



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL  
Health systems, medical products and innovation  
**Performance of national health systems**

## **Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in health**

### **Drafting group on European solidarity in public health emergencies**

#### **(Virtual meeting)**

**9 June 2021**

#### Minutes

##### **1. Approval of the agenda and the minutes**

The agenda was approved without changes as well as the minutes of the previous meeting.

##### **2. Nature of the meeting**

The sixth drafting group meeting on European solidarity in public health emergencies took place on 9 June 2021 via MS Teams. The meeting, which was chaired by Dr Dionne Kringos, chair of the drafting group, was a non-public meeting.

No declarations of interest that could in any way interfere with the topic discussed were submitted from any member.

##### **3. Points discussed**

###### **Feedback/comments on the draft opinion**

The latest draft of the opinion was presented by the rapporteurs. The members discussed the updated structure and focused on gaps under individual chapters. They reiterated the importance of practical aspects of European solidarity, the need to operationalise it.

Members discussed the mechanisms to foster solidarity and the challenges.

COM (DG ECHO) clarified the availability of different intervention options under Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) during a health emergency. COM described the role of the European Medical Corps, the rationale behind the European Civil Protection Pool as well as the additional asset created by the rescEU stockpile of medical countermeasures. COM also explained how the funding works and the role of the Emergency Support Instrument which is

based on the principle of solidarity and pools efforts and resources to quickly address shared strategic needs.

Members agreed to elaborate a part on surge capacity as a case study to illustrate lack/barriers of existing mechanisms.

The members debated the proposed recommendations. They agreed they should be concise, focused and clearly indicate to whom they are directed. They raised among others the following ideas:

- the shift from defensive approach to solidarity approach solidarity as one of the key principles in preparedness and response to emergency;
- a vital role of public institutions and organisations in leveraging social norms to power altruism;
- harmonization and increased responsiveness are needed at the EU-level to improve health systems' ability to prepare for, and cope with, "surges".
- Coordinated response should target the expansion of space, staff, and supplies;
- EU should have broader competences in health;
- data from primary care to be integrated with public health;
- expand cross-border networking and activities in the fields of testing and emergency care provision;
- tackling forces undermining solidarity.

Members elaborated on transformations needed at EU, national and regional level in order to operationalise European solidarity.

#### **4. Conclusion**

Members agreed to provide individual contributions to the different chapters and recommendations in order to have an updated draft before the plenary meeting of 23 June.

The Chair thanked all for their active participation to move forward with the opinion.

#### **5. Next meeting**

The draft opinion will be discussed in the plenary meeting scheduled for 23 June via MS Teams.

#### **6. List of participants**

##### **EXPH Members**

DE MAESENEER Jan  
GRUSON Damien  
KRINGOS Dionne  
LEHTONEN Lasse  
LIONIS Christos  
MCKEE Martin  
MURASKIENE Liubove  
NUTI Sabina (apologies)

**Researcher  
COM**

ROGERS Heather-Lynn  
SICILIANI Luigi  
WIECZOROWSKA-TOBIS Katarzyna  
ZALETEL Jelka  
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ZANATTA Sofia (DG ECHO)  
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DAJKA Bela (DG SANTE)  
VOLOSINOVA Viera (DG SANTE)