



Luxembourg, 27 May 2014  
SANCO.C.2

## **EXPERT GROUP ON HEALTH INFORMATION (EGHI) MEETING**

**LUXEMBOURG 23 JANUARY 2014**

### ***SUMMARY REPORT***

#### **1. WELCOME AND ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA**

The Chair of the meeting Stefan Schreck, Head of the Unit on Health Information of the Directorate-General for Health and Consumers (DG SANCO) of the European Commission, welcomed the participants.

The Chair informed participants that presentations and documents will be made available on CIRCABC. The minutes, list of participants and the presentations with the agreement of authors will in addition be made publicly available on the SANCO website. A document regarding data and privacy protection had also been distributed before the meeting and the participants were requested to contact the Commission in case of objection to publishing their names in the participants list.

The agenda was adopted without changes.

#### **2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Summary report from the EGHI meeting, held on 29-30 May 2013, was adopted. It will be made available on SANCO web site together with the list of participants.

#### **3. UP-DATES ON ON-GOING AND PLANNED HEALTH INFORMATION WORK BY EU MEMBER STATES, EEA, CANDIDATE COUNTRIES**

EGHI members reported orally relevant work in their countries. Some had sent their contributions before the meeting and all were invited to send written input to the EGHI secretariat after the meeting. Web links of activities, that might be interesting for other countries, are welcomed in these reports. The Country reports document is regularly updated and made available in CIRCABC.

#### **4. DEBRIEF FROM THE MEETING ON THE POTENTIAL ERIC ON HEALTH INFORMATION OF 22 JANUARY**

The Chair reported on the outcomes of the meeting with representatives of EU member states and EEA/EFTA countries on the potential health information ERIC held the previous day (22 January). A group of 11 countries have expressed their interest to be involved in the preparatory work/consortium for the submission of an application to a

design study for a health information ERIC (a separate report is available for more detailed information).

## **5. RELEVANT ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIAL PROTECTION COMMITTEE – JAF HEALTH (DG EMPL)**

DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL) Kasia Jurczak, gave a presentation on the implementation of the Joint Assessment Framework for Health (JAF Health) and the inclusion of health indicators in the process of the European Semester. The JAF Health document as approved by the Social Protection Committee (SPC) had been made available to EGHI members on CIRCABC. It builds on existing frameworks of other international organisations (OECD, WHO) as well as the ongoing work across the European Commission services. The JAF Health paper also points out to data gaps and highlights the importance of collection of harmonised health data, ensuring its sustainability and timeliness. EGHI members stressed the importance of coordination, having good collaboration with Health information initiatives. Comments on JAF Health intended for DG EMPL can be sent to EGHI secretariat.

## **6. EVALUATION OF THE USE AND IMPACT OF ECHI (ECONOMISTI)**

Alberto Bolognini from Economisti Associati presented the results of the evaluation on the use and impact of the ECHI indicators in the Member States that was finalised in August 2013. Economisti has made an extensive evaluation, all relevant stakeholders have been consulted and a review of the use of the indicators in scientific literature has been carried out. The final report holds not only interesting data on how the indicators are being used by e.g. policy makers, but also gives an indication for the future on how the usage could be promoted in different ways for different stakeholders. The full report is available on the DG SANCO ECHI page<sup>1</sup> and the given presentation can be found in CIRCABC.

## **7. DEBRIEF FROM THE TRILATERAL MEETING BETWEEN THE COMMISSION, OECD, WHO/EURO ON 22 JANUARY**

The Chair informed about the outcomes of the trilateral meeting between the Commission, OECD and WHO/EURO. The implementation of the roadmap and next steps were discussed, there was no final conclusion but this will be further discussed in the coming months. Moreover the three organisations continue with practical steps, e.g. a table of comparison including key indicators for each organisation which will be further improved in order to find commonalities; to assess differences in definitions, methodology and quality; and to establish where the scope lies for further harmonisation of indicators.

## **8. UPDATE ON OECD/EUROSTAT/WHO JOINT QUESTIONNAIRES**

Gaetan Lafortune, OECD, gave a presentation, on behalf of the three organisations, which covered information on the OECD/Eurostat/WHO joint questionnaires; Expenditure: joint health accounts questionnaire and Non-expenditure: joint questionnaire on non-monetary health care statistics. There are no changes, but the organisations will focus on improving availability and comparability for key indicators. A pilot data collection on hospital beds is planned and a possible new module in 2015 concerns international migration of health workers.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/health/indicators/echi/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/indicators/echi/index_en.htm)

## **9. UPDATES FROM OECD**

Gaetan Lafortune, OECD, gave information on the latest developments and future work in health and health information. In the area of Economics of prevention, OECD work on obesity and alcohol was mentioned. The Health care work force project (geographic distribution of doctors, recent developments in training capacities of doctors and nurses and international migration) and Health care quality indicators project (countries' reviews in progress) was described. The European edition of 'Health at Glance' publication will be published in Nov/Dec 2014; it will cover more ECHI indicators and up to 35 countries.

## **10. UPDATES FROM EUROSTAT**

Hartmut Buchow and Bart de Norre, Eurostat, gave updates on recent Eurostat public health activities, mentioning web site and database updates; the work on EU-SILC health, EHIS and HLY; current state of causes of death statistics and the ICD-10 revision; health care non-expenditure and expenditure data. An analysis work on morbidity is on-going. The two projects, on better use of data from administrative sources in the area of health expenditure by diseases and conditions; and electronic death certification, are planned to be finalised in 2016.

## **11. UPDATES FROM WHO**

Claudia Stein, WHO/Euro, provided an overview of WHO/Euro health information issues since the last EGHI meeting. Among the areas covered were the Health 2020 indicators adopted at the Regional Committee in September 2013; the expansion of partners to the health information initiative launched with RIVM in 2012 which may serve as vehicle for an integrated health information system for Europe; the WHO/RIVM autumn school of health which was held in Turkey in October 2013; the work of the expert group to provide a support tool for Member States to develop national health information strategies for the European region; the new health information web-portal; upcoming WHO/Euro publications on health information; and a preview of WHO/Euro health information and evidence for policy activities for 2014/15.

## **12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No points were raised.

## **13. CONCLUSIONS AND CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

The next EGHI meeting will take place 20 May, starting pm, and continue the 21 May 2014.