



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Public Health
Health information and scientific committees

Luxembourg, 3 July 2015
SANTE.C.2

EXPERT GROUP ON HEALTH INFORMATION (EGHI) MEETING
LUXEMBOURG 19 MAY 2015

SUMMARY REPORT

1. REGISTRATION
2. WELCOME AND ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA

The Chair, Stefan Schreck, Head of the Health Information and Scientific Committees unit of the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE) of the European Commission, welcomed the participants to the meeting of the EGHI. The recently nominated delegates from Denmark and Turkey were particularly welcomed.

The Chair informed that the presentations and documents would be made available in CIRCABC. The summary report, the list of participants and the presentations, with the agreement of authors, will also be made publicly available on the SANTE website. A document regarding data and privacy protection had been distributed before the meeting and the participants were requested to contact the Commission in case of any objections to publish their names in the list of participants on the SANTE website.

The draft agenda was adopted after that the participants were informed that DG RTD had to cancel at the last minute and their presentation (agenda point 7.5) would be given on their behalf by DG SANTE and that the presentation by DG EMPL (agenda point 7.3) was to be presented via video link from Brussels.

The Chair invited all EGHI members to participate in the first meeting of the Task Force on the future of the BRIDGE-Health project and preparing a proposal for setting-up a European Research Infrastructure Consortium on Health Information, scheduled to take place on 20 May 2015.

3. SUMMARY REPORT OF THE LAST MEETING

The summary report of the extra-ordinary meeting held on 28-29 January 2015 was adopted. The final version will be made publicly available on SANTE web site together with the list of participants and available presentations from the meeting.

4. EU HEALTH INFORMATION INITIATIVE

4.1 IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

4.2 CONSULTATIONS

The Chair provided an update on the preparations related to the EU health information initiative which was initially presented in the extra-ordinary meeting in January. He informed that the initiative is currently being discussed internally in the European Commission.

He mentioned that if the Commission agrees on the roadmap, an inter-service steering group will be set up including all relevant Commission services to work on the impact assessment of the proposal for the initiative. The first task of this group will be to discuss and finalise the roadmap and agree on the terms of reference for a study to be carried out on some specific elements. This study will also be an integrated part of the impact assessment.

In order to carefully prepare a possible legislative proposal, Member States and the EGHI will be consulted. The EGHI would be informed and consulted as part of the consultations of the impact assessment process. There will as well be bilateral consultations with key stakeholders, the WHO and OECD in particular. In addition, the Commission foresees workshops in European health conferences (European Health Forum Gastein and at the 8th European Public Health Conference in Milan) during autumn 2015. Also, as usual for EU level initiatives, a public consultation will be launched from the Commission web site 'Your voice in Europe' and the outcome of the public consultation will be included in the impact assessment report.

5. HEALTH PROFILES / ANNUAL REPORT – 'STATE OF HEALTH IN THE EUROPEAN UNION'

The Chair gave information on two additional SANTE projects in the area of health. In order to identify needs, gaps and possible synergies to better target EU actions, country specific analyses will be prepared during 2015. SANTE C2 is responsible for the coordination and work together with policy units in SANTE. As adequate, the EGHI would be consulted during this process.

During the discussions the EGHI participants recognised the importance of this work and stressed the complexity of such an exercise based on similar experiences. It was also noted that instead of focusing only on national and European level issues, it could be useful to take into account regional level matters and to include EEA countries. Finally, it was highlighted that the existing work carried out by the WHO and OECD and national actors could be reviewed in this process.

The Chair then informed that as the third element on health information besides the work related to the EU health information initiative and health profiles, the Commission is also considering a report on the state of health in the European Union. The key objective would be to provide updated health information and analysis on the health status of the EU citizens, providing health data and information based on the European Core Health Indicators (ECHI) as well as other key health indicators. The EGHI participants welcomed the idea of such a report and stressed again the need for consultation with the Member states. Norway expressed an interest to be included in the report.

6. UP-DATES ON THE ON-GOING AND PLANNED HEALTH INFORMATION WORK BY EU MEMBER STATES, EEA, CANDIDATE COUNTRIES

EGHI members reported orally on relevant work in their countries. Some contributions had been received before the meeting and all countries were invited to send written input to the EGHI secretariat after the meeting. Web links of activities that might be interesting for other countries, are welcomed in these reports. The Country reports document is regularly updated and made available in CIRCABC, only accessible to EGHI members.

7. UPDATES FROM THE COMMISSION SERVICES AND AGENCIES

7.1. SANTE D2

Carl Larsson Lindqvist, SANTE D2 – Health Systems, gave an update on the work of the Health Systems Performance Assessment expert group (HSPA). The group has decided in its work plan 2015 to set up a dedicated web based platform, to include a forum for exchange of experiences as well as the setting up of two sub-groups on quality of care and integrated care. A report will be published at the end of 2015 referring to the identification of methodologies and tools for health systems performance assessment. The group cooperates closely with other Commission services as well as with OECD and WHO. The Chair thanked for the update,

7.2. ESTAT

Matthias Fritz and Anke Weber, DG Eurostat, gave information on recent and current work in the area of health information. Examples as the wiki based online publication to be finalised during this summer; and an update on the indicator work within the JAF health framework and EU-SILC were given. Ongoing work on EHIS and projects on disability statistics were also described and the recently published data on causes of death (2012). Finally, the EGHI was informed about the launch of a project on diagnosis-specific morbidity inventories which will take place during the 2nd half of 2015.

7.3. EMPL

Boriana Goranova, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (EMPL), gave via video link a presentation focusing on the European Semester 2015 and the JAF Health updates. The European Semester is expected to be more streamlined and contain a limited number of country specific recommendations. Following the close cooperation with SANTE D2 and the HSPA group on JAF Health, results will be presented jointly in the near future.

7.4. ECFIN

Santiago Calvo Ramos from DG Economic and Financial Affairs (ECFIN) presented the recently published EPC-EC Ageing report which contains expenditure projections on health and long-term care. He concluded his presentation by summarising the data that are used in the work of the European Semester and the encountered data problems.

7.5. RTD

Following that DG Research and Innovation (RTD) had cancelled their participation the presentation was given by Helmut Walerius, SANTE C2. An overview on health related research projects from the Horizon 2020; Health, Demographic Change and Wellbeing, was given. Information followed on the current status of the European Human Biomonitoring Initiative (EHBMI). The Member States' nominations to the Steering group of the initiative have now been finalised.

7.6. JRC

Ciarán Nicholl, Head of the Public Health Policy Support Unit of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) presented work in progress and short-term plans of the European Cancer Registries; its data portal and current call of cancer data. The JRC provides assistance to the 160-170 existing cancer registries in the Member States in order to achieve higher access to data and harmonisation.

7.7. ECDC

The EU agency European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) gave an overview on current and emerging infectious diseases. Piotr Kramarz highlighted tuberculosis, the anti-microbial resistance (AMR), HIV diagnosis and influenza outbreaks. Through joint surveillance system with WHO-Europe a single reporting has been set up.

7.8. EMCDDA

João Matias from the EU agency on European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) presented its activities and main indicators i.e. drug use; treatment demand; problem drug use; drug related infectious diseases; and drug related deaths and mortality'. Current challenges are how to calculate data on new chemical substances included in drugs which have big health effects or may lead to death. EMCDDA provides an online data tool and country overviews.

8. UPDATES FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Before the last part of the agenda, the Chair Stefan Schreck, informed that the trilateral meeting between the Commission (SANTE and Eurostat), the OECD and WHO-Euro had been held 7 May as a video meeting. Last developments and on-going and planned work in the area of health information had been discussed.

8.1. OECD

Gaëtan Lafortune, gave an overview of recent/current OECD work in the area of Economics of prevention, Health data governance, Health care quality indicators, and Health workforce, as well as presented the recently published publication 'Tackling harmful alcohol use'.

8.2. WHO-EURO

Marieke Verschuuren from the Regional office for Europe of WHO gave update on health information activities. She highlighted the recent developments in the

European Health Information Initiative (EHII). After the Steering group's agreement on the terms of reference and action plan, it has been decided that the operational framework will cover six key areas focussing on the development of practical tools as well as the use of innovative approaches and stimulation of R&D work.

8.3. EVIP-NET

Tanja Kuchenmüller from WHO Euro gave information on the latest developments of EVIPNet in the European region. The EVIPNet has been put in place to facilitate the linkage between evidence of health research and policy making with the objective to improve health systems. It should facilitate both policy development and implementation through the use of the best global and local scientific evidence available.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair thanked all participants and the speakers in particular. He concluded by saying that the next regular EGHI meeting will take place 12-13 November 2015 and that the invitations would be sent in due course.