



FLASH REPORT AND CONCLUSIONS OF THE CHAIR

MEETING OF THE EXPERT GROUP ON HEALTH INFORMATION - 06/06/2018

Philippe ROUX, Head of the Unit, DG SANTE, chaired the meeting. Matthias SCHUPPE, SANTE, informed on the Communication on 'enabling the digital transformation of health and care in the Digital Single Market; empowering citizens and building a healthier society'. He highlighted the Commission's intention to support the pooling of the EU's data resources and to facilitate their use for research and health policy. As indicated in the Communication a pilot action concerning Real World Data from clinical registries is planned, which will be led by SANTE. He also informed about the recent launch of the European Cancer Information System web platform, which was developed by the JRC to report and disseminate cancer burden indicators at European level. The CHAIR informed that a written update from WHO had been circulated to participants and extra care would be taken when scheduling the next meeting to avoid overlap with WHO's travel ban week in the future.

Petronille BOGAERT and Herman VAN OYEN, Belgium, presented the possible interaction between the Joint Action on Health Information with EGHI. Member's views were asked on the national nodes and on possible services and tasks to be provided by the HIREP-ERIC, which will be tested as part of the Joint Action on Health Information. Members highlighted the need to achieve coordination between health data experts from different organizations inside one country, such as Ministries of Health, Science, and Education, as well as Public Health Institutes, National Statistical Offices and other national authorities.

Marianne TAKKI, SANTE, presented the draft Commission's decision setting up the "Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases" to be adopted on 23 June. She outlined that the Steering Group shall assess the outcomes of transfer and implementation of best practices in cooperation with the EGHI which will provide advice on relevant health data in the area of health promotion, disease prevention and management of non-communicable diseases. Members in general expressed positive opinions on the cooperation with the Steering Group. The Chair suggested that the EGHI would prepare a position paper in order to outline more concretely the potential cooperation areas between the Steering Group and EGHI. The possible working relationship not only between Steering Group and EGHI but as well as with the ERIC was raised by Herman VAN OYEN, Belgium.

Matthias SCHUPPE, SANTE, informed about Commission observations from the first Voluntary Exchanges, which took place as the final element of the State of Health in the EU cycle. Member States in which Exchanges have taken place, or are scheduled to take place were given the floor to present their objectives, observations, and conclusions.

Gaetan LAFORTUNE, OECD, introduced the launch of the 2nd cycle by presenting the outline of the Health at a Glance 2018 report and laid out involvement of members in the review of the draft report. Lorenzo SPIZZICHINO, Italy, presented a proposal on working more closely with the Commission, OECD and European Observatory with the aim to fine tune Country Health Profile methodology and topic priorities, and to prepare a «shared view» of policy recommendations emerging from indicators and data analysis. The Commission, OECD and Observatory agreed to increased collaboration for instance through better feedback on Member State comments, however also highlighted that the value of the cycle lies in its independent international expert assessment, noting also the limits the strict timeline puts on more extended feedback mechanisms. Furthermore it was stressed that the Commission does not intend to formulate health policy recommendations, which would be the prerogative of Member States.

Ian BROWNWOOD, OECD, updated members on the Commission co-funded patient safety indicator project and its follow-up. The discussion focused on the low level of accessibility of health data and difficulties in measurement of process indicators at international level.

David Thorogood, ESTAT, informed about the consultation process on future needs for population statistics. The discussion focused on data utility, timeliness and accessibility in all countries.

CONCLUSIONS OF THE CHAIR

EGHI took note of the importance for Ministries of Health to closely follow the work of the Joint Action on Health Information in order to ensure that political priorities are adequately followed.

Starting work on national nodes either separately, or as part of the ERIC preparations involving health data related stakeholders beyond Ministries of Health was considered to be useful. EGHI took note of future ERIC actions and expects the ERIC business plan to be available in the next EGHI meeting.

A working paper on effective cooperation between the Steering Group on Promotion and Prevention and EGHI will be prepared with EGHI members input to be provided before November.

EGHI members were asked to provide consolidated feedback by end of June on the Country Health Profiles and the Voluntary Exchanges through a questionnaire to be circulated after the meeting. The draft Health at a Glance 2018 report will be circulated around 20 July with feedback to be received by 20 August. For the next iteration the Commission intends to improve native language translations, and ensure better feedback .