



## **Flash Report Meeting of the Network of Expertise on Long COVID**

**30 January 2024**

The meeting of the Network of Expertise on Long COVID (NELC) took place on 30 January 2024. It was chaired by **DG SANTE** and attended by the representatives of **10 Member States**, and with representatives from **WHO, OECD, HERA, EMA, JRC, RTD** and from our contractor **NIVEL**. The primary objectives of the meeting were to communicate the outcomes of the mapping study, provide an overview of long COVID activities in Italy, present relevant initiatives by the European Commission Joint Research Centre, propose specific priorities to NELC Members, and seek their consent for sharing contact information with the European Medicines Agency (EMA).

### **Results of the mapping study: Definitions, guidelines, and surveillance systems in EU Member States**

NIVEL delivered a presentation providing insights on the outcomes of the NELC mapping study, which principal objectives include, obtaining a comprehensive global overview of the actions undertaken by individual countries to address the challenges posed by long COVID, delineating the topics that should be addressed by the NELC, and gathering ideas for concrete actions through international cooperation. The presentation covered the study's background, topics, and approach, emphasising the encouragement of input from Member States on their actions on long COVID.

### **Long COVID activities in Italy**

Italy presented long COVID activities carried out in the country, shedding light on the national policy, resources used, map activities of long COVID centres, good clinical practices, information for citizens and health professionals, as well as surveillance measures adopted.

### **Potentially relevant activities of the European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC)**

The European Commission Joint Research Centre provided updates on its initiatives pertaining to long COVID. The presentation commenced with a concise introduction to the JRC, emphasising its experience in interdisciplinary collaboration within the realm of COVID research. Notably, the application of the Adverse Outcome Pathway (AOP), a chemical risk assessment model, to COVID research was highlighted, through their project "Modelling of Pathogenesis of COVID-19 using the Adverse Outcome Pathway Framework." (CIAO). The presentation concluded with a dedicated focus on the JRC's ongoing project addressing long COVID and its associated neurological implications.

### **Specific NELC actions based on feedback**

The Commission outlined the specific actions that are proposed to the NELC based on the feedback received. Practical proposals and expected contributions from NELC members were presented, specifically for case definition, surveillance systems, professional training for healthcare staff, implementation approaches, internal collaboration, patient support, social and economic consequences, as well as research needs and priorities.

The Chair emphasised that shortly after the meeting, participants will receive a dedicated survey to evaluate each proposed action. This survey will provide an opportunity for NELC members to identify areas for improvement, propose new actions, and offer practical contributions to the work envisaged.

**AOB**

Under the "Any Other Business" Agenda item, the Chair formally sought the approval of the meeting participants to share their contact details with the European Medicines Agency (EMA). This was requested for the specific purpose of inviting them to future relevant long COVID meetings.

No objections were raised by the participants, resulting in the request's approval.

The Chair thanked all participants for their input and informed that the next meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 2024.