



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 (2019-2022)

11th plenary meeting

21 March 2022

10:00-12:45h CET

MS Teams

Minutes

The eleventh plenary meeting of the Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in health (term of office 2019-2022) took place virtually on 21 March 2022. The meeting, which was a non-public meeting, was chaired by the Panel's Chair, Professor Jan De Maeseneer.

1. Welcome and introduction

The agenda was approved without changes, the minutes of the previous plenary meeting of 24 November were adopted in writing and had been published on the Expert Panel website.

No conflicts of interest were raised on matters of the agenda.

2. Opinion on managing antimicrobial resistance (AMR) across the health system

The chair of the drafting group on AMR and rapporteurs gave an update on the work of this opinion. They emphasised that the focus of the mandate's questions is on necessary systemic elements, conditions and interventions of effective management of AMR across, but also beyond, the health systems. The use of innovative technologies, identifying the areas for most urgent investment across health systems for maximum benefit to tackle AMR and strategies to be recommended to Member States (MS) to implement existing and planned policies to tackle AMR are also the key elements.

Rapporteurs presented the suggested high-level outline of the opinion which includes the role of the health system, determinants and evidence based interventions, and a review of existing EU initiatives.

They presented a framework on how the health system contributes to AMR reduction in four aspects *i*) policy and strategic planning, *ii*) medicines management and prescribing systems, *iii*) technological approaches, and *iv*) understanding context, culture, and behaviours.

Members stressed the importance to implement existing and planned policies and identify gaps and best practices. They pointed at national and regional differences when assessing national plans with some MS having no plans or only under development, some being implemented and, in some MS, plans being actively monitored and evaluated.

Members further discussed evidence-based interventions that would help the health system to tackle AMR, including antimicrobial stewardship and multimodal strategies, emerging technologies, and digital interventions.

Members agreed to organise a virtual public hearing on the draft opinion on 20 June 2022. The opinion should be finalised in July 2022 so it could be used to support an upcoming Council Recommendation on AMR.

3. Opinion on facing the impact of post-covid-19 condition on health systems

The chair of the drafting group and rapporteurs gave an update on the work of this opinion. They reiterated that the opinion will provide an overview of current state-of-the-art on what post-COVID-19 condition is, its probable causes and symptoms. It will provide an analysis of the main knowledge, organisational and resource requirements for healthcare systems to design and develop appropriate health services for post COVID-19 condition. It will make available guidance on how public health surveillance should be adapted to measure the impact of post-COVID-19 condition on the population.

Members discussed the conceptual framework of a care pathway and the different levels where the impact of the post-COVID-19 condition is expected. The proposed work plan with sub-chapters was also presented. The sub-chapters focus on *i*) nature and extent of post-Covid-19 condition, *ii*) impact on functioning and quality of life at individual level, *iii*) recognition of post-Covid-19 condition and person needs, *iv*) rehabilitation for the medium- and long-term consequences, *v*) research related to post-Covid-19 condition and *vi*) regular reporting through surveillance, monitoring, and response.

Members concluded by emphasising the importance of primary care, and the role of active primary, secondary and tertiary disease prevention.

4. EXPH external evaluation

COM informed the members that the contract to conduct an evaluation study on the work of the Expert Panel has been awarded to ICF S.A.

ICF representatives presented to the Panel the approach, structure, and methodology of the evaluation study. The study should assess the EXPH's work and functioning based on the evaluation criteria of effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, and relevance.

Members reflected on potential impact of their work at scientific as well as EU and national and regional level and asked about their involvement. ICF explained that the EXPH members are expected to contribute via a survey, targeted interviews and focus groups. Members will be contacted via the Secretariat to request their contributions to the evaluation.

5. Any other business and next steps

DISSEMINATION OF OPINIONS

Members discussed possibilities to promote and disseminate the recent opinions but also the Panel's work in general. The Chair thanked all members who presented the opinions in different fora.

Members discussed the suggestion to participate in the Science for policy podcast hosted by Science Advice for Policy by European Academies (SAPEA) and agreed to explore this possibility.

2022 MEETINGS PLANNING

Members suggested to meet in person in a plenary on 22 June 2022 instead of 23 June. The Secretariat will check and inform the members whether it is possible.

6. List of participants

EXPH members: Professor Jan De Maeseneer, Dr Anna Garcia-Altes (apologies), Professor Damien Gruson, Dr Dionne Kringos, Professor Lasse Lehtonen, Professor Christos Lionis, Professor Martin McKee, Professor Liubove Murauskiene, Professor Sabina Nuti, Professor Pedro Pita Barros, Dr Heather-Lynn Rogers, Professor Luigi Siciliani, Professor Katarzyna Wieczorowska-Tobis, Professor Sergej Zacharov (apologies), Dr Jelka Zaletel

Representatives from ICF S.A.

Representatives from the European Commission (DG SANTE B1)