



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

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

FLASH REPORT AND CONCLUSIONS OF THE CHAIR

MEETING OF THE EXPERT GROUP ON HEALTH INFORMATION - 08/06/2017

Philippe ROUX, Head of the Health Information Unit of DG SANTE, has provided an update on preparations towards launching a Joint Action on Health Information. He welcomed all 26 EU Member States and 4 EEA or Candidate countries who nominated competent authorities by the 11th May deadline to take part in the initiative. He emphasised that successive EGHI meetings identified the need to streamline health data collections in the EU, reduce the data collection on Member States, and improve the policy relevance of the collected data, and expressed his wish that these aims would be well reflected in the proposed Work Packages under the Joint Action.

Gaetan LAFORTUNE from the OECD presented the state-of-play on the Country Health Profiles as part of the State of Health in the EU cycle; the analytical reports written by experts from the OECD and the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies. He outlined that the OECD and Observatory will launch a written consultation starting in mid-July involving EGHI members and EU countries' health ministries on the Profiles. The purpose of the consultation is to identify instances where the expert authors have missed important evidence and/or policy developments. EGHI members will subsequently receive embargoed country health profiles a few days in advance of the tentative launch date of 23rd November 2017.

Annette SCHERPENZEEL from the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) introduced the survey and explained SHARE's experience regarding the advantages and weaknesses of a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) as an organisational form to coordinate Member States' work in data collection and indicator development. She highlighted that an ERIC can provide a stable governance structure for complex cross-European expert networks, but its funding structure is predominantly reliant on decentralised funding which is not robust to country-specific funding issues and cannot provide a very stable funding source for coordination activities.

Herman VAN OYEN and Petronille BOGAERT, the coordinators of the Joint Action on Health Information, led a plenary discussion on the Joint Action work packages that have been proposed so far. EGHI members welcomed the proposals but called for greater synergies with other work packages, projects and international organisations to avoid any kinds of duplications, and called for building on the outputs of past and current projects. In particular, they called for work package leaders to coordinate their activities with other work packages, to coordinate with other EU initiatives (including the Joint Actions on eHealth and Health Inequalities), and with international organisations including WHO-Europe and OECD. WHO-Europe and OECD agreed to hold bilateral meetings with the coordinators of the Joint Action to discuss the form of collaboration.

It has been reiterated that the contents of work packages are still being shaped and partners can still join any work package and/or can suggest changes or additions to the proposed activities. In particular, country representatives have been encouraged to review the proposed activities of each work package (which are listed in the Joint Action on Health Information area of the Health Policy Platform (<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/hpf/>)), and make contact with the Work package leaders if they wish to suggest changes or propose to take part.