



EU Health Policy Platform Meeting

05 April 2016

Flash Report

The meeting was partly dedicated to presenting the functionalities the EU Health Policy IT Platform to the members of the 2009 – 2013 EU Health Policy Forum, prior to its official launch on the 21st of April 2016. Several stakeholders had an opportunity to present their proposals of the topics for Thematic Networks. Jürgen Scheftlein, Policy Officer, DG SANTE Health Determinants and Inequality Unit, was chairing the meeting.

Philippe Roux, Head of Unit Country knowledge and scientific committees, DG SANTE, opened the meeting underlining that this IT platform was developed with the ambition to facilitate communication between the European Commission service and the stakeholders on a more regular basis. He stressed the potential of the IT platform to become a laboratory of ideas that the stakeholders can use in creating thematic networks.

Jürgen Scheftlein, Policy Officer at Health determinants and inequality Unit, DG SANTE, gave an overview on how the EU Health Policy Platform will work and introduced three pillars supporting this platform: 1) IT Tool 2) Regular Meetings and Biennial High Level Event and 3) EU Health Award. He further explained that the IT platform will be divided in a) Agora (open cross-sectorial) b) Thematic networks

(temporary targeted discussions leading to joint statements/working documents) c) EU Expert and Stakeholder Networks (for members of already established formal or ad-hoc European Commission groups).

What is new about the regular meetings is that those meetings are no longer restricted to a fixed list of stakeholders. The IT platform will not only be instrumental to the organisation of such assemblies, but will also keep the discussion going in-between the meetings. The meetings will discuss the joint statements produced by the Thematic Networks and proposals for new such Thematic Networks.

Jürgen Scheftlein also announced that the first EU Health Policy Platform high level event should take place in 2017.

Maria Iglesias, Expert at the Central IP Service, Joint Research Centre, explained what intellectual property rights are and provided practical advice on how to share what documents correctly on the IT platform.

Caroline Coner, External Consultant working for DG SANTE, showed the stakeholders how to register in the IT platform and gave an overview of its technical functionalities.

During the second part of the meeting, stakeholders gave presentations on their topic proposals to establish Thematic Networks in the Platform.

Ingrid Stegeman, Programme Manager, EuroHealthNet presented a proposal on Health Inequalities and Wellbeing. She indicated what has been done so far in relation to health inequalities. She also stressed the need to follow a more horizontal approach to health rather than a disease-based vertical approach. EuroHealthNet will discuss their future approach to the topic and to the tool.

Anamaria Corca, EU Policy Advisor, Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME), presented a second proposal for a Thematic Network focusing on patient safety, including continuing professional development and quality of care. She specifically raised a question on how the EU Health Policy Platform can contribute to the implementation of Council Conclusions on Patient Safety of 1 December 2014. The main objective is to finalise by December 2016 a framework for a sustainable EU collaboration on patient safety and quality of care, also taking into account the results of the "Joint Action on patient safety and quality of care". CPME will now consult its members on the proposal to lead a Thematic Network.

Katarzyna Czabanowska, Associations of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER), led a discussion on public health workforce development and professionalisation for Thematic Networks. The proposed model would rest on three pillars: 1) public health workforce professionalisation 2) public health education and training 3) translation of evidence for the benefit of practice and public health education and training.

Paul de Raeve, Secretary General, European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN), informed the meeting participants about the follow up on the EU stakeholder's joint statement on dementia, adopted by the former Health Policy Forum in 2015.

Conclusions by the chair

- Stakeholders are invited to register <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/hpf/> asap and start using the Platform;
- Stakeholders should take ownership of this structure for better communication to make it successful;
- Thematic networks will be opened according to the feedback from potential network leaders on their resources and timing;
- The launch of the EU Health Policy Platform will be 21 April 2016;
- The next face to face meeting of the Health Policy Platform is expected to take place on 13 October 2016.