

# Workshop 6

## Presentation and communication of complex epidemiological models

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### Motivation

Increasing complexity of dynamic epidemiological models applied in research and decision support reflects the grown detail when looking to understand disease transmission and/or management. With that, request for transparency of modeling tools challenges the development of stringent documentation e.g. while presenting or writing reports.

Recent initiatives to standardize documentation and protocolling of models e.g. based on explicit individuals, set out pathways for modeling people to cope with the task. The workshop is meant to support stepping forward to a good practice in documenting and presenting complex epidemiological models.

The workshop is not meant to be a lecture or training per se.

### Objectives

1) During the workshop

To identify key items and practical structure comprised in a purposeful model description in written or presentation format. Focus has to be on both the modeler's and the consumer's perspective.

2) After the workshop

To receive a documentation concept as proposed during the workshop or by modeling literature.

### Participants

The workshop is meant for participants confronted with the need of presenting/documenting complex model tools or interested/struggling with exiting documentation they have to use.

### Proposed content and structure

We start with a short introduction of initiatives for model documentation standards. Next 20-30 min are planned in subgroups of 2-3 participants in which one person (or successively more) may explain a model to their group. Here we aim at identifying how lacking transparency occurs or can be avoided while communicating.

Next 60 min the participants will be jointly collect and discuss the proposed protocol for model documentation based on their experience of what is needed and when it is needed to read effectively such documentation depending on either purpose.

Following is planned to regroup participants and try for the next 25 min to exploit the proposed structure for presenting but as well for justifying (i.e. after having about 15 minutes time of preparation).

The workshop will be wrapped up in a plenary discussion (~30 minutes) on the insights gained by the participants, based on the trial groups assembling emerging pro's and con's.

### Preparation of participants

The workshop addresses people with experience in developing complex dynamic epidemiologic models (e.g. IBM, or simulation environments). The workshop will benefit from participants that have to apply, justify or review such kind of research tools.

We will send a five questions questionnaire beginning of March to improve profiling.