exist in terms of participation in large European studies; the EGPRN considers that efforts to reduce this gap desirable.

“Actions to bridge the divide in European health research and innovation” is a recent call by Horizon 2020. To be eligible, a project needs partners from both countries with a consolidated research background and those less experienced in research. While preparing this proposal, the EGPRN has gathered information regarding concrete measures for tackling structural barriers to health research and innovation in general practice, including those related to capacity, skills, policy, regulatory environment, and economic and socio-cultural factors from over 20 countries in Europe.

**Aim:** To discuss the process of building up collaborative research projects in general practice including countries at different stages in research: what works and what is missing?

**Methods:** Discussion with audience

- Collection of participants’ experiences in collaborative international research
- for experienced countries: how do they think that international research collaboration may contribute to reduce the research gap between countries and what can they do about it?
- for countries with less experience in international research collaboration: what barriers do they have to cope with and what do they think could be elements for facilitating their participation?
- The debate will thereafter be organized using participatory learning techniques according to the themes of the aforementioned call into capacity, skills, policy, regulatory environment, and economic and socio-cultural factors.

**Results:** To increase our understanding of strategies and concrete measures to reduce the research gap in general practice among European countries.