



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Public Health, country knowledge, crisis management
Country knowledge and scientific committees

CONCLUSIONS OF THE CHAIR

EXPERT GROUP ON HEALTH INFORMATION (EGHI) MEETING 06/12/2016

EGHI Terms of Reference and Work Programme 2017-2020

Member State representatives welcomed formalising the role of the EGHI and approved its proposed Terms of Reference and Work Programme for 2017-2020. According to the newly adopted Terms of Reference, the EGHI's priorities would include advising Commission services on health information needs and technical solutions; being the interface between EU-level health information activities and Member State authorities; facilitating the implementation of EU-wide health information initiatives in Member States; and creating synergies between health information initiatives across the EU. In terms of concrete actions, Member States agreed that the EGHI would provide guidance on how to close gaps in health data as identified by the State of Health in the EU cycle; offer technical and scientific advice for the proposed Joint Action and ERIC on Health Information; and map common areas of interest among International Organisations in view of reducing the reporting burden on Member States. Member States who took the floor especially welcomed the aim to work towards reducing duplication between health information activities across the EU, and some Member States even suggested that the Mandate should go further by committing countries to these roles. Member States agreed that countries' Permanent Representations to the EU will be asked to review their nominations to the EGHI on the basis of the new Mandate.

State of Health in the EU Cycle

Member State representatives welcomed the newly launched Health at a Glance: Europe 2016 report, especially its new thematic chapters on the labour market impacts of ill-health; primary care systems; and on the effectiveness, accessibility, and resilience of health systems. Member States agreed that they would share the report in their countries, not only within their health ministries, but with all national authorities with interest in population health and/or the sustainability of health systems (such as authorities responsible for the labour market, social security, and the economy as a whole).

Proposed Joint Action on Health Information

Several Member States (e.g. Italy, Finland, Belgium, Malta, Slovenia, Germany, the Netherlands, France, Luxembourg, the Czech Republic, and Norway) expressed interest in being part of the process scoping out the proposed Joint Action on Health Information, and provisionally agreed to meet on 16th February 2017 to start designing the Joint Action including its tasks and future interaction with the envisaged European Research Infrastructure Consortium on Health Information.

New online platform for better collaboration

Member States approved the use of the Health Policy Platform, the EU's online tool, for sharing and discussing updates from Member States, Commission Services, and International Organisations, and to create a virtual space where EGHI members could collaborate between the physical meetings. This will further enable the EGHI's capability to identify scope for synergies between health information activities across the EU and improve Member States' capability for evidence-based policy making while reducing their burden of data collection. Correspondingly, future EGHI meetings would not need to include presentations by Member States or Commission services, since these would already be available on the Health Policy Platform, allowing the EGHI to concentrate on areas where it can add real value such as advising Commission services on health information priorities or identifying areas for greater collaboration.