



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

First drafting group meeting on Public procurement in healthcare systems (WebEx conference)

15 April 2020

Draft minutes

Brussels, 21 April 2020

1. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved without changes.

2. Nature of the meeting

The first drafting group meeting on public procurement in healthcare systems took place on 15 April 2020 via WebEx conference. The meeting, which was chaired by Luigi Siciliani, Chair of the drafting group, was a non-public meeting.

No declarations of interest that could in any way interfere with the topic discussed were submitted from any member.

3. List of points discussed

Content of the mandate

COM presented the main elements and key questions of the proposed mandate. It explained the legal basis for public procurement stressing that the public procurement has gradually been promoted as a tool for increasing efficiency as well as for contributing to better purchase and health outcomes. It was highlighted that health sector has specific challenges which need to be considered when publishing tenders. COM mentioned some important aspects, including health technology specificities (medicines, equipment, medical devices, e-health, services, etc.), the questions how and when public procurement should be performed, consideration of bundled goods and services, life-cycle of health technologies, hospital vs. retail, innovation procurement.

Members discussed the specificities of the health sector, the importance of quality aspects, the support for innovation and the importance of engaging health professionals in the public procurement process. Members further pointed out that private and pan-European providers are not subjects to the EU rules.

Planning and organisation of the work in the drafting group

Members confirmed Luigi Siciliani as a chair of the drafting group and Martin McKee and Anna Garcia-Altes as co-rapporteurs.

Schedule for the opinion and the drafting group meetings

Drafting group members agreed on the following schedule:
Drafting group meetings: 15 May, June (date tbc), July (date tbc)
Reporting on ongoing work in plenaries: 29 April, 24 June
Public hearing: 3 September
Approval of the final opinion in the plenary: 23 September
Finalisation of the opinion: end September/beginning October

Review of the first draft outline for the public procurement in healthcare systems opinion

The Chair presented an outline of the opinion which was circulated to members prior to the meeting. Members agreed on the proposed structure with four sections related to public procurement and the 2014 European Directive, health sector specificities and arising challenges in relation to public procurement, policy options, and conclusions and recommendations. Members discussed the main building blocks and the work on individual sections was distributed among the members.

Members discussed the importance of the quality aspects, as well as societal perspective and referred to previous Panel's opinions. The following was also suggested as relevant: frequent problems Member States are confronted in relation to procurement, the description of procurement mechanisms that are appropriate, what are the limitations, and the conditions to make sure procurement contributes to better health outcomes. Members stressed the need to focus on criteria including sustainability, the role of HTA agencies in different Member States, the role of public procurement and its contribution to health systems resilience in crisis situations, and public procurement of essential medicines and of biological medicines. The need for a reality check was also highlighted.

4. Conclusion

The members agreed to elaborate the outline based on the discussion before the next drafting group meeting. The Chair thanked everyone for active participation and valuable discussion to move forward with the opinion.

5. Next meeting

The next meeting will take place on 15 May 2020 via WebEx conference.

6. List of participants

EXPH Members

AZZOPARDI MUSCAT Natasha
DE MAESENEER Jan
GARCIA-ALTES Anna
GRUSON Damien
KRINGOS Dionne
LEHTONEN Lasse
LIONIS Christos
MCKEE Martin
MURAUŠKIENE Liubove
NUTI Sabina
PITA BARROS Pedro
ROGERS Heather-Lynn
SICILIANI Luigi
STAHL Dorothea
WIECZOROWSKA-TOBIS Katarzyna
ZACHAROV Sergej
ZALETEL Jelka

DG SANTE

DAJKA Bela
LARSSON-LINQVIST Carl
VAN DEN STEEN Dirk
VOLOSINOVA Viera