



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

SANTE B4: Disease prevention and health promotion

## **Flash Report**

### **Meeting of the Expert Group on Public Health: subgroup on non-communicable diseases, 18 October 2023**

On 18 October 2023, the sub-group on the prevention of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) under the Expert Group on Public Health (PHEG) held an online meeting, chaired by DG SANTE. Overall, 41 representatives from Member States, Commission services, and agencies (HaDEA) attended the meeting. The Chair welcomed participants and outlined that the subgroup on “Healthier Together: EU Non-communicable diseases initiatives” was set up to co-create the initiative and to contribute to lessen the burden of NCDs while reducing health inequalities. DG SANTE proposed to extend the mandate of the subgroup until the end of next year.

#### **Update on the implementation of Commission initiative ‘Healthier Together’**

DG SANTE briefly presented the implementation of the Healthier Together – EU non-communicable diseases initiative, highlighting the financial support for the implementation of actions under the five strands of the initiative. HaDEA presented the state of play of ongoing and upcoming projects by stakeholders and joint actions between Member States to address the five strands of the initiative: cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases, mental health and neurological disorders, and health determinants.

#### **Priorities on NCDs under PHEG**

DG SANTE informed the subgroup on the priority setting exercise and bilateral discussions with Member States, carried out under the PHEG to support the development of a rolling work plan for the coming years. This process aims to identify the needs and challenges that Member States are facing, and possible solutions/actions at EU level, which will pave the way for future actions under the PHEG.

#### **Updates on current and future Joint Actions on NCDs**

The coordinators of the joint actions on health determinants and on cardiovascular diseases and diabetes gave a brief presentation on the design and development of these collaborative actions between Member States. The importance of building on existing work and ensuring synergies and complementarities with other projects and joint actions was highlighted.

#### **Tour de table on possible future priorities**

During the ‘tour de table’, participants expressed their support for the continuation of the work of the subgroup. There was overwhelming support for a comprehensive, strategic approach on promotion and prevention that encompasses all stages of the life course and focuses on health determinants and socio-economic determinants of health, as well as equity and quality of life. The relevance of a comprehensive approach on prevention and healthy longevity starting from childhood, was stressed by the general majority, as well as the need to avoid a narrow focus on single diseases. The importance of ensuring synergies between projects, joint action and the NCDs subgroup was highlighted.