



Subject: Summary Record of the Meeting of the Expert Group on Health Information, 08 December 2011, Luxembourg

1. WELCOME

Mr. Schreck, Head of Unit Health Information, presented himself as it was the first time he was chairing this meeting. Other changes in SANCO are the split of directorate C into two directorates – directorate C public health and directorate D health system and products. Mr. Ryś is now the director of directorate D. For directorate C, DG SANCO published the post of the Director in the autumn and hope that the new director will start work in early summer next year.

The meeting cycle of EGHI will not be changed and it is planned to have the meeting twice per year.

Mr. Schreck informed the participants that with the minutes, all names of the participants of the meeting will be published. If someone would not want to be mentioned, the Commission had to be informed during the meeting.

Belgium added one point on the agenda under AOB on data protection directive

2. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA

No further comments were made.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

No comments on the draft minutes were made.

4. DEVELOPMENTS IN HEALTH INFORMATION

A list of legislative and policy developments in health since November 2010 was provided before the meeting and was well received by the participants.

The following points were highlighted by Mr. Schreck:

- Work plan 2012 was published on the 08 December 2011. This was also the case for the calls for proposals 2012. The work plan would be circulated to the participants with the minutes of the meeting.

- The draft of the new public health programme "Health for Growth" was presented. Finland and Malta regretted the weak presence of health information in the new programme. Mr. Schreck pointed out that the programme was presented in the Council where the Member States had the opportunity to intervene if they are not satisfied.
- The work plan 2012 of the Health programme includes a call for projects relating to the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing. Four million Euros are set aside for this action in the work plan.
- Partnership for health in the WHO European Region + Implementation roadmap for EC-WHO/EURO collaboration on Health Information Systems was welcomed by the Member States but it was highlighted that OECD should be involved in this action too. Mr. Schreck informed the Member States that this point is already under discussion. Further up-dates and developments will be shared with EGHI group.

5. HEIDI HEALTH WIKIPEDIA: STATE OF PLAY AND FUTURE PLANS

Ms. Mattila gave an up-date on Heidi. The presentation is attached to the minutes.

Mr. Schreck stressed that for the Commission, Heidi is a new manner of working for several reasons:

- It is a tool provided by the Commission but the information presented comes from many sources
- Involvement from different services of the Commission in the future such as the EU agencies, other DG's such as Research and Innovation
- The ownership of the content is a point which needs further discussions

SANCO proposed establishing a Heidi Editorial board. Members of the Editorial Board should be the EGHI group members who should provide strategic guidance, propose priority areas and suggest improvements for the wikipedia. The concept was welcomed, while detailed operational issues will need to be further discussed. Mr Schreck clarified that the aim of the Editorial Board would not be to validate or check the content of input provided by the experts who contribute to the articles in Heidi, but rather to provide high-level strategic vision and direction.

In general the up-date of Heidi was well received by the Member States. Comments were received from NL; MT; BE; DE; IE, FIN. It was agreed that the Member States will receive a link to the up-dated version of Heidi and will send comments on the proposal for the Editorial Board by the end of January 2012.

6. UPDATES ON ONGOING HEALTH INFORMATION WORK

6. 1 up-date on Joint Actions

1. Jamie – Injury database (IDB) kick-off-meeting was this year

The joint action on monitoring injuries in Europe had its kick-off meeting in Luxembourg this spring. The main development since the kick-off is that the entry of data has been split into two scales. The minimum dataset will be a single screen and the data needed could also be extracted from registries. The first training event of hospital personnel that will be entering the data into the data sets has already taken place and the next one is foreseen next year. By the end of the JA the aim is that 26 MS will be delivering injury data through the IDB system.

2. EHLEIS – Healthy Life Years

The EHLEIS is a joint action on the HLY indicator. The kick-off was held in Luxembourg in May this year and the main developments since then are the new website and logo. There have been discussions about harmonisation of the SILC question used to calculate the HLY.

3. ECHIM – European Community Health Indicators (ECHI)

ECHI indicators is a shortlist of 88 health indicators of which over 40 are available in the HEIDI Data-tool. The European Health Interview Survey (EHIS) is one of the main sources, as around 20 indicators will be calculated from the survey. Preparations for the next wave of the EHIS have started and it will be conducted under a Regulation in 2014. Other sources are mainly from other data collections by ESTAT or other harmonised data collections.

The work plan 2012 of the Health Programme includes an implementation evaluation in the MS on the ECHI indicators. The ECHIM JA will be extended and will end in June 2012.

Presentation on the Joint Actions is attached to the minutes

6.2. Up-date on European Health Examination Survey (EHES)

The Joint Action will be finalised by the end of this year covering the pilot study carried out by the Member States. The call for tender was awarded to the reference centre in Finland (THL). The reference centre provided support to pilot countries by site visits, training tools and in ethical and legal questions. Furthermore all Member States, not only the pilot countries, will have a national manual to carry out a health examination survey by the end of the project. The final conference will be on 6-7 March 2012 in Brussels where the results of the pilot study will be presented. The future of a European Health Examination Survey depends on the decision of DG Research as DG Sanco is not able to carry out such an expensive project.

6.3 Presentation on ECHIM by Prof. Mika Gissler

The Joint Action ECHIM (European Community Health Indicators Monitoring) lead by Finland presented a paper on the sustainable future of ECHI. Member States underlined the importance of maintaining a core set of health indicators for health monitoring at EU level and noted that the forthcoming ECHI evaluation in the work

plan 2012 should be sensitive to multiple complex factors influencing policy making when assessing the usefulness of indicators.

The presentation is attached to the minutes.

6.4 Up-date from Eurostat

Mr Bart De Norre (ESTAT) informed about plans to issue a press release on smoking based on EHIS (European Health Interview Survey) data one day before the World No Tobacco day (31 May 2012).

The presentation is attached to the minutes.

6.5 Information on projects related to Health Information from EAHC

Several projects were presented from the current health programme. All information regarding the different projects is available on the project web page. The presentation is attached to minutes.

6.6 Up-date from WHO/EURO

WHO/EURO informed that a draft of a new European health report 2012 (target setting for Health 2020 strategy) would be available for the Regional Committee in September; in the same meeting also the WHO/EURO European health information strategy would be discussed.

6.7. Up-date from OECD

As regards the 2012 "Health at a Glance Europe" report (jointly financed by SANCO-OECD and to be published at the end of 2012), OECD informed that the draft would be available for comments in the summer; SANCO will circulate the draft and collect comments from the Member States. The report will conform to ECHI indicators.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Belgium expressed concerns about the current developments in the revision of the data protection directive. The Commission highlighted again the possibilities Member States have to intervene in the Council after the proposal will have been published.

The next meeting will take place on 07 June 2012 (tbc). No translation service will be provided; the working language will be English.

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