



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 (2019-2022)

13th plenary meeting

26 October 2022

10:00-16:00 CET

Hybrid meeting

Minutes

The thirteenth plenary meeting of the Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in health took place on 26 October 2022. The meeting, which was a non-public meeting, was chaired by the Panel's Chair, Professor Jan De Maeseneer.

1. Welcome and introduction

The agenda was approved without changes. The minutes of the previous plenary meeting of 23 June were adopted in writing and had been published on the [Expert Panel](#) website.

No conflicts of interest were raised on matters of the agenda.

2. Opening remarks by Ms Sandra Gallina, Director-General of DG SANTE

Director-General Sandra Gallina gave an overview of the current priorities and challenges of the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety. She emphasised the need to strengthen the One Health approach and this is reflected in the recent reorganisation of the Directorate-General. She informed Panel members about policy initiatives of the European Health Union and farm to fork strategy. She pointed out the importance of having independent, evidence-based advice to support policy makers and, given the complexity of the challenges for these policy areas, multidisciplinary and cross-cutting expertise was essential.

Members thanked the Director-General for her presentation. They recognised the need to broaden expert advice to strengthen the One Health approach and to be more cognisant of the sustainability agenda. Members mentioned that the new paradigm is about “health for all policies” (what health can do for other areas) rather than the “health in all policies” approach (what other policies can do for health). They mentioned the importance of getting expertise from outside the EU. They also called for improved dissemination of the Expert Panel opinions.

3. Opinion on facing the impact of post-COVID-19 condition on health systems

The chair of the drafting group and the rapporteurs gave an update on the work on this opinion. The public hearing took place on 18 October. More than 80 participants attended it. The feedback was very positive and constructive. Stakeholders were invited to send comments in writing by 31 October.

Members requested to change the title of the opinion to include the term “Long COVID” which is more and more broadly used to refer to the post-COVID-19 condition. Members discussed the next steps, including final editing, drafting the fact sheet which will accompany the opinion and dissemination.

4. Opinion on managing antimicrobial resistance (AMR) across the health system

The chair of the drafting group and the rapporteurs gave an update on the work on this opinion and discussed additional comments received regarding public awareness campaigns on AMR.

Members **adopted** the opinion as well as the accompanying fact sheet.

5. End of mandate webinar

Members of the preparatory group presented the concept of the webinar which would mark the end of the third term of the Expert Panel. The webinar would present some common themes of the opinions, and scan future horizons on key health policy challenges.

Members discussed the potential questions that the webinar would address, building on recent opinions published by the Expert Panel:

- How can health systems support the mental health of health workers and other workers at a time of crisis in the EU?
- What is the impact of post-COVID-19 condition (also known as “long COVID”) on EU health systems?
- What strategies can countries implement to tackle antimicrobial resistance (AMR) within and across the EU?

They agreed that the two-hour webinar would include short introductory presentations by Expert Panel members and by invited speakers and this would be followed by an interactive discussion with the audience. The planned date and time of the webinar is 1 December from 10:00 to 12:00. The Commission will publish and disseminate the invitation via the Health Policy Platform.

6. EXPH external evaluation

ICF, the contractor for the evaluation study on the work of the Expert Panel (2013-2022), presented the preliminary findings following the consultation activities. The evaluation was designed to analyse relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and coherence of the work of the Panel, including its working structure, rules of procedure, the processes of drafting the opinions and their impact. The evaluation will be finalised by the end of November.

7. Looking back at the future: the legacy of EXPH

As the term of office of the current Expert Panel will end in December 2022, members discussed the work of the Panel, its achievements and legacy. They debated how they perceive the actual challenges and opportunities concerning public health in Europe.

8. Any other business and next steps

The Chair thanked everybody for their contribution to the work of the Panel and closed the meeting.

9. List of participants

EXPH members: Professor Jan De Maeseneer, Dr Anna Garcia-Altes, Professor Damien Gruson, Dr Dionne Kringos, Professor Lasse Lehtonen, Professor Christos Lionis, Professor Martin McKee, Professor Liubove Murauskiene, Professor Sabina Nuti, Professor Pedro Pita Barros, Dr Heather-Lynn Rogers, Professor Luigi Siciliani, Professor Katarzyna Wieczorowska-Tobis, Professor Sergej Zacharov, Dr Jelka Zaletel

Representative of ICF S.A. (for the point on the EXPH evaluation)

Representatives of the European Commission (DG SANTE Director-General Sandra Gallina and the secretariat of the Expert Panel from Unit C2)