

Flash Report

Hybrid Meeting

Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases

5 October 2022

The Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases (SGPP) held a hybrid meeting, chaired by DG SANTE. The representatives of 24 Member States attended the meeting either in person or virtually, together with a number of the Commission's services, and agencies¹.

Revision of the Mandate of the SGPP

DG SANTE recalled that besides non-communicable diseases, other important and persistent public health concerns exist in the EU, such as those related to major communicable diseases, including HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and hepatitis, as well as challenges including vaccination strategies and antimicrobial resistance. Due to these challenges, it is now necessary and rational to set up a new expert group to address promotion and prevention in a broader context including those additional areas of public health. The new expert group will replace the SGPP. The main elements of the new expert group on public health were then presented.

Update on the Healthier Together – EU NCDs Initiative

The Healthier Together Initiative², covering 2022-2027, is implemented with support from the EU4Health Programme; under the 2022 Work Programme, two Joint Actions along with two related calls for proposals will be funded. Actions on chronic respiratory diseases, mental health and neurological disorders will open for funding over the next financial years. Discussion on the future direction of the Healthier Together Initiative took place.

Best practices

The Commission explained the review of the best practice process with the aim to both simplify and shorten the assessment process and to incorporate promising practices. In addition, the revised criteria resulting from Member State consultation were presented. Promising practices are those that have not yet been implemented on a larger scale and/or have not yet been fully evaluated in the selection of new practices and approaches. Following discussions, the SGPP agreed with the proposed revision of the criteria for best practices and the proposed criteria for promising practices.

The results of the study³ aimed at producing a toolkit for identifying systematically policy-relevant research results (i.e. relevant for addressing major public health challenges) were presented. The study shows that there is clear potential in expanding the EU Best Practice Portal, for example, in establishing synergies with existing initiatives, such as CORDIS. The SGPP was informed that a call for practices to overcome physical obstacles to vaccination will be launched via the EU Best Practice Portal. Member States are encouraged

¹ Directorates-General represented included Communications Networks, Content and Technology (CNECT), Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion (EMPL), Research and Innovation (RTD) Health and Food Safety (SANTE), and the Joint Research Centre (JRC) as well as representatives from the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA).

² [Healthier together – EU non-communicable diseases initiative \(europa.eu\)](https://europa.eu/healthier-together/)

³ EUHealthSupport (2022) Implementation of research results. Study on how to improve the use of research results for health policymaking. Available at <https://surfdrive.surf.nl/files/index.php/s/B3hsKWpYMc6KV3X>

to suggest national, regional or local inputs; the call is expected in the first quarter of 2023 and will use the criteria as agreed by the SGPP.

Joint Research Centre

The SGPP was informed about the discontinuation of JRC's support to the Surveillance of Cerebral Palsy in Europe (SCPE) Central Registry activities. The JRC will support the Surveillance of Cerebral Palsy in Europe (SCPE) Central Registry in this transition and will prepare the complete SCPE Central Database for transfer.

The JRC then updated the SGPP about a feasibility study to collect indicators on NCDs harmonised at EU level and identify necessary data sources for this purpose. The JRC intends to undertake pilot indicator collections in collaboration with several Member States. Diabetes will be the first disease domain for this work, given its disease burden and the ongoing activities of the European network of diabetes registries (EUBIROD)⁴; the JRC has recently set up a working group consisting of members from EUBIROD to help identify the relevant indicators for diabetes which will then be presented for wider consultation. .

The JRC also presented an overview on its other activities in the NCD domain, especially in relation to food-labelling; knowledge management of European cancer data and inequalities in the EU; cancer-screening guidelines and quality assurance of cancer-screening programmes; and rare-disease registries.

Cross-border healthcare directive: evaluation and action plan

The SGPP was informed about the conclusions of the evaluation of Directive 2011/24/EU and the follow-up action plan adopted in May 2022. The SGPP discussed the complex interplay between the Directive and the Social Security Coordination (SSC) Regulations.

Closure

The Chair closed the meeting thanking the participants and informed them of a next meeting, in the new format of the Commission Expert Group on Public Health, which should tentatively take place before the end of the year.

⁴ [The EUBIROD Network](#)