



FLASH REPORT AND CONCLUSIONS OF THE CHAIR MEETING OF THE EXPERT GROUP ON HEALTH INFORMATION - 06/12/2017

Philippe ROUX, Head of the Health Information Unit of DG SANTE, introduced the meeting in stressing that the transition from the BRIDGE Health project to the forthcoming Joint Action on Health Information (InfAct) and the envisaged outcomes of the later are crucial elements of the meeting exchanges among the members. He informed about the progress of the work of the Joint Action since the last EGHI meeting of 8 June 2017, in particular the evaluation of the proposal submitted to CHAFEA, and said that the Joint Action should be launched in March 2018. He underlined that a strong link needed to be created between the EGHI and Joint Action.

Herman VAN OYEN, Belgium, presented the main results of the BRIDGE Health project. The discussion focussed on the way forward to ensure a smooth transition from the project work to the Joint Action InfAct. Members acknowledged that the BRIDGE Health project achieved positive results but also left open questions which need to be further examined in the Joint Action InfAct (e.g. reinforcing link to research, prioritisation of specialised health data networks, sustainability of an EU Hub for EU Health information).

Petronille BOGAERT, Belgium, informed about the latest developments of the preparation of the Joint Action on Health Information, InfAct and gave an overview of the agreed work packages. Importantly, she announced that the kick-off meeting of the joint action and its first general assembly are planned for 6 and 7 March 2018.

Giovanni NICOLETTI, Italy, outlined the potential role of the EGHI in the Joint Action. He suggested transforming the EGHI Task Force on the BRIDGE Health project in a task force aimed at facilitating steering of the Joint Action InfAct.

Neville CALLEJA, Malta, commented on the ERIC drafting group outcomes. He stressed that the group was successfully drafting an initial application for an ERIC, but said this should be implemented within the Joint Action InfAct as a proof of concept for an ERIC. It was agreed during discussion that, if needed, extra support for this WP could be provided by the new EGHI Task Force.

Mika GISSLER, Finland, informed about WP 6 capacity building of InfAct and the linkages between the Joint Action InfAct and the initiatives by the WHO European Health Information Initiative (EHII). He pointed out the need to target support to Member States that had made less progress in this area. WHO has long-standing experience on capacity building and has developed a tool to assess health information systems in Member States. The need to pursue close collaborate with the WHO was also stressed by the Chair.

Mariken TIJHUIS, the Netherlands, outlined the work that is currently being done on mapping and in particular on the linkages between the Joint Action InfAct and the WHO EHII mapping exercises. InfAct will build on the WHO achievement in their mapping initiative.

Gaetan LAFORTUNE, OECD, Ewout van GINNEKEN, European Observatory on Health System, and Matthias SCHUPPE, SANTE, informed on the recent outcomes of the State of Health Cycle, namely the 28 Country Health Profiles, the Commission's Companion Report as well as the on the future voluntary exchanges. All Member States taking the floor congratulated the contributors and stressed the usefulness of the State of Health in the EU. The discussion focused on the dissemination of the results of the work and on ways to improve the consultation process in the next iteration of the cycle.

Giulio GALLO, SANTE, informed on the collaboration between the Commission, WHO and OECD, and in particular on the individual and common commitment to reducing the Member States' burden of reporting.

Ilze BURKEVICKA and Lucian AGAFITEI, ESTAT, informed about ESTAT's ongoing work on data collection, in particular in the context of the SDGs achievements monitoring.

CONCLUSIONS OF THE CHAIR

EGHI took note of the latest developments in the preparation of the Joint Action on Health Information, InfAct, which is expected to be launched on 6-7 March 2018.

EGHI members agreed to update the mandate of their « BRIDGE Health » task force so that it becomes a tool in support to the governance of the Joint Action on Health Information, InfAct. It was also agreed that ERIC drafting group should be frozen and that action should be pursued within InfAct.

EGHI members were asked to provide feedback on the Country Health Profiles and their usefulness for the Member States. A first feedback on the potential themes which could be covered in the next iteration is requested by the end of January 2018.

EGHI members were asked to advocate the Country Health Profiles and the Companion Report among their home administrations and to support the voluntary exchange.

EGHI took note of the progress made thanks to the international collaboration between the OECD, WHO and the Commission services.