

Flash Report

Meeting

Sub-group on the “Healthier together, the EU Non-communicable Diseases Initiative”, under the Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases

3 March 2022

On 3 March 2022, the Sub-group on the “Healthier together, the EU Non-communicable Diseases Initiative” under the Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases held a virtual meeting, chaired by DG SANTE. The representatives of 23 Member States attended the meeting.

General update on the draft EU NCD Initiative and joint actions

DG SANTE presented an update on the current version of the EU NCD Initiative document that incorporates comments and recommendations from Member States and international organizations. The text now reinforces the benefits of an integrated approach and includes more options for areas for collaboration.

Comments received from stakeholders were also summarised, (e.g. screening programmes, revision of guidelines, and patient registries). Upcoming improvements were also listed, namely a more systematic presentation of action options (from broad, potentially innovative, population-wide policies to more detailed, tested and targeted practices).

Participants were asked for feedback on the priorities by 13 March, using Annex 3.

DG SANTE presented the potential structure of upcoming Joint Actions and the advantages and disadvantages of having two or a single Joint Action covering both cardiovascular and diabetes or two JAs on these strands. .

Discussion

Member States welcomed the approach and the progress of the document. Priorities such as the preparation of national non-communicable disease plans, integrated care and patient pathways, and screening were discussed.

Member States expressed a preference for a single Joint Action covering both cardiovascular and diabetes and several noted their availability to participate in drafting groups to prepare the upcoming joint actions.

Conclusion

The Chair thanked everyone for their engagement and valuable contributions. The next meeting of the sub-group will take place on 8 April, when respiratory diseases, and mental health and neurological disorders will be discussed.

A working group will be created composed by experts of Member States interested in preparing the Joint Action on Cardiovascular diseases and Diabetes. First meeting is planned in April (date tbc).

A meeting with the SGPP sub-group on cancer is scheduled in May (date tbc) to discuss the health determinants strand and the related Joint Action.