

January 2024

EIOS NEWSLETTER

Image: Casey Horner on UNSPLASH

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DEAR READER,

As the new year unfolds, it is time to take stock of our joint achievements as an initiative in 2023, as well as to look forward to what's in store for 2024.

Besides all the incredible work that has been done both on strengthening the EIOS community as well as the system, this past year was of significant importance for us. We dedicated specific efforts to critically examine the initiative's progress since its inception. We paused to ask ourselves: What will it take to properly equip EIOS for the future? As you can read in the Spotlight section, the EIOS Coordination Group got involved knee-deep in the process, kicking off the year with our mid-term meeting in Singapore. As we take their input to finalize the new EIOS strategy, we will give you a preview in this newsletter of some of the exciting plans we have lined up for this year.

We are looking forward to the opportunities this new year holds and extend a heartfelt thank you to all of our community members for making EIOS what it is today.

With sincere greetings,
The EIOS Core Team

EIOS COMMUNITY

The past year marked exponential growth of the EIOS initiative. By the end of 2023, we counted 117 EIOS communities within the EIOS system, including 85 Member States. We would like to express our gratitude to the EIOS Focal Points at the WHO regional offices and supporting organisations for their unwavering dedication and for being the key driving force behind this phenomenal expansion. For more information on EIOS communities, visit the [EIOS website](#).

List of communities onboarded to the EIOS system in 2023

WHO Member States

 Angola	 China	 Ghana	 Somalia
 Armenia	 Colombia	 Guyana	 South Sudan
 Bangladesh	 Congo	 Honduras	 Spain
 Botswana	 Costa Rica	 Italy	 Sri Lanka
 Burkina Faso	 Cuba	 Lesotho	 Thailand
 Canada	 Ethiopia	 Malawi	 Uruguay
 CAR	 Gabon	 Mauritania	 Zimbabwe
 Chad	 The Gambia	 Namibia	
 Chile	 Georgia	 Saudi Arabia	

Organizations, networks & groups

- Gulf CDC
(Gulf Center For Disease Prevention and Control)
- OHCHR
(Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights)
- Samaritan's Purse

Check out how the EIOS system is used worldwide in this [new video](#).

Training Highlights

The past year has been very fruitful when it comes to capacity building. The Global EIOS Training Team delivered a record number of trainings, with 67 EIOS trainings and refresher workshops!

To keep up with the steady demand from Member States and organisations to join the EIOS initiative, we further expanded the network of proficient EIOS trainers in 2023. During a 5-day EIOS Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop at the WHO Pandemic Hub in Berlin, Germany, 34 participants from 25 different organizations were trained on how to successfully deliver training on EIOS and Public Health Intelligence. To feel the unique atmosphere of this most recent ToT check out the [video](#).

Furthermore, the 'Introduction to EIOS' self-paced online course on OpenWHO added two new languages! It is now available in Arabic, English, French, Spanish and Portuguese to everyone with an EIOS system user account. The course consists of six modules and provides an introduction to the EIOS Initiative and the EIOS system. Lastly, EIOS monthly clinics are being conducted in English and French since last March.

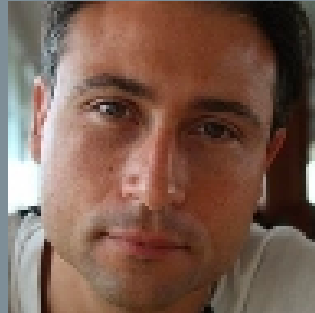
The EIOS Core Team was awarded the "**Above and Beyond**" Award by the WHO Department for Prevention and Response to Sexual Misconduct. This recognition is a testament to the team's contributions to combatting sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment and incorporation of these principles in their day-to-day work. It is an important milestone and a reminder that each of us plays a key role to ensure **zero tolerance** for sexual misconduct!



EIOS ToT workshop, WHO Pandemic Hub in Berlin, September 2023. Photos: WHO/Alfonso Moral.

EIOS System & Technology

Over the past year, exciting developments have taken place in the underlying technology of the EIOS system. The overarching focus of the ECT Tech team and the developers at the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission was on the development of the new version of the EIOS system V2. Unlike previous releases, V2 is based on a complete re-architecting of the portal's core components, including the design of a new user interface and the development of additional modules with new features and functionality. Testing of EIOS system V2, a necessary pre-step to releasing it to the users, is scheduled for later in the year. We are working on a plan to make the transition as smooth as possible for all user communities and will keep you informed about any milestones through regular updates. Take a peek at some of the work in progress below!



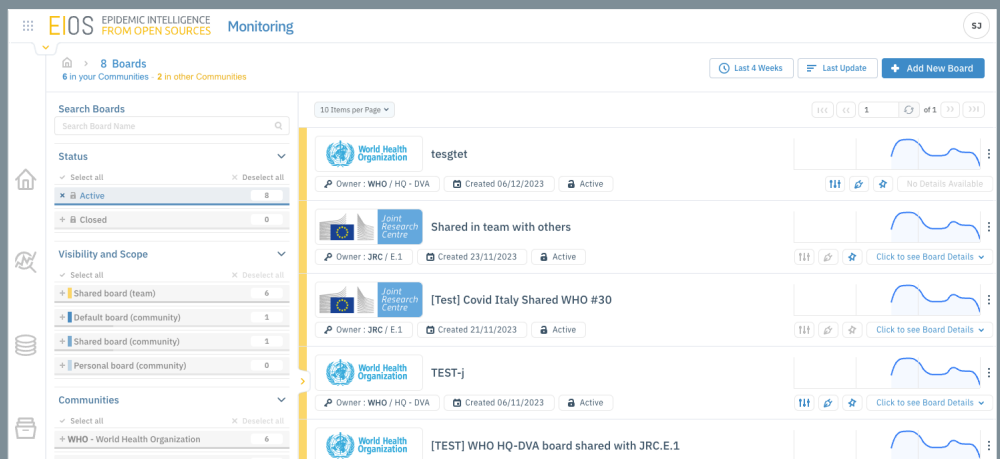
JRC lead developers of the EIOS portal. Left to right: Luigi Spagnolo, Francesco Osato, Salvatore Mirabella. Photos: WHO/JRC.

New look and feel of the user interface

Screenshot showing the monitoring page under development with the new navigation and article panel.

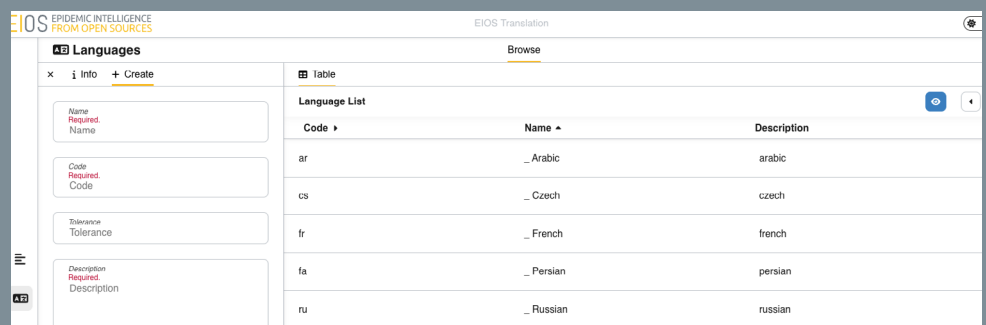
Multilingual user interface

The user interface will be available in multiple languages



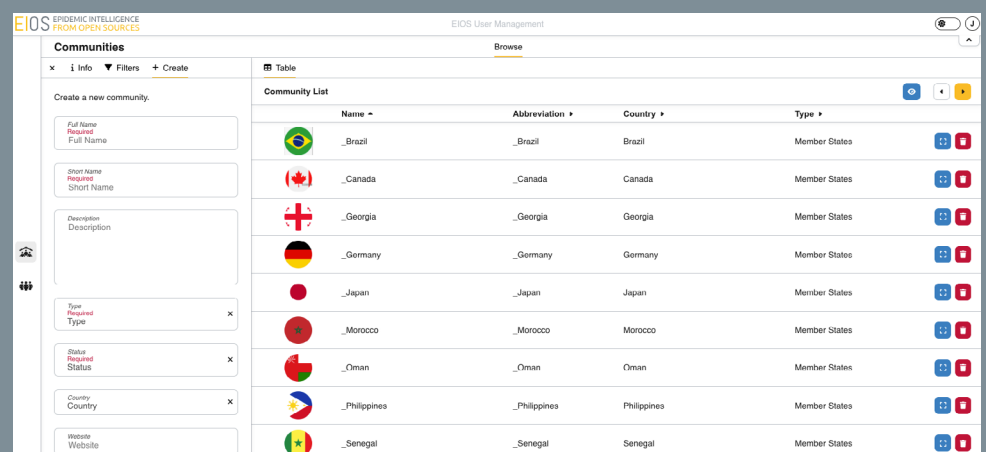
New module enabling translations of the user interface

A new translation module was developed and deployed for testing, enabling translations of the user interface supported by automated machine translation



Enhanced Community/ User-Management module:

A new user management module was developed and deployed for internal system testing. This component will incorporate a variety of previously requested enhancements with regards to managing communities, teams, and users. It will also assist with EIOS expansion, empowering communities to manage their communities more independently



EIOS System & Technology

Enhanced Communications module:

Additional functionality expanding information sharing and collaboration capabilities is under development for EIOS system V2. This will allow enhanced communication and collaboration across boards and communities.

Home > Boards > Board who-1234567 > Article detail

Article title in its original language

Translated article title (if available) Language

Source: thewebsite.org Medical From: Country Name Fetched: 04/04/2023 02:46 UTC Imported: 04/04/2023 02:49 UTC

Full Article Locations Related Boards and Posts Similar Articles Duplicates

Pinned to boards: 4

Posts referencing this article: 5

WHO / HQ - DVA

Daily Monitoring (current)

WHO / EURO

Priority disease Western Europe

WDAH / Avian flu

Avian flu surveillance in Europe

GHIS / Avian flu

Avian flu surveillance in Global

World Health Organization

Daily Monitoring (current board)

Type a comment. Use @ to mention someone

Visibility: Current Board (WHO + 2 collaborating teams) Advanced options

SPAGNOLO Luigi today at 12:03 UTC

Reply

Additional work is ongoing to improve the overall processing and automated analysis pipeline to enhance scalability, interoperability and performance of the core system - a key requirement for equipping the EIOS initiative for the future and the continued growth of the user community. This includes a rework of the underlying system architecture and upgrade of the technology stack. There has been and continues to be some heavy-lifting going on at the JRC: A big thanks to the committed team of developers!

EIOS IN NUMBERS 2023

Sources

Thanks to continuous joint efforts between the EIOS Core Team (ECT) and EIOS focal points at the WHO regional offices to improve the EIOS system's detection capabilities, its level of representativeness has further increased through the addition of thousands of new sources in 2023.

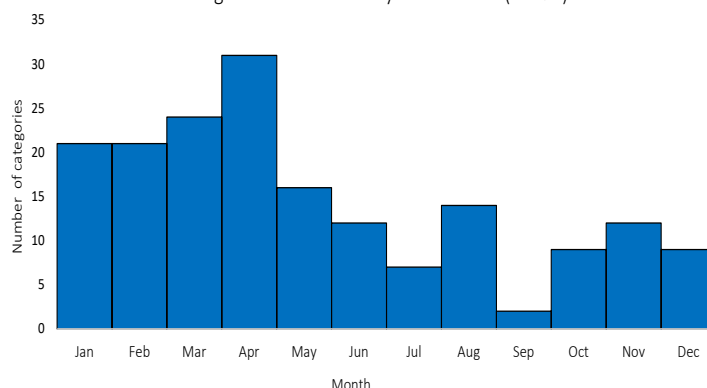
In 2023 the ECT and Regional Focal Points identified thousands of new sources leading to over **4800 new sources** appearing in the EIOS system. There was also a high number of sources which have stopped feeding into the system. We are currently investigating the root cause and strategies to improve this going forward.

We have been able to include a feed from **Telegram** as a new source type since July 2023 but, for the time being, have not been able to obtain a feed from **X** (formerly known as Twitter).

Categories

Over the past year more than **250 categories (including 178 new ones)** have been reviewed and **refined** to improve system performance and reduce noise.

Categories added to the system in 2023 (n=178)



Together with members of the global EIOS community, nearly **30 human disease or pathogen categories** were developed and added to the system and over **70 new animal health categories** were included for improving equine and wildlife disease monitoring.

Further, new categories were created and existing categories improved to support monitoring of **emergencies** (e.g. COVID-19, Mpox, child deaths associated with diethylene glycol contaminated cough syrups, ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and between Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory).

Thanks to the contributions of the EIOS user community, the system continues to get stronger, one source and one category at a time!

Priorities 2024: New Year, new Goals

Since its inception in 2017, EIOS has evolved into the strong collaborative public health intelligence (PHI) initiative it is today. It has a profound impact on how online “event-based surveillance” is performed in many countries and across many organizations charged with this important PHI function [worldwide](#). Today, the EIOS initiative is supported by a vibrant community of governmental and non-governmental agencies from all corners of the world, represents sectors across One Health boundaries and includes partners from technology, academia and other domains. You, dear reader, are a part of this collective success!

As we step into 2024, the EIOS initiative is at a crucial juncture, having undergone significant growth and maturation over the past six years. A dedicated process of reflection to design the way forward was initiated in the second half of 2023, with gracious support from HERA, the European Commission’s Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority, and is now in its final stages. The new strategy for EIOS, guiding the initiative’s sustainable development over the next three years, is currently being finalized. While the details are still being co-developed with some of the initiative’s key stakeholders (refer also to Spotlight section below), the ECT’s main priorities for 2024 are aligned with the three overarching objectives that have been identified in the draft strategy:



Transform the EIOS system for enhanced functionality and longevity, leveraging advanced research and development

Maximize engagement and sustainability of the EIOS community of practice

Connect and advocate for EIOS with other initiatives, communities, decision-making processes and systems

On the technology side, our priority for 2024 will focus on continuing to define the technology architecture for future versions of the system and working on systematic reconfiguration of the core system, as described on page 2.

Another big focus will be put on ensuring an effective transition from the current to the more advanced version 2 of the EIOS system later this year. Work will also continue on delivering new technology modules to improve and add capabilities, leveraging machine learning and artificial intelligence where opportune and further increase the interoperability between the EIOS system and other systems.



EIOS strategy workshop with SEEK Development, WHO Pandemic Hub Berlin, December 2023. Photo: WHO/Rabiyan.

At the same time, acknowledging the pivotal role of engagement with the EIOS community of practice, the ECT will focus on further growing and strengthening the existing network. Supporting our WHO regional focal points and other members of the Global EIOS Support Team in building up regional networks or other sorts of ‘super-communities’ will be one priority; facilitating the 2024 Global Technical Meeting (GTM) will be another (stay tuned: more information to be shared soon!). With the transition to EIOS V2, EIOS training materials will be updated and reworked, and specific webinars and clinics will be offered in addition to the regular ones. First preparations for the 2024 EIOS Training of Trainers have started, and exciting new training formats will be introduced.

Pursuing collaborative surveillance, the ECT is further looking to engage more closely with other relevant initiatives within and beyond WHO and to increase the visibility of EIOS with public health decision makers. Similarly, particular efforts will be made to better link EIOS training to broader PHI trainings, and generally optimize the way training is delivered worldwide.

As we collectively navigate this transformative phase, the EIOS initiative remains committed to empowering PHI functions globally. With the finalization and implementation of the new EIOS strategy, 2024 will be the year to forge ahead, together, towards a more agile, sustainable, and impactful EIOS ecosystem.

Spotlight: Mid-term EIOS CG Meeting

The EIOS Coordination Group (CG), the initiative's governing body charged with providing strategic advice to the EIOS Core Team (ECT), convened in Singapore from 30-31 January 2024. This face-to-face meeting, strategically positioned at the mid-term juncture of the 2023-24 CG's mandate, served as a pivotal moment to engage CG members in an in-depth discussion on the newly drafted three-year strategy for EIOS, focusing on sustainable expansion of the initiative, that had been crafted over the past 6+ months.

While CG members were actively involved in the initial consultations and various soundings throughout the strategy development process, this meeting provided the first opportunity for in-person engagement, allowing for a dedicated exploration of the complex issues at hand. With a purposeful agenda focusing solely on the new strategy, the meeting facilitated profound discussions and exercises, enabling a thorough examination of both detailed aspects and overarching themes.



In a practical exercise, CG members got to deep-dive into individual initiatives of the strategy, led by the respective ECT leads for Technology, Training and Engagement at the mid-term EIOS CG meeting in Singapore, January 2024. Photos: WHO/Singapore MoH.

At the end of the two-day meeting, the CG welcomed and affirmed the overall objectives identified in the new strategy, helping to chart the EIOS initiative's future path. Yet, by diving deeper into the strategic framework, the group revealed some sections of the draft strategy that will need to be further refined and clarified. This will be addressed by the ECT in the follow-up to this meeting to form a more robust and well-rounded final strategy and presented again for the group's endorsement in the coming weeks.

The physical get-together was an invaluable step in the process and we would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Singapore Ministry of Health, who served as exceptional meeting hosts. Their commitment, active engagement, and unparalleled hospitality contributed significantly to the success of this important event.



Group picture of the participants at the mid-term EIOS CG meeting in Singapore, 30-31 January 2024. Photo: WHO/Singapore MoH.