Exploring IDDSI Implementation Worldwide: Spotlight on the United States

The theme of the Canadian IDDSI Reference Group (CIRG) CAN-DO newsletters in 2024, is exploring IDDSI implementation worldwide. We are very excited to kick off this "global tour" by spotlighting the *United States IDDSI Reference Group* (USIRG).

USIRG is "making waves" with their upcoming inaugural "U.S. IDDSI Festival" on June 5th and 6th in Miami, Florida. This event promises a variety of half-day master classes on the 5th, followed by a full day of festival events on the 6th. Be sure to mark your calendars and stay tuned for registration details if you plan on attending.

USIRG has also created an impressive array of advocacy resources and teaching tools that can be used to support any IDDSI transition. These can be found on the IDDSI website using [this link](#).

As in Canada, educational resources take centre stage at USIRG. Their "Tutorials and Trainings" section features five *YouTube* video links. Each of these videos is tailored to a different audience and level of understanding of IDDSI. The "101" video series helps participants understand the "why" behind IDDSI, whereas the "201" video series explains the IDDSI framework and testing methods. There will soon be a new "301" video available on the site, focusing on culinary tips and tricks with IDDSI.

Another invaluable resource from our USIRG colleagues is their "Best Practices IDDSI Terminology" presentation, offering specific recommendations on how to refer to IDDSI levels in written documentation within your care facility.

And check out their "FAQs" section where you can find subject-matter experts comment on the unique characteristics of breads, sauces, gravies, condiments, and gelatin products that impact IDDSI testing. You can also read an informative USIRG newsletter. Each of these includes a "Research Highlight" that summarizes a recent and relevant journal article about IDDSI. It is a great way to stay informed!

So, next time you are navigating around IDDSI.org, check out [this link](#) to find some new tools to add to your IDDSI toolkit.

And well done, USIRG team!