



## **DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 11/12/2018 MEETING OF THE EXPERT GROUP ON HEALTH INFORMATION**

### **1. Welcome by the Commission**

The CHAIR, Philippe Roux, Head of the Country Knowledge and Scientific Committees Unit of DG SANTE, welcomed the participants and introduced the agenda of the meeting.

The CHAIR informed that the list of participants, the presentations held during the meeting and the final minutes of the meeting will be published both on the [Health Policy Platform](#) and on the section dedicated to [Public Health](#) on DG SANTE's website. Any objections to this should be notified to the Secretariat immediately.

The CHAIR asked EGHI members to complete the evaluation form for the meeting and return it to the secretariat by the end of the day. The overall assessment of the previous meeting was positive. Almost all respondents stated that the meeting was relevant to the needs of their country. Some suggestions for improvement are already taken into account: more time for discussion, sending meeting documents in advance and including more time for networking in the meeting agenda. Furthermore, the CHAIR suggested holding the next EGHI meeting over two days – one afternoon and the following morning, to allow for more networking time.

The CHAIR informed that no written comments were received on the draft minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018 meeting. The minutes were adopted with the inclusion of a technical remark made by Petronille Bogaert, coordinator of InfAct, who requested to change from *InfAct* to *HIREP-ERIC* on the 3<sup>rd</sup> page, second line.

Subsequently, the agenda for the day's meeting was adopted without changes.

Before starting the meeting, the CHAIR informed that Mrs Anne Bucher replaced Mr Prats-Monné as Director-General for Health and Food Safety on 1 October 2018.

### **2. EGHI role in cooperation with the Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases**

The CHAIR informed about the Commission Decision of 17 July 2018 setting up the Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases (SGPP). The Decision includes a paragraph on cooperation between the EGHI and the SGPP. He invited the participants to have two separate discussions: one on a draft working paper about the EGHI's cooperation with the SGPP (the draft) and one on a methodological approach to support the SGPP with health data in relation to WHO non-communicable diseases (NCDs) 2025 targets and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 targets.

## **Draft working paper on the Expert Group on Health Information's cooperation with the Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases**

The CHAIR introduced the draft, highlighting the three areas for cooperation and potential deliverables. He also proposed to discuss it by making changes directly in the text in order to agree on the final text in the meeting.

Overall, the EGHI members welcomed the draft. Some members asked whether the wording of the draft could go beyond the text of the Decision.

The following changes to the draft text were agreed:

- Context: Some members proposed to extend the Steering Group's objectives by including *activities that reduce inequalities*. The members also proposed that the EGHI could advise the Commission and the SGPP not only on health data but also on *health information*.
- Areas for cooperation: The members suggested to slightly modify the first area of cooperation: "1. The EGHI *helps provide relevant health information and advises on monitoring and assessment needs* to the SGPP to support decision-making in the context of the SGPP's prioritized activities". In addition, members remarked that the EGHI should *facilitate the use of pertinent projects and networks* instead of *advising on pertinent projects and networks* in first paragraph of the second area.
- Potential deliverables: The members suggested clarifying that potential deliverables would be built *on the European Core Health Indicators* in the first sentence. Some of them also suggested to slightly modify the beginning of the fifth paragraph of this part by adding *setting up a roadmap/work plan to support methodology developments* instead of *supporting methodology developments*.

In addition, the EGHI members agreed to share their contact details with their national counterparts in the SGPP in order to improve networking at the national level.

The CHAIR concluded that the final draft of the working paper on the EGHI's cooperation with the SGPP will be presented to the SGPP on 14 February 2019.

## **Methodological approach to support the SGPP with health data in relation to WHO non-communicable diseases (NCDs) 2025 targets and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 targets**

Fabienne Lefebvre (DG SANTE) presented a proposal for health data to support the SGPP in setting up priorities for future work. She gave examples as to how the progress of Member States in meeting the WHO/UN 2025 global voluntary targets on non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) could be measured and presented indicators that could be used for analysis and helping the SGPP identify future priorities.

The CHAIR suggested that a full report on progress towards NCD and SDG targets could be validated by the Group and transmitted to the SGPP on an annual basis. He highlighted that the indicators could be used to highlight priorities that should be addressed in the SGPP. He also stressed that in the initial phase and until WP 7 of the Joint Action is ready to deliver, the Commission will support the work by drawing up the first overview to be transmitted to the SGPP after validation by the EGHI.

Some EGHI members expressed concerns about the increasing numbers of indicators requested which increases the data reporting burden on Member States. A few members wanted to know the added-value of this methodological approach as Member States are already reporting many indicators to ESTAT, OECD, WHO and other international organisations. It was also stressed that WHO is already carrying out a mapping exercise with different variables that will be standardised and systematised. The importance of consistency and quality in reporting was highlighted.

The CHAIR explained that no new data will be necessary for the NCDs targets monitoring: only existing data and indicators will be used. In the future, this task would need to be taken up by the European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC). He highlighted that this methodological approach would differ from the existing tools, as it will be conceived to ease readability of the progress of Member States in meeting SGD targets and would complement the *State of Health in the EU* cycle.

Finally, he proposed that DG SANTE will make a concrete proposal with a series of visuals and for a written agreement by the EGHI in January 2019.

### **3. The Joint Action on Health Information**

Petronille Bogaert, providing coordination of InfAct, informed EGHI members about the work of the various InfAct Working Packages over the past 6 months as well as the plans for the next 6 months. The plan, reasoning and timeline to apply for the ESFRI was explained. This as being a step towards the setup of the ERIC.

In addition, the InfAct coordination informed about a workshop and a pre-conference at the 11<sup>th</sup> European Public Health Conference. The workshop provided insights into current challenges to EU health information systems, as well as InfAct's actions to address these. The pre-conference focused on "Navigating the international health information databases: unravelling the processes behind the numbers".

InfAct asked the EGHI members for comments on the reflection paper on research infrastructure that was shared prior to the meeting.

Finally, the EGHI members were asked to propose a participant for the External Evaluation Committee of InfAct. The Luxembourg Member of EGHI expressed an interest, but stated that she would need to ask the Luxembourg Ministry of Health for approval before confirming her representation in the committee.

In conclusion, the CHAIR highlighted that it is important to consider the follow-up of the Joint Action in order to plan future financial needs. The European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) should be set up as soon as possible.

### **4. State of Health in the EU**

The launch of the 2018 *Health at a Glance: Europe* report, first deliverable of the second iteration of the *State of Health in the EU* cycle took place on 22 November 2018 in Brussels with Commissioner Andriukaitis, Director-General Bucher and Director Scarpetta from OECD.

The CHAIR thanked the EGHI members for their support in the making of the *State of Health in the EU* cycle and invited the participants to take a paper copy of the new *Health at a Glance: Europe* report.

Subsequently, Gaetan Lafortune, OECD, presented some of the key statistics and findings of the report.

## **5. Latest developments on health statistics**

Representatives from ESTAT informed about the latest developments on causes of death statistics including avoidable mortality and ICD revision, morbidity statistics, health care non-expenditure statistics, health care expenditure statistics and the European Health Interview survey. Concerning morbidity statistics, morbidity pilot data collections are foreseen to take place in 2019-2020, with financial support to Member States. Following developments in 2017, ESTAT, with a contractor, has prepared guidelines for morbidity pilot data collections.

In the area of health care non-monetary statistics, data are collected jointly with OECD and WHO, ensuring collaboration and reducing burden on countries. Implementing Regulation 2015/359 as regards statistics on healthcare expenditure and financing foresees development of a legal basis for collecting non-monetary health care data. The non-exhaustive list of variables to be identified by the Task force for possible inclusion in the Regulation was presented to the EGHI members. Given the sunset clause (last reference year in 2020) of the implementing regulation 2015/359 on statistics on healthcare expenditure and financing, a new regulation is being prepared. The ad-hoc Task Force is analysing needs of main users and is looking into possible future developments and improvements.

As regard European Health Interview Survey (EHIS), the third wave is planned for 2019, based on the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 2018/255 of 19 February 2018 and implementing manual. Comparability of EHIS wave 1 and EHIS wave 2 has been analysed and a joint dissemination of both waves will be considered after the new layout of Eurobase will be implemented. ESTAT confirmed that EHIS data is not collected with regional breakdowns due to the size of the sample.

EGHI members discussed the limited accessibility of health data and the difficulty of comparing data, namely on measuring patient experiences. ESTAT informed that data from the 2017 SILC module on health will be available in January 2019. The CHAIR suggested to dedicate more time to questions in the next EGHI meeting.

## **6. Collaboration with international organisations**

### **Update on mapping activities under the European Health Information Initiative (EHII)**

David Novillo Ortiz (WHO) updated members on EHII's progress, developments and achievements since 2017. He highlighted developments in health information with a focus on indicators: the Joint Monitoring Framework (JMF) is expected to reduce the burden of reporting for Member States on three major international health monitoring frameworks – Health 2020, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases. JMF was adopted at the 68th RC in

September 2018 and reporting will be done on the European Health Information Gateway as of March 2019. He also informed about the Autumn School on Health Information and Evidence for Policy-making; the work of health information networks under the EHII, as well as key outcomes from the 68<sup>th</sup> session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe (September, 2018), the March EHII Steering Group pre-meeting, and the October meeting of the EHII indicator mapping subgroup.

### **PREMs and PROMs indicators**

Michael van den Berg (OECD) presented the Patient-Reported Indicators Survey initiative (PARIS). This initiative addresses information gaps and aims to develop international benchmarks of health system performance as reported by patients. He stressed that health systems know very little about whether the health care delivered improves people's well-being and their ability to play an active role in society. Patient-reported outcome measures are in use for some conditions, such as hip and knee surgery but different measures are being used in different countries making international comparisons difficult. He also informed that the OECD has started a discussion on instruments, definitions and data collection strategies in three areas: hip and knee replacements, breast cancer care, and mental health care and a new international survey of patients with chronic conditions in primary care is under development.

In conclusion, the CHAIR highlighted the importance of effective cooperation in the field of health information between the Commission and international organizations in order to overcome barriers to capacity building, to increase data quality and to improve the effectiveness of countries health care spending.

### **6. AOB**

Mihaly Szabo (SANTE) gave a short overview of the new Commission's travel reimbursement system (AGM) that members will need to use for the next EGHI meeting.

### **Conclusions of the CHAIR:**

1. The EGHI members agreed on the text of the working paper on the cooperation between EGHI and SGPP and agreed that he will present the final draft to the SGPP at their meeting on 14 February 2019.
2. Concerning the monitoring of WHO/UN 2025 global voluntary targets on non-communicable diseases and the progress in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals, DG SANTE will make a concrete proposal for a matrix with a series of visuals. The EGHI will be asked to endorse the proposal by email in January 2019.
3. The EGHI took note of the importance to consider and plan the follow-up of the Joint Action, namely the establishment of an ERIC.
4. The flash report will be sent within a few days and the minutes of the meeting for comments will be sent before the end of January.
5. The next EGHI will take place over two days on 12/13 June in Luxembourg.