



## **FLASH REPORT**

### **Third meeting of the "Supporting Ukraine, neighbouring EU Member States and Moldova" Network**

**26 April 2022**

The "Supporting Ukraine, neighbouring EU Member States and Moldova" Network on the Health Policy Platform met for the third time since the beginning of the crisis on Tuesday, 26 April 2022. The Network is taking shape and gaining momentum, as co-chairs and liaisons, who spoke at the meeting, have now been appointed to assist with coordinating activities and to stimulate and propose concrete actions with the input of other network members. DG SANTE Deputy Director General for Health John Ryan opened the meeting, expressing his gratitude for work done and recapping some of the EU's work since the beginning of the war before speaking about recent developments since the network last met. The EU has allocated a further €50 million in humanitarian funding, bringing the EU's total humanitarian aid funding in response to the war to €143 million. This funding was part of the €1 billion support package pledged by the Commission at the 'Stand Up For Ukraine' event. This new funding will address the most pressing humanitarian needs and provide support against gender-based violence. Sexual violence, he said, was reportedly widespread. Ryan also announced a € 2 million call for proposals for NGOs, to support the mental health of Ukrainian refugees, funded under the EU4Health Programme and complemented by a € 7 million contribution agreement with the International Federation of Red Cross Societies to provide mental health services.

**Bettina Ryll**, president of Melanoma Patients Network Europe and Co-Chair Liaison Patient Organisations said that neighbouring countries faced the greatest burden and that some refugees were even returning to Ukraine or commuting between Ukraine and neighbouring countries for care, which made it difficult to manage the flow of patients and maintain communication. There was little time to coordinate activities, she said, solutions had to be found quickly on the ground, but what was needed was 'glue' or a real connection between organisations in the network. **Anastasiia Saliuk**, Senior Project Officer Ukraine Response from Rare Diseases Europe, said that it was difficult to provide access to adjusted housing for refugees with impaired mobility, and difficult to find family assistants to facilitate administrative processes for access to basic services. Many families also need access to psychological support, she said, and there was a lack of equipment, medications and supplies for rare diseases patients. Many patient organisations reported losing contact with patients in Ukraine. **Paul de Raeve**, network co-chair and secretary general of European Federation of Nurses Associations focused on the effort the ICN Humanitarian Fund in Geneva to collect donations for frontline nurses in Ukraine, Slovakia and Moldova to cover basic needs, and stressed the need to provide Ukrainian nurses and healthcare workers with temporary licenses and to facilitate their integration and recognition to work in EU health systems.

An open discussion followed, and the co-chair invited NGOs to send possible contributions regarding their proposed activities or their requests for assistance in writing. John Ryan concluded the meeting, noting the need to address sexual violence and sexual health, support to small NGOs operating in Ukraine and neighbouring countries, the shortage/equivalence of medicinal products and the possibility for the Commission to liaise with the European Medicines Agency on this latter point. He encouraged participants to actively state their needs and offers of assistance on the Health Policy Platform network. The co-chairs will report again at a network meeting in May on initiatives and any proposals for coordinated efforts.

**To join this network, please register in the [EU Health Policy Platform](#) and then request access to the network.**

**Over 80 health stakeholder organisations are represented in this group to date. If you encounter any difficulties, please contact [SANTE-HPP@ec.europa.eu](mailto:SANTE-HPP@ec.europa.eu)**