



This project has received funding from the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration under grant agreement no 612236



share and move to face nasty bugs

# ASSET HIGH LEVEL POLICY FORUM

## Introduction, Mission & Focus, Agenda and Members



[www.asset-scienceinsociety.eu](http://www.asset-scienceinsociety.eu)

## Introduction

The 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic revealed a breakdown in the communication between decision makers, their scientific institutions and the European public. This communication failure led to unwanted effects, such as the failure of a large part of the population to adopt adequate preventive measures, and the scientific sector not taking into account important information coming from the population. The objective of **ASSET** (Action plan in Science in Society in Epidemics and Total pandemics) is to create the blueprint for a better response to pandemics, through improved forms of dialogue and better cooperation between science and society at various stages of the research and innovation process. **ASSET** is a four-year, European Commission funded Mobilization and Mutual Learning Action Plan (**MMLAP**) project, which started 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 and will end on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017. The perspectives developed by the **ASSET** project will flow into Horizon 2020. See ASSET Project Web-site for more information of the project: <http://asset-scienceinsociety.eu/>. See the ASSET Brochure for a quick overview of the ASSET Project: <http://tiems.info/images/Asset%202015%20brochure.pdf>

The project objectives are:

1. Forge a partnership with complementary perspectives, knowledge and experiences to address scientific and societal challenges raised by pandemics and epidemics, and associated crisis management.
2. Explore and map SiS (Science in Society) related issues in pandemics and epidemics.
3. Define and test a participatory and inclusive strategy to improve bi-lateral communication aimed to succeed with crisis management.
4. Identify necessary resources to make sustainable the actions after the project completion.

ASSET combines public health, vaccine and epidemiological research, social and political sciences, law and ethics, gender studies, science communication and media. The aim is to develop an integrated, trans-disciplinary strategy, which will take place at different stages of the research cycle, combining local, regional and national levels. One of the ASSET project tasks is to establish an **ASSET High Level Policy Forum (ASSET-HLPF)**.

## ASSET High Level Policy Forum

Tackling pandemics and epidemics is an intricate process, which necessitates effective interaction among many stakeholders. As this interaction must happen very quickly and under intense public scrutiny, preparedness is essential. The network of stakeholders can only be prepared well through building trust and good working relationships prior to the incident. In addition, identifying and discussing important policy issues and examining how they can be improved, can only be done comprehensively through considering the points of view of all the main stakeholders. The ASSET-HLPF is intended to provide this opportunity at the highest level in various European countries. It is a place for stakeholders to meet, learn from each other, and come up with better policy proposals.

## ASSET-HLPF Mission & Focus

### *Mission:*

The **ASSET High Level Policy Forum (ASSET-HLPF)** brings together selected European policy-makers at regional, national and EU levels, key decision makers in health agencies, the pharmaceutical industry, and civil society organisations, in a unique and interactive dialogue to promote on-going reflection on EU strategic priorities about pandemics.

### *Focus:*

- The Forum will consider and revise specific issues related to EU strategic priorities in pandemic preparedness, including communication and other responses.

- The Forum may produce recommendations - however its primary role will be to create mutual trust, improve communication, and provide a “safe” environment to address questions which are otherwise difficult to discuss.
- The forum aims to strengthening the perception that further dialogue among the participants is going to be fruitful due to increased insights into each other’s perspectives, and the sense that conversation between the concerned parties has intrinsic value.
- The participants will not participate in any official position, but it is hoped that they might influence policy decisions in a variety of ways.

## ASSET - HLPF Basic Rules

The basic rules for the forum are:

1. The forum promotes dialogue, not debate. Participants are not being asked to defend their own views or to find the weakness in others’ positions, but rather to explain their own perspectives.
2. Parties speak for themselves only and not as representatives of groups, institutions, or governments.
3. Conversation will be carried out under the Chatham House rule: “When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed”.

## Questions to ASSET-HLPF

- What and how can we improve (any) systems capacities to make European citizens (and their representatives) timely informed of the next infectious disease crisis?
- How can we help them to identify trustable and accredited information sources?
- What can we do to ease citizen’ access to correct and timely information?
- What can we do to create channels to enable citizens to ask questions and receive timely answers from government officials and accredited sources?
- How can we develop a European Scientific network to promote and support such processes?
- Is it possible to draft a general strategy to pursue, in the coming years, the defined objectives through Horizon 2020?
- What is the role of the European institutions in supporting this process?

## ASSET - HLPF First and Second Physical Meetings

The ASSET project partners have started the recruitment process, by identifying potential participants to join the ASSET HLPF, from all stakeholders concerned with public health, such as policy makers, decision makers, companies, civil society organizations, media and others, in order to achieve a multidimensional discussion in the forum.

The ASSET-HLPF first meeting took place in Brussels 12<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

Minutes from the first meeting is found at:

<http://tiems.info/images/ASSET%202015%20HLPF%20Report%201%20draft%20minus%20annexes.pdf>

The second ASSET HLPF meeting took place in Copenhagen, Denmark, 15<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

Minutes from the second meeting is found at:

<http://tiems.info/images/ASSET2016HLPFReport2a.pdf>

ASSET HLPF secretary is Thomas Robertson, TIEMS USA

## ASSET-HLPF Next Meeting

The ASSET HLPF third meeting will be arranged 28<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region Delegation premises in Brussels at 62 rue du Trône, see below map.

The preliminary agenda for the meeting:

Meeting starts at 0930.

1. Opening and welcome to new members of ASSET HLPF
2. Minutes from 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in ASSET HLPF. Review & Approval
3. Terms of Reference for ASSET HLPF for information
4. Introduction to ASSET HLPF Conclusive Policy Report and its structure and further use in the ASSET project
5. Discussion and Conclusions of the first ASSET HLPF Topic:
  - a. **Participatory Governance in Public Health**
6. Discussion and Conclusions of the second ASSET HLPF Topic:
  - a. **Ethical Issues in Pandemic Preparedness Planning**
7. LUNCH
8. Discussion and Conclusions of the third ASSET HLPF Topic:
  - a. **Vaccination Hesitancy**
9. Conclusive Policy Report Draft
10. Any other business

Meeting planned finished at 1600.

## Virtual Communication Prior to the third ASSET HLPF Meeting

A virtual communication with the members of ASSET HLPF will take place in the period from now and up to ASSET HLPF 28<sup>th</sup> April 2017 meeting, on three main topics, which will be concluded in an ASSET HLPF Policy Report after the ASSET HLPF meeting:

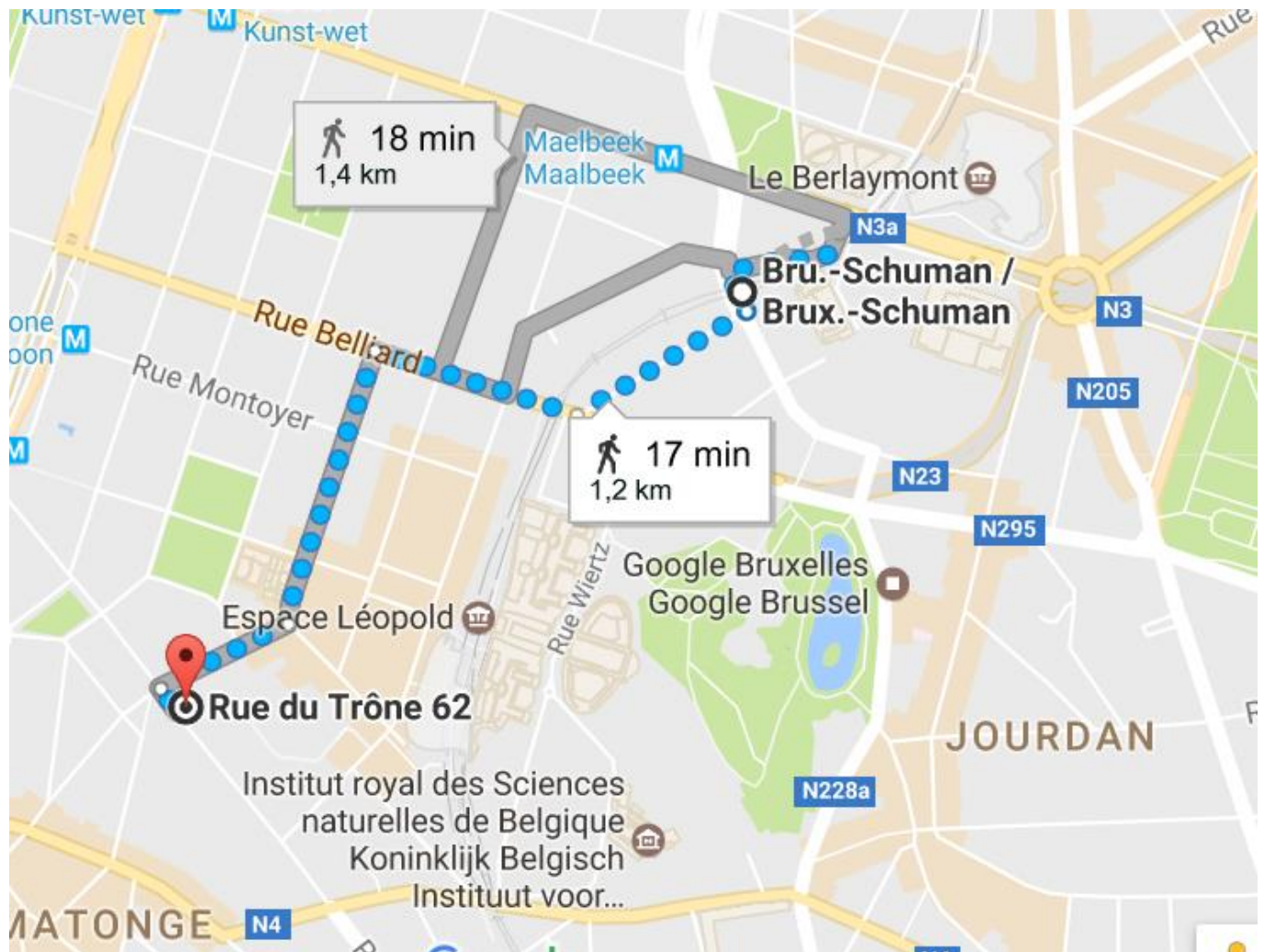
- **Participatory Governance in Public Health**
- **Ethical Issues in Pandemic Preparedness Planning**
- **Vaccination Hesitancy**

Background information and introduction to the discussion of each topic can be found in the following links:

- **Participatory Governance in Public Health**
  - a. [Background information](#)
  - b. [Topic Introduction with key questions to be answered](#)
- **Ethical Issues in Pandemic Preparedness Planning**
  - a. [Background information](#)
  - b. [Topic Introduction with key questions to be answered](#)
- **Vaccination Hesitancy**
  - a. [Background information](#)
  - b. [Topic Introduction with key questions to be answered](#)

## Location of ASSET HLPF 28<sup>th</sup> April 2017 Meeting

The location for the meeting is at Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region Delegation premises in Brussels at 62 rue du Trône, 17 minutes walk from Brussels Schuman bus station, which goes directly from - to Brussels Airport.





## ASSET-HLPF Contacts

If interested in ASSET-HLPF and being a member of the forum, please, contact:

- Valentina Possenti, [valentina.possenti@iss.it](mailto:valentina.possenti@iss.it)
- K. Harald Drager, [khdrager@online.no](mailto:khdrager@online.no)
- Thomas Robertson, [tvrobertson@yahoo.com](mailto:tvrobertson@yahoo.com)

Introduction of the ASSET HLPF members is found below:

Name	Position	Organization	Country
 <p><b>Bjørn Guldvog</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.linkedin.com/pub/bj%C3%B8rn-guldvog/42/35b/b1a">https://www.linkedin.com/pub/bj%C3%B8rn-guldvog/42/35b/b1a</a></p>	<p>Director General of Health and Chief Medical Officer</p>	<p>The Norwegian Directorate of Health (A professional agency under the Ministry of Health In Norway)</p>	<p>Norway</p>
 <p><b>Karl Ekdahl</b></p> <p><a href="http://linkd.in/1BCMtTt">http://linkd.in/1BCMtTt</a></p>	<p>Head of Public Health Capacity and Communication at European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)</p>	<p>European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)</p>	<p>Sweden</p>
 <p><b>Jeff French</b></p> <p><a href="http://linkd.in/1BmQoRI">http://linkd.in/1BmQoRI</a></p>	<p>CEO at Strategic Social Marketing</p>	<p>Strategic Social Marketing</p>	<p>UK</p>
 <p><b>Thea Kølsen Fisher</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.linkedin.com/pub/thea-k%C3%B8lsen-fischer/4/7b5/b54">https://www.linkedin.com/pub/thea-k%C3%B8lsen-fischer/4/7b5/b54</a></p>	<p>Section Chief/Professor</p>	<p>University of Southern Denmark The Serum Institute  University of Copenhagen</p>	<p>Denmark</p>

 <p><b>Ranieri Guerra</b></p> <p><a href="http://bit.ly/1LSt4UF">http://bit.ly/1LSt4UF</a></p>	<p>General Director of Health Prevention, Ministry of Health</p>	<p>Ministry of Health</p>	<p>Italy</p>
 <p><b>Bruno Lina</b></p> <p><a href="http://bit.ly/1Q2VbfW">http://bit.ly/1Q2VbfW</a></p>	<p>Head of the National Influenza Centre (South France) &amp; Head of the Virpath lab</p>	<p>Hospices Civils de Lyon &amp; Université Claude Bernard Lyon1</p>	<p>France</p>
 <p><b>Itamar Grotto</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.linkedin.com/in/itamar-grotto-b306036">https://www.linkedin.com/in/itamar-grotto-b306036</a></p>	<p>Director of Public Health Services</p>	<p>Ministry of Health</p>	<p>Israel</p>
 <p><b>Angel Kunchev</b></p> <p><a href="http://bit.ly/1NxS2GJ">http://bit.ly/1NxS2GJ</a></p>	<p>Chief State Health Inspector</p>	<p>Ministry of Health</p>	<p>Bulgaria</p>

 <p><b>Tencho Tenev</b></p> <p><a href="http://bit.ly/1MCSVtT">http://bit.ly/1MCSVtT</a></p>	<p>Deputy Executive Director</p>	<p>Bulgarian Food Safety Agency under the Ministry of Agriculture and Food</p>	<p>Bulgaria</p>
 <p><b>Germain Thinus</b></p> <p><a href="http://bit.ly/1JxFd12">http://bit.ly/1JxFd12</a></p>	<p>Policy Officer</p> <p>Unit C3 - Crisis Management and Preparedness for Health</p>	<p>European Commission</p>	<p>Luxembourg</p>
 <p><b>Adrian Ionel</b></p> <p><a href="http://bit.ly/2bl0pHm">http://bit.ly/2bl0pHm</a></p>	<p>General Director</p>	<p>Institutul National de Cercetare</p>	<p>Romania</p>
 <p><b>Gabriella Lazzoni</b></p> <p><a href="http://bit.ly/2dvxPp5">http://bit.ly/2dvxPp5</a></p>	<p>Program Director for New Diplomacy Initiative</p>	<p>Académie Diplomatique Internationale (ADI)</p>	<p>France</p>



 <p><b>Máire Connolly</b></p> <p><a href="http://bit.ly/2g2awmM">http://bit.ly/2g2awmM</a></p>	<p>Professor at School of Medicine</p>	<p>National University of Ireland Galway (NUIG)</p>	<p>Ireland</p>
 <p><b>Theodora Stavrou</b></p> <p><a href="http://bit.ly/2koHiko">http://bit.ly/2koHiko</a></p>	<p>Head of Department</p>	<p>Hellenic Ministry of Health</p>	<p>Greece</p>

***More ASSET-HLPF members under recruitment!***