

Flash Report

EU Non-Communicable Diseases Initiative Stakeholders meeting

17 March 2022

On 17 March 2022, a webinar was held for the non-communicable disease stakeholder community, chaired by the Head of the Unit 'Health promotion, disease prevention and financial instruments', of DG SANTE Public Health Directorate, European Commission.

Update on the EU NCD Initiative

DG SANTE presented an update on the EU NCD Initiative document. The text now reinforces the benefits of an integrated approach and includes more options for areas for collaboration. It incorporates multiple comments and recommendations from Member States and international organisations. Comments from stakeholders, received during webinars or via the dedicated stakeholder consultation form available at the Health Policy Platform, were also incorporated (some are still being incorporated).

Upcoming improvements to the initiative include a more systematic presentation of action options (from broad, potentially innovative, population-wide policies to more detailed, tested and targeted practices), and the inclusion of a summary of Member State priorities.

Stakeholders were invited to provide additional feedback as early as possible, also to increase the likelihood that their inputs can influence the priorities of the Member States.

During the webinar, stakeholders were invited to share their views on priorities for action, best practices and innovative approaches, with a particular focus on cardiovascular diseases and diabetes.

Among others, comments from stakeholders included the welcoming of an holistic and integrated approach throughout the initiative (including prevention in all policies and in the health system; coordinating primary and secondary prevention, primary care and specialized care; promoting patient-centred pathways accounting for co-morbidities); welcoming the possibility to find synergies between the cardiovascular diseases and diabetes strands, while leaving space for disease-specific work; promoting that countries develop and coordinate national cardiovascular and diabetes plans; suggesting the improvement of methodologies and plans for population and opportunistic NCD screening; targeting early detection in high-risk individuals, etc. Stakeholders also shared examples of approaches and institutions that solved some of the related challenges.

These suggestions will be considered in the next iteration of the document.

Conclusions and Next Steps

The meeting was concluded by thanking participants for their strong engagement as well as their valuable and enriching input and reminding them that the next webinars for stakeholders on this topic are planned for 27 April (focusing on mental health and neurological disorders, and respiratory diseases) and 3 June (focusing on health determinants), followed by a closing meeting on 22 June.