



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Health systems, medical products and innovation
Performance of national health systems

Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in health

Drafting group on European solidarity in public health emergencies

(Virtual meeting)

26 March 2021

Minutes

1. Approval of the agenda and the minutes

The agenda was approved without changes as well as the minutes of the previous meeting.

2. Nature of the meeting

The third drafting group meeting on European solidarity in public health emergencies took place on 26 March 2021 via MS Teams as a non-public meeting.

Following the resignation of the originally designated chair of the drafting group from the Panel, Dr Dionne Kringos who is a rapporteur was confirmed also as a new chair, Dr Liubove Murauskiene was designated as the third rapporteur.

No declarations of interest that could in any way interfere with the topic discussed were submitted from any member.

3. Points discussed

Feedback/comments on the draft opinion

The Chair and rapporteurs gave a preview of the main new elements in the draft opinion and chapters that have been developed so far. Members discussed the concept and typology of solidarity under a suggested general framework. They agreed a general theoretical framework is important but narrower framework with missing emphasis on health emergencies should be elaborated and more dimensions of solidarity, such as equity added.

Members further discussed the solidarity concept within the EU, its importance in the time of health emergencies as well as existing EU tools and funding possibilities. Members pointed at the link between the basic percentages of GDP spent on health by Member States and spending in case of health emergency. Importance of political willingness for EU solidarity, citizens' perspective and lessons learned and best/improvable practices from previous crises were mentioned.

Some members pointed at the importance of knowledge sharing, and suggested the link to the recent EXPH opinion on *‘Organisation of resilient health and social care following the Covid-19 pandemic’*.

Members further elaborated the chapter on technical and practical ability to realize solidarity, stressed the role of technology and innovation as well as the need to collaborate on national, regional and community level.

COM (SANTE) underlined the limited competencies of EU, its limited legal and constitutional powers in the area of health. COM pointed at the European Health Union proposal for strengthening the EU’s health security framework including creation of the European Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA). COM also stressed the ambitious EU4Health programme as well as joint procurement of medical products. EU actions should be taken into consideration in the draft opinion.

Members discussed how to translate the concept of solidarity to MS or EU concrete actions and operational solutions and how to lower the economic and legal barriers that impede the practical implementation of solidarity.

4. Conclusion

Members agreed to provide individual contributions to the different chapters to have an updated draft before the next meeting on 19 April.

The newly designated Chair thanked everyone for active participation and valuable discussion to move forward with the opinion.

5. Next meeting

The next meeting of the drafting group is scheduled for 19 April 2021 via MS Teams.

6. Ad hoc discussion on the opinion on public procurement in healthcare systems

Following the drafting group meeting, the Chair of the Expert Panel raised a point about the next steps regarding the opinion on public procurement in healthcare systems. The members present preferred to delay the publication of the opinion in order to have a consensus opinion and therefore decided to re-open the opinion to further comments by the Panel members and to discuss the proposed changes at the next plenary meeting on 28 April 2021.

7. List of participants

EXPH Members

DE MAESENEER Jan
GRUSON Damien
KRINGOS Dionne
LEHTONEN Lasse
LIONIS Christos
MCKEE Martin
MURASKIENE Liubove
NUTI Sabina
ROGERS Heather-Lynn
SICILIANI Luigi
WIECZOROWSKA-TOBIS Katarzyna

ZALETEL Jelka

COM

JULLY Alexandre (DG ECHO)
PENDOLOVSKA Velina (DG SANTE)
DAJKA Bela (DG SANTE)
VOLOSINOVA Viera (DG SANTE)