



Flash Report
Expert Group on Health Information (EGHI) meeting
11 May 2016
Conclusions of the Chair

Introduction

The Expert Group on Health Information (EGHI) meeting of 11 May 2016 focussed on the development of the European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) on Health Information. **Philippe Roux, Head of Unit 'Country knowledge and scientific committees' at DG SANTE**, was chairing the meeting. The welcome speech was given by **John Ryan, acting Director of DG SANTE C**, who underlined the need to deepen country and cross-country knowledge to improve access, effectiveness and resilience of health systems in Member States.

What is New

Marieke Verschuuren underlined as main focus of the Dutch Presidency the affordability of extremely expensive innovative medicines, food product improvement (reduction of salt, saturated fat and calories) and the fight against antimicrobial resistance. Additionally, the Dutch Presidency is organising the eHealth Week 2016 on 8-10 June.

Neville Calleja informed that childhood obesity and cross-country cooperation will be one of the main priorities under the Maltese Presidency. Additionally, pending further discussion, the ERIC on Health Information and Health System Performance Assessment could be part of the Maltese agenda.

Herman van Oyen, Belgium, mentioned that they are starting calculating Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALY) and asked other countries to share similar experience.

Ondřej Májek, Czech Republic, announced the reform of the Act on Health Services in order to improve the functioning of the national health information system.

Arnaud de Guerra, France, informed that the National Institute for Public Health was reorganised and is now also in charge of producing reports on health status of the population.

Aušra Želvienė, Lithuania, informed that they are launching eHealth information system, which is for the time being mainly focussing on e-prescriptions. A new health information portal has been launched in Lithuania. School- children health information system is being created and is expected to be launched by the end of the year.

Neville Calleja, Malta, announced that the country is cooperating with the WHO on the Small Countries Health Information Network.

Polonca Truden-Dobrin, Slovenia, informed about cooperation with Norway on piloting data sets on municipality level.

State of Health in the EU Cycle

Sylvain Giraud, DG SANTE B1, and Philippe Roux, DG SANTE C2, introduced the concept of a State of Health in the EU cycle which responds to Commissioner Andriukaitis' mandate to increase country and cross-country health knowledge. The information cycle will be implemented by the Commission services in close collaboration with the OECD and the European Observatory on Health System and Policies.

Updates from the Commission Services

Jakub Hrkal and Ilze Burkevica, EUROSTAT, European Commission, gave an update on the current activities and health statistics covering survey data and administration data. One key development is the Eurostat received fresh data from the European Health Interview Survey (EHIS). Data is under validation and will be available by September 2016.

Boriana Goranova, DG EMPL, European Commission, presented an update on the development and use of the Joint Assessment Framework on Health and the Social Protection Committee in-depth thematic reviews. She also mentioned the public consultation recently launched on the European Pillar of Social Rights. Antonio Cammarota, DG EMPL, mentioned the collaboration with the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work with regards to relevant information in the field health and safety at the workplace.

Julia Schmitz, DG RTD, European Commission presented on Commission research activities related to health data. Among these, the European Human Biomonitoring Initiative is progressing well, with involvement of 26 Countries (22 EU Member States plus Norway, Iceland and Switzerland). A first set of chemicals has been prioritised.

Nicolas Nicholson, DG JRC, European Commission, presented up-to-date information on the 2015 European call for cancer registry data.

Data submission is still ongoing for some countries. He underlined the difficulties linked to national data-protection rules to ensure consistent data gathering at a European scale.

ERIC on Health Information

The chair reminded that Member States called for sustainability and good coordination in activities related to health information in the EU. An ERIC is a potential tool to achieve this goal as well as for facilitating the involvement of International Organisations such as the OECD and WHO.

Herman van Oyen, Scientific Institute of Public Health Belgium, and Petronille Bogaert, BRIDGE Health Project, presented the preliminary draft concept paper for an EU health information hub, emphasizing that an ERIC would be a step forward.

Neville Calleja, Malta, reported on the first results of the ERIC' drafting group meeting of 18 April 2016 underlining that ownership by the Member States is imperative. He invited more countries to join the initiative.

BRIDGE-Health Work Package (WP) 4

Angela Fehr, Sabrina Hense, Robert Koch Institute Germany and Marieke Verschuuren, National Institute of Public Health, Netherlands, presented the progress on European Core Health Indicators Monitoring, within the BRIDGE-Health Project. The members were asked for an agreement on the terms of reference for the Expert Group on National Health Indicators Implementation by 18 May 2016.

Updates from the international organisations

Khassoum Diallo, WHO/Europe, presented their European Health Information Initiative. He introduced their country profile for Greece, underlining that they will produce annually five country profiles.

Gaetan Lafortune, OECD, briefed the participants on activities related to health data governance, health care quality indicators, economics of public health/ prevention, efficiency of health systems and Health at a Glance: Europe 2016 underlining that the members will be consulted on the draft over summer.

Any Other Business

As part of the mid-term evaluation of the Health Programme 2014-2020, the Commission will launch a public consultation in September 2016. The results will inform an assessment of the implementation and continued policy relevance of the 23 thematic priorities of the programme, of which four relate to 'fostering health information and knowledge systems'. On the basis of this

assessment potential amendments to the thematic priorities will be considered.

In due course SANTE will invite members to participate in the consultation.

Conclusions by the Chair

- In agreement with the members, the secretariat will make a proposal for a consolidated mandate with a focus on improved working methods at the next meeting.
- Members agreed that in the future presentations will be no longer than 10 minutes (maximum 10 slides) leaving 20 minutes for discussion after each presentation.
- Additionally, power point presentations should be sent to the secretariat two weeks before the meeting to be made available to all members 10 days prior to the meeting.
- It was agreed that future EGHI meetings will finish by 16h30.
- Future EGHI meetings will focus on a particular issue which will be decided during the preceding meeting. The next EGHI meeting discussions will focus on the publication of Health at a Glance: Europe 2016.
- The commission will continue to inform the EGHI members about further developments of the State of Health in the EU Cycle.