

# Stakeholder's webinar – 22 January 2021

## EU4Health Programme 2021-2027

### Summary report

On 22 January DG SANTE organised a stakeholders' webinar on the EU4Health Programme ("the Programme") to inform on the Programme objectives and highlighted possible solutions for relevant health challenges. Through a participatory approach, stakeholders identified possible alternative solutions with EU-added value to current or upcoming (new) challenges. The webinar gathered more than 1000 participants of which about 600 registered for the breakout sessions: Health Systems, Medicines and medical devices and Public health. The webinar was attended by more than 100 organisations and associations (including patient organisations, associations covering various medical professions and specialities, industry associations, international and national federations), regional representatives, platforms, public health organisations, university, national institutes and competent authorities, academia, consultancies, companies, including experts from 17 EU Member States competent authorities active in the [EU Health Policy Platform](#) on-line interactive tool.

### Plenary session

The plenary session set out the overall political framework which the EU4Health Programme will implement and informed participants on the future EU4Health programme objectives, its governance structure and processes and has indicated possible approaches in rolling-out available solutions. The overall budget is €5,1 billion budget of which €327 million for 2021. The adoption of the 2021 EU4Health Work Programme is expected during the second quarter of 2021. The Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA) – soon to be established – will be responsible for the implementation of the majority of the EU4Health budget.

### Breakout sessions

The **Public health** breakout session included participants from health authorities, academia such as Brunel University London and University LLeida-Spain, and several associations such as ACHIEVE, European Federation of Neurological Associations, Alzheimer Europe, European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases Patients' Associations, European AIDS Treatment Group, European Heart Network, Maladies Rares Luxembourg, European Oncology Nursing Society, Smoke Free Partnership and the, European Alcohol Policy Alliance.

The participants identified a number of possible solutions under the following main topics:

#### Communicable diseases

- Improve health surveillance and better exchange/harmonisation between Member States;
- Gather better data for example on genome sequencing;
- Additional capacity building for example: on training;
- Behaviour change for example through a prudent use of antibiotics, a launch of campaign of information to patients;
- Ensure citizens have more responsibility;
- Invest on data trust /data collaboration, which are becoming an emerging /innovative approach.

### Cancer

- Invest in research to identify new best practices learning from the COVID pandemic on EU resilience;
- Promote (new) confidence in public health services;
- Address inequalities in Member States and between Member States on diagnosis, prevention and treatment;
- Capacity building for unexpected cancer control cases (i.e. newly discovered clusters of cancer
- Collaboration across different sectors and not only between Member States;
- Support cancer survivors by improving their life quality;
- Investment on fighting childhood cancer;
- Addressing drugs and promoting a holistic view of therapy success factors in clinical trials

### Non-communicable diseases including mental health

- New models for Member States collaboration to work on policy implementation and improve knowledge on best practices including training programme;
- Better support the integration of health promotion and prevention in primary health care services to build a community approach to tackle cancer and other diseases.
- Support initiatives for vulnerable groups;
- Promotion of access to healthcare and addressing health inequalities
- Provide more attention to rare diseases, viral hepatitis, neurological disorders including dementia, cardiovascular disease and other chronic diseases and addressing risk factors linked to these diseases.

The **Medicines, vaccines and medical devices** breakout session gathered participants from health authorities, academia and NGO's and several associations such as European Medicine Agency, MedTech Europe, European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries, European Patients' Forum, Medicines Europe, Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union, and European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases Patients' Associations intervened.

The participants identified a number of possible solutions under the following main topics:

#### Shortages of crisis relevant products

- Common monitoring tools and coordination at EU level for potential shortages and in procurement and stockpiling initiatives;
- Strong surveillance, including diagnostic capacity, using skills of different actors;
- Collection of better and more detailed data including use of digital tools;
- Resilient supply chain, for more sustainable products.

#### Availability and affordability of medicinal products

- Reinforced clinical trials networks, infrastructure and multinational, multi-center pan-EU trials
- Synergies with discovery driven research in order to translate it to innovation, including analysis of real world data
- Patient-centered innovation uptake, based on patient needs, removing barriers and increasing collaboration, in synergy with other funding mechanisms given that EU4Health will mostly encourage innovation.

### Safe and effective vaccines

- coordination monitoring of postmarketing data, including data on safety and efficacy.

### Availability of medical devices

- strengthening cooperation and communication between the different actors, including patients.

### Health Technology assessment (HTA)

- Cooperation to ensure adequate implementation of HTA at hospitals and supporting an EU HTA framework;
- Collaboration on HTA with all relevant actors, including patient involvement.

The **Health System** breakout session was joined by participants from Member States competent authorities, Committee of the Regions, academia and several associations such as European Public Health Alliance, European Public Service Union, European Patients Forum, Universitätsklinikum Freiburg (IMBI), International Federation of Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus, European Kidney Health Alliance, European Hospital and Healthcare Employers' Association. International Federation of Anthroposophic Medical Associations, Mediceus SA, European Hospital and Healthcare Employers' Association (HOSPEEM).

The participants identified a number of possible solutions under the following main topics:

### Transformation of Health Systems

- Sharing of good practices on new care models; involvement of local and regional levels
- Important to address prevention and primary care
- Stimulation of innovative forms of public-private partnerships to respond in times of crisis;
- Resilience testing so health systems are better prepared.

### Advancing Digital Health

- EU funding should be directed into long-term policy programmes e.g. eHealth Digital Service Infrastructure (eHDSI) and European Reference Networks (ERNs) underpinned by a clear policy vision;
- Create cooperation between healthcare and internal market for health data;
- Increase access to health data, address health data gaps and interoperability through common governance mechanisms for health data exchange through the creation of the European Health Data Space.

### Reinforcing the Health Workforce

- Continuous collaboration in strategic health workforce planning that requires EU-wide and in-country stakeholder engagement;
- Focus on addressing shortages of health workforce
- Harness digital capacity for new skills, reskilling for health workforce both for students and continued professional development.

### Patient-centred health and care

- Address health inequalities, vulnerable groups and stigma towards certain diseases.
- Address specific non communicable diseases in addition to cancer