Launching the Congolese Knowledge Centre in Kinshasa

Its role will be to review, synthetise and contextualise existing evidence and direct these to the decision-making levels in the Congolese health system

On 8th of February 2017, the Congolese Knowledge Centre in Health (abbreviated as CCSC in French) was officially launched in Kinshasa by the Minister of Public Health and the Minister of Scientific Research of the DR Congo. Greatly inspired by KCE, the Belgian Health Care Knowledge Centre which has provided substantial support to the Congolese experts, its role will be to review, synthetise and contextualise existing evidence on a range of issues in the domains of health policy, health systems management and health services organisation, disease control programme and clinical care. This evidence will then be “packaged” in the form of policy briefs directed to the decision-making levels in the Congolese health system arena.

The CCSC was created in the framework of the EU-funded RIPSEC project (2015-2019), which is coordinated by the Unit of Equity and Health of ITM’s Department of Public Health. “RIPSEC” stands for Institutional Strengthening of Health Policies Based in Evidence in the DRC. The creation of the CCSC is one of the three constitutive pillars of the RIPSEC programme, next to the development of three training and research districts (called Zones de Santé d’Apprentissage et de Recherche, or ZAR), and institutional support to the research and training capacity of four Congolese public health institutes (the Schools of Public Health of Bukavu, Kinshasa and Lubumbashi respectively; and the National Institute of Biomedical Research in Kinshasa).

The principal partners of the CCSC are the Ministry of Health, Congolese academic institutions, and professional and civil society organisations. The CCSC will actively engage in the large existing international network of teams and knowledge centres that currently operate all over the world, including in Sub-Saharan Africa.