



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**

### **Drafting group meeting on care organisation following the Covid-19 pandemic (WebEx conference)**

**16 September 2020**

#### Minutes

#### **1. Nature of the meeting**

The drafting group meeting on health and social care organisation following the Covid-19 pandemic took place on 16 September 2020 via WebEx conference. The meeting, which was chaired by Jan De Maeseneer, 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.

#### **2. List of points discussed**

##### **Feedback/comments on the draft opinion**

Members raised some general comments, among others the need to focus on a new framework for organisation of health and social care shaped by COVID-19 experiences with resilience as an important part of it. The significance of having structures allowing rapidly to switch between the normal and emergency status, which requires flexibility based on transparent criteria was highlighted.

Members stressed it is important to think in an integrated way and focus on values of the system. Members agreed that there should be the right balance between general and more in depth focus and, as the opinion is already very complex, not all aspects can be elaborated.

The rapporteurs gave a preview of the main elements added in the current draft and how specific sections of the opinion have been expanded. In part A, the framework following the 'classical' building blocks by WHO has been expanded. It was agreed to include also the international cooperation dimension.

In part B, several possible recommendations have been highlighted, in relation to misinformation and how to counterattack it, the importance of knowledge exchange and best practices, strong primary care and better cross section collaboration and holistic approach in time of crisis, question of trust in the political leaders and in the health systems to make the right decisions.

In part C, vulnerable people have been classified in the following three categories: (a) medically vulnerable, such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions, (b) socially marginalized, such as those residing or working in certain physical settings prone to high density and reduced ability to physical distance or having a reduced financial budget for protective measures (such as people in poverty), and (c) professions which entail closer proximity to confirmed or suspected COVID-19. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the vulnerable groups has been elaborated.

Part D presents *inter alia* the toolkit for a test and methodology. The five phases of resilience testing were elaborated. The importance of a final phase on reporting and action planning for transformative change was stressed where two steps were highlighted: the reporting and sharing of the results and action planning and implementation.

The members pointed out that the aim of the resilience test is not to rank countries and it does not equal to performance assessment.

Members further discussed possible recommendations and how to structure and group them. It was agreed to have some general ones on global perspective, followed by specific recommendations. Some members suggested to minimise the number of recommendations and think forward and out of the box.

### **3. Conclusion**

The Chair thanked everyone for active participation and valuable discussion to move forward with the opinion. The members agreed to elaborate the specific questions in sub-groups as well as recommendations and circulate the updated draft prior to the plenary meeting of 23 September.

### **4. Next meeting**

The draft opinion with focus on recommendations will be discussed in the plenary meeting on 23 September 2020 via WebEx conference.

### **5. List of participants**

#### **EXPH Members**

DE MAESENEER Jan  
GARCIA-ALTES Anna  
GRUSON Damien  
KRINGOS Dionne  
LEHTONEN Lasse (apologies)  
LIONIS Christos  
MCKEE Martin  
MURAUSKIENE Liubove

NUTI Sabina (apologies)  
PITA BARROS Pedro  
ROGERS Heather-Lynn  
SICILIANI Luigi  
STAHL Dorothea  
WIECZOROWSKA-TOBIS Katarzyna  
ZACHAROV Sergej  
ZALETEL Jelka

**DG SANTE**

DAJKA Bela  
VOLOSINOVA Viera