Flash report

Meeting
Sub-group on Cancer under the Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases

6 May 2022

The Sub-group on Cancer under the Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases held a virtual meeting on cancer screening, jointly chaired by DG RTD and DG SANTE. The representatives of 24 Member States, plus Iceland and Norway, attended the meeting together with a number of Commission services.

Update on the Mission on Cancer

Participants were informed of the recent country visits of the Commission to France, Spain and Austria; the next visits are to Czechia, Lithuania and Poland. These visits enable opportunities to exchange views on governance issues and the integration of Missions at the national level. Furthermore, focus groups have been organised with citizens in Bulgaria, Czechia, Finland, France and Lithuania, as part of citizen engagement activities. These focus groups are extremely useful to explore and understand the views and experiences of citizens on aspects related to cancer awareness and prevention, and cancer-related behaviours. The adoption of the second amendment to the Horizon Europe work programme 2021-2022 will take place imminently and contains important new topics for the implementation of the Mission. Participants were asked for assistance in informing national stakeholders, in particular through raising awareness on the Mission Info Days[1], which will take place on 17 and 18 May; the session on the EU Mission on Cancer will be held on 17 May.

Key Elements of Commission Actions and Commission Proposal on Cancer Screening

DG SANTE presented key elements on the update of the Council Recommendation on cancer screening, including proposed amendments. These amendments incorporate proposals from Member States made both in written form and during the previous meeting on 8 April. Participants were given the opportunity for feedback on the draft amendments; further written submissions may be made by 13 May. There was animated discussion with many suggestions from all participants. Several Member States requested a third meeting, which was deemed useful for further in-depth discussions given the complexity of the topic. This meeting will take place on 20 May.

Conclusions and AOB

Participants were informed that the European Health and Digital Executive Agency, HADEA, is organising an information session[2] on 10 May to provide information related to joint actions and direct grants to be launched under EU4Health Work Programme 2022; the invitation and draft agenda were shared. Furthermore, participants were informed that a joint meeting is planned on 19 May between the SGPP cancer sub-group and the SGPP sub-group on the NCD initiative with a view to discuss and synergise the approach to address health determinants, as included in the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and the new NCD initiative. The Chairs thanked everyone for their attention and valuable contributions and reminded participants of the next meetings on 19 and 20 May as well as 29 June 2022.

[1] EU Missions info days | European Commission (europa.eu)
[2] https://ecconf.webex.com/ecconf/onstage/g.php?MTID=e9d68d61774597ba37ec6e4ec9fa1d176