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DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Public health, country knowledge, crisis management
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Luxembourg
SANTÉ DDG1 - C3/JLS

REPORT ON THE 2ND HIV/AIDS, HEPATITIS AND TUBERCULOSIS THINK TANK MEETING

HELD ON 19 AND 20 DECEMBER 2017

1. PRELIMINARY REMARK

This report is not a verbatim of all that was said during the Think Tank meeting, it summarises the main considerations developed by participants.

Presentations are available for all members of the dedicated group created on the Health Policy Platform at the following address:

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/hpf/network/home/2>.

2. PARTICIPANTS

2.1. From Commission

DG SANTE, CHAFEA

2.2. From EU Member States

DE, ES, FI, GR, HR, IT, LU, LT, LV, NL, PL, PT, SI

2.3. From EEA, applicant and neighbouring countries

MD, RU

2.4. Civil Society Forum representatives

EATG, AAE

2.5. Observers

ECDC, WHO, UNAIDS, IOM

2.6. External speakers

Public Health England

3. TOPICS ADDRESSED DURING THE MEETING

3.1. Commission activities since the last meeting

DG SANTE announced that the commission would produce a Staff Working Document on Combatting HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis and Tuberculosis

3.2. Feedback from Global TB Ministerial Conference in Moscow and preparation of UN General Assembly event on TB in 2018 – DG SANTE & WHO.

DG SANTE informed the Think Tank about the results of the Ministerial Conference on tuberculosis held in Moscow on 16 November 2017. Following this conference a first-ever high Level Meeting on Tuberculosis will be held during the UN General Assembly in New-York in September 2018.

WHO insisted on the new approach developed in Moscow Declaration about monitoring and evaluation of progresses through the setting-up of a new accountability framework.

3.3. Feedback from the Estonian Presidency conference on HIV and TB – EE and DG SANTE

DG SANTE and WHO reported on the outcome of the Senior-Level Policy Dialogue on "Addressing HIV and TB challenges; from donor support and emergency response to sustainable health systems" held in Tallinn on 12&13 December 2017 for which a Declaration has been finalized during spring 2018.

3.4. Commission Participation to AIDS 2018

DG SANTE informed the Think Tank about the participation of the Commission (SANTE, RTD, CHAFAEA, ECDC & EMCDDA) at the AIDS 2018 conference. It reported on preliminary contacts with UNAIDS colleagues for the integration of several sessions in the agenda of the conference and on the possibility to have Commissioner Andriukaitis deliver a speech during the conference.

3.5. List of 2018 significant events

During an open discussion, the following forthcoming conferences were identified as particularly important:

- AIDS 2018 to be held in Amsterdam from 23 until 27 July 2018
- High Level Meeting on TB to be held in New-York in September 2018
- 49th Union World Conference on Lung Health to be held in The Hague in October 2018

3.6. Prices of the anti HCV DAA in Europe

At the request of LU, an exchange of views was held on the actual prices paid by member States for HCV DAA treatments which will not be reproduced in these minutes considering the confidentiality agreements entered into by Member States with their respective suppliers.

3.7. Follow-up on previous exchanges on pilot projects for the implementation of PrEP - exchange on the reimbursement of PrEP.

DE, SK, LU, ES, PO, IT, PL and NL reported on the stage of development and size of the different pilot projects that are run on the use of PrEP in their respective countries and on the different approaches retained as regards the reimbursement or non-reimbursement of PrEP treatment.

Whereas the number of pilots is on the rise and barriers to the deployment and use of PrEP are more precisely identified, the relatively small size of such pilots and the non-sufficiently systematic methodological approach do not allow yet identifying good practices/approaches that could be considered for replication in other Member States.

The existence of generics that can be purchased online does not facilitate the epidemiological monitoring of the extent of PrEP use.

At the request of LU, an exchange of views was held on the actual prices paid by member States for PrEP treatment which will not be reproduced in these minutes considering the confidentiality agreements entered into by Member States with their respective suppliers.

3.8. Self-testing

FI, DE, LT, PO, and LU reported on the stage of development and size of the different pilot projects that are run for the deployment of self-testing in their respective countries and on the different approaches retained as regards the reimbursement or non-reimbursement of self-test kits.

In many cases, regulations and/or laws forbidding self-testing and testing by non-healthcare workers need to be revised before launching such pilots. Choice of the channel through which self-tests would be made available to the public (shops, pharmacists, ...) can also prove to be difficult depending on national regulations and habits.

3.9. Availability of ART generics

At the request of LU, an exchange of views was held on the availability of ART generics in Member States. DE, ES, PO, SI, LT and PL confirmed that ART generics were already available in their respective countries.

3.10. Prevention initiatives in the EU, including HIV Prevention Coalition

UNAIDS colleagues reported on the meeting of the HIV Prevention Coalition that was held in October 2017 during which a roadmap targeting the development of National plans and target was approved.

The Secretariat of the HIV Prevention Coalition is held by UNAIDS Geneva and reports to the UNAIDS Board.

3.11. Forthcoming PREP Summit scheduled for February 2018

UNAIDS colleagues informed the Think Tank about the forthcoming PrEP Summit scheduled for February 2018.

3.12. Feedback from 18-19 December CSF meeting

See attached Executive Summary of the Civil Society Forum Minutes available under the following link:

http://www.aidsactioneurope.org/en/event/eu-hivaids-hepatitis-and-tuberculosis-civil-society-forum-december-2017?position=1&list=knuSAn0X945k0dxOS5y_hEQ04u5aGSObuFhsRMODrmY



Executive Summary
CSF Dec 2017.pdf

3.13. Feedback from the 19 December Think Tank meeting

DG SANTE informed the CSF Coordination Team of the topics addressed during the first day of the meeting of the Think Tank as described in points 3.1 to 3.11 above.

3.14. One van for testing all 4 conditions

During a presentation of mobile units developed under HepCare, E-DETECT TB and HA-REACT projects, it was pointed out that an effort could be made to improve the effective use of such mobile units which are, for the time being, not used 100% of the time. Therefore, an exchange of views took place on feasibility of creating a "single testing van" for all 4 conditions and on possibility to favour cross-border use of such mobile units.

On basis of exchanged information, the three projects accepted to present the first inventory of existing services in Member States at the following Think Tank meeting.

3.15. Recent Decline in new HIV Diagnoses in MSM in England

In his presentation, Professor Noel Gill from Public Health England confirmed that the incidence of HIV/AIDS among MSM attending high-throughput STI clinics in London started to decrease in 2013–2014. This trend however cannot be explained by a single factor. Actually, intensified testing linked with a reduced delay between diagnostic confirmation and start of treatment, as well as use of PrEP, had a global positive impact on CD4 cells count, which had also contributed to diminish a number of new transmissions.

3.16. Improving long-term health, well-being and chronic care for people living with HIV

The multi-stakeholder European initiative “HIV Outcomes: Beyond viral suppression” (HIV Outcomes) reflects a widespread recognition among experts that important issues of health and social inclusion of PLHIV receive insufficient attention from policy makers and healthcare providers. It aims to make these elements central to overall response to HIV and seeks to complement existing work in prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care.

After a year-long multi-stakeholder process focusing on long-term health and well-being of PLHIV, HIV Outcomes identified priority issues at two expert roundtables (in December 2016 and in June 2017) and issued recommendations on the long-term health, well-being and chronic care of PLHIV. The recommendations were launched at the European Parliament on 29 November 2017.

HIV Outcomes, its recommendations, as well as the foreseen next steps were presented in detail at the Think Tank meeting.

3.17. Commission Staff Working Document on Combatting HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis and Tuberculosis in the European Union and Neighbouring Countries

DG SANTE introduced a draft of the Commission Staff Working Document (SWD).

In the following exchange of views, the Think Tank members made several proposals regarding structure of the document, as well as issues to be covered. These suggestions were taken into account.

3.18. Situation in migrants

ECDC introduced the results and conclusions from the Expert meeting on the prevention of sexual transmission of STI/HIV among MSMs and migrants.

The main element to be retained from these conclusions is that more than 50% of migrants diagnosed with STI's or HIV/AIDS have contracted these diseases after their arrival in the EU.

3.19. The electronic Personal Health Record; EU tool for health assessment of migrants

After a brief presentation by IOM of its E-Health based system allowing migrants' follow-up by certified professional healthcare workers, WHO informed participants that they were developing a number of papers on migrants to be released in the coming months.

3.20. Availability of studies on stigma and discrimination in people living with HIV, viral hepatitis and TB

A rapid exchange of views at the request of LU allowed participants to learn about existing studies on stigma and discrimination perceived in people living with HIV, viral hepatitis and TB.

4. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting's date was fixed in January 2018 for the 15-16 May 2018.