



EPPI Centre
Evidence for
Policy & Practice



UCL

Tuesday 1st July 2025

NIHR ESGs Best Practice Working Group on Living Evidence Synthesis

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Purpose

To establish a UK-based **community of practice** for **sharing best practices** in the *planning, conduct* and *dissemination* of **living evidence synthesis** among **NIHR Evidence Synthesis Groups**

Community of Practice (CoP)

≈ A group or network of people who share a common interest, or expertise and engage in collective learning to improve their skills and knowledge. CoPs foster collaboration, knowledge sharing, and the development of new approaches to address shared challenges.

Best Practices

≈ An established standard or set of guidelines for a method or procedure that is known to produce better outputs or outcomes, in terms of efficiency, effectiveness, or quality, compared with alternatives, if followed.

LES (1)

≈ An approach to keeping evidence synthesis continually updated with new evidence as it becomes available

LES (2)

- Living Systematic Reviews (LSRs)
- Living Evidence Maps (LEMs)

LES (3)

- Scenario 1: LES planned from the outset
- Scenario 2: ES temporarily transitioned to LES

Criteria for considering a LSR

- New research evidence is emerging rapidly and continually over a sustained period
- Certainty of the existing body of evidence is low or very low
- Review questions are of sufficient importance to decision-making to justify an ongoing allocation of resources

Criteria for considering a LEM

- New research evidence is emerging rapidly and continually over a sustained period
- Uncertainty about key characteristics of the existing body of evidence
- Information about evolving key characteristics of the emerging body of evidence are of sufficient importance to end users to justify an ongoing allocation of resources

NIHR Evidence Synthesis Groups

- 9 x ESGs | 3 x SESGs | 1 x LESG
- People with substantive collective expertise & experience in LES across these groups
- Bringing people together to share best practices in LES for the mutual benefit of our people, activities & outputs

Group / CoP objectives

- Provide a forum for discussion about LES methods, tools and workflows
- Facilitate capacity building for the further development, judicious application and rigorous evaluation of LES methods, tools and workflows
- Others?

Group / CoP structure and operating model

- Convened by the LESG (BUcKLES)
- Two co-leads from ESGs (BUcKLES / LACES & CRSU)
- Each ESG has nominated 1-2 people to join
 - Regularly attend bi-monthly meetings
 - Point of contact for cascading (and occasionally requesting) information
- Bi-monthly meetings open to anyone interested from any ESG, so please share details with colleagues!
- Group activities & outputs

Group / CoP activities & outputs

- Series of webinars focused on LES?
- LES Toolkit - repository of methods and tools?
- Occasional, longer workshop- or hackathon-style events?
- Others?

Next steps

Key: Done | In progress | Not yet done

1. Nominations: Request ESGs to nominate members
2. Inaugural meeting: Schedule an online meeting for members
3. Consultation: Consult with members on this 'living document' during the inaugural meeting
4. Web page: Establish a web page for the group, hosted on the EPPI Centre website
5. Consultation feedback: Consider & integrate feedback from the consultation and post the updated version of this 'living document' on the new group web page
6. Bi-monthly meetings: Establish a schedule of bi-monthly meetings
7. Other activities & outputs: Plan and deliver other activities & outputs as required

Contact

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