



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Public Health, country knowledge, crisis management  
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## **FLASH REPORT AND CONCLUSIONS OF THE CHAIR JOINT MEETING OF THE EXPERT GROUPS ON HEALTH INFORMATION (EGHI) AND HEALTH SYSTEM PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT (HSPA) - 09/06/2017**

The first joint meeting of the Expert Groups of Health Information (EGHI) and Health System Performance Assessment (HSPA) has taken place on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

John RYAN, director of DG SANTE's Public Health Directorate, outlined the complementary nature of the two Groups' expertise, and called for close cooperation with the aim of steering health data collections towards areas that better reflect policy priorities, thereby enabling Member States to improve the health of their populations and the sustainability of their health systems.

Jean-Claude SCHMIT, Chief Medical Officer of Luxembourg, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Luxembourg Government and thanked DG SANTE for its efforts to support Member States, like Luxembourg, in improving the performance of their health systems and develop the necessary evidence base for policy development. In his words, the HSPA group has been an inspiration for Luxembourg to expand health indicator collections beyond acute care, and emphasised that EU-wide health indicator collections provide an essential resource for Luxembourg to benchmark services, identify best practice, and develop better health policies.

Philippe ROUX, Head of the Country Knowledge Unit of DG SANTE, outlined that one of the key priorities of DG SANTE has been to support Member States in identifying a sustainable organisation of health information generation and allow Member States' policy priorities to influence what indicators are collected in the EU. He highlighted DG SANTE's work with other relevant Commission services and international organisations (such as OECD and WHO-Europe) towards aligning international health data collections and reducing the data collection burden on Member States. He reiterated that, by launching the Joint Action on Health Information, the Commission has been inviting Member State proposals towards achieving these aims.

Sylvain GIRAUD, Head of Unit "Health Systems" in DG SANTE, added that the aim of EU level cooperation on health information should primarily be to ensure that EU-wide health data serve policy making at the national level, allow comparability.

Daniel REYNDERS, co-chair of the HSPA group, outlined that the aim of the HSPA is not to compare the performance of EU health systems but to serve as a platform to exchange best practice and identify tools and methodologies to enable policy makers to undertake health system performance assessment and develop better health policies. He explained that each year HSPA concentrate on one key national policy priority such as 'quality of care' 'integration of care', and 'primary care', with 'efficiency and resilience' being analysed next year.

Herman VAN OYEN and Petronille BOGAERT, the coordinators of the BRIDGE Health project and the Joint Action on Health Information, explained that a 'European Research Infrastructure Consortium' would be a feasible organisational structure to coordinate cross-EU health information networks and help generate, manage and translate knowledge. They set out that the Joint Action on Health Information would serve as a proof of concept showcasing the value for Member States of better coordinating health information activities, improving the policy-relevance of EU collected data, and reducing the data collection burden on Member States.

Ian BROWNWOOD from the OECD provided an overview of the OECD's Healthcare Quality Indicator project, outlining on-going work streams to develop patient-reported quality measures (the PaRIS project), patient safety indicators, hospital quality indicators, and indicators to measure the quality of dementia care.

Suszy LESSOF from the European Observatory of Health Systems and Policies presented the fourth and final deliverable of the State of Health in the EU cycle of knowledge brokering: the Voluntary Exchanges organised by the OECD and the Observatory, supported by the Commission. The Voluntary Exchanges will provide opportunities for mutual learning and facilitate the best use of the knowledge provided by the three preceding State of Health in the EU products: Health at a Glance Europe, the Country Health Profiles and the Commission Staff Working Document. Health Ministries will be able to apply for voluntary exchanges from November 2017. These Voluntary Exchanges will be tailor-made for the country-context and for Ministries' specific policy questions, and can take the form of seminars, workshops, symposia or policy dialogues. EGHI and HSPA expert groups agreed to play a role in raising awareness of these opportunities within their respective governments and contribute their specific expertise to these exchanges.

### **Conclusions and next steps**

The two Expert Groups agreed to develop the cooperation between the health information sector and the health system assessment sector. The collaboration has to take place primarily at national level between the respective countries' EGHI and HSPA members and the different national administrations involved with a way to set a clear vision of this process at national level and to input in the EU level discussions in a coordinated manner.

This cooperation should focus on:

- identifying a sustainable health information structure in the EU to concretely support decision making at national level based, in particular, on health system performance
- reviewing the policy-relevance of on-going health information activities and collected indicators and propose possible prioritisation of these with the aim of reducing the data collection burden and ensuring the added value of the information for the MSs.

In particular, the EGHI and HSPA expert groups agreed that their respective members should collaborate at the national level to coordinate their countries' input into:

- The mapping of health information activities and health indicator by the Joint Action on Health Information
- The developing of methodologies for patient reported outcome measurement High priority indicator development projects (such within the OECD's PaRIS) and including those into the policy cycle work or the work on health which will be undertaken under the Digital Single Market.
- The Commission will ensure that the two groups are kept informed of each other's activities of common interest;
- The Chairs of HSPA and EGHI can explore the possibility to have additional joint meetings and to increase collaboration among the two expert groups in high priority areas of common interests for both Member States and the Commission.
- The experts from the two Groups are invited to contribute to the Voluntary Exchanges as part of the State of Health in the EU cycle.