



2017 Maltese  
Presidency of the  
Council of the  
European Union

# Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union

Ministry for Health



- Non Communicable Diseases - Childhood Obesity: Halting the Rise
- Voluntary structured co-operation between Health Systems
- Communicable Disease - HIV prevention and control across the EU
- Data for Health - The key to personalised sustainable care

- Rationale for selection of this thematic priority
  - Health system cooperation is included in the Directive on patients' rights and cross-border care (ERNs, rare diseases, HTA, E health)
  - Calls for enhanced health system efficiency and sustainability may be partly addressed by increasing health system cooperation
  - Developments in medicine and health care necessitate generation of evidence on new models of health system organisation and delivery
  - Timely to reflection on the objectives and methods of EU engagement Member States desire for their health systems post 2020

- The Presidency perspective
  - Cooperation with other health systems may lead to enhanced efficiency thereby contributing towards the health system sustainability objective
  - Malta's long-standing practical experience with structured patient mobility (e.g. in the case of rare diseases) is useful to the emerging ERN concept in Europe
  - Council Conclusions will be elaborated on the thematic priority of Structured Cooperation between Health Systems

- Questions being addressed in two policy briefs:
  - How can structured cooperation between countries address health workforce challenges related to highly specialized health care ?
    - Linked to the development of the ERNs
  - How can voluntary cross-border collaboration in public procurement improve access to health technologies?
    - Link to access to innovative /complex medicines and technologies such as those used in Rare Diseases

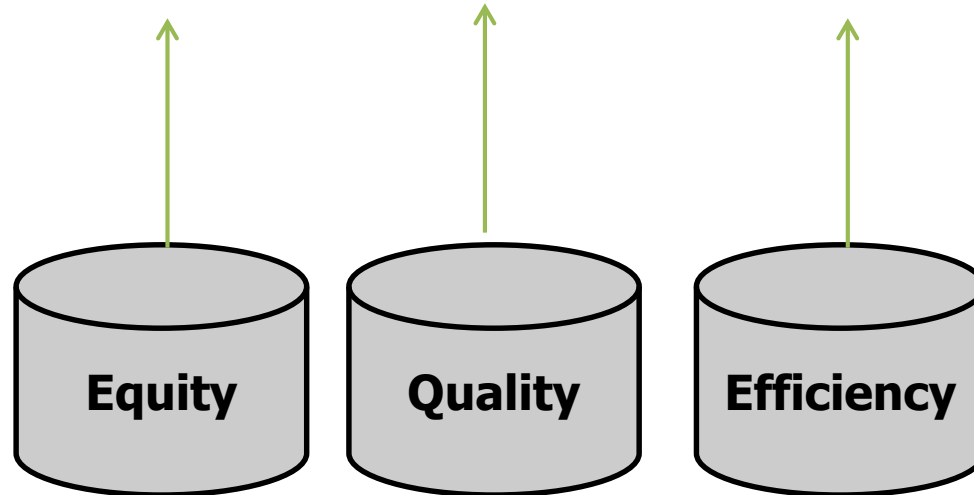
- A Technical Workshop will be held on the 1-2 March in Malta
  - Four parallel sessions:
    - Collaborative procurement strategies to improve access to innovative technologies and medicines
    - Structured cooperation for training and service delivery in highly specialised health services
    - Rare diseases: How do we ensure small populations can access affordable innovation?
    - ERNs as a mechanism promoting structured cooperation between health professionals

- The development of ERNs and eHealth present the possibility for a novel paradigm – namely professional mobility
- Services are brought closer to the patients

# Why are we proposing structured mobility of health professionals?

**Aim?**

## Health Systems





## How could this work in practice?

- Professionals (e.g. medical specialist trainees) can obtain exposure to innovative and specialised techniques by spending short attachments (3-12months) in expert centres and then returning to their own hospital
- Experts from centres of reference can visit hospitals in other countries to provide training and also services

## Who benefits?

- Patients by having innovative services (as well as preparation or follow up) being made accessible closer to their place of residence
- Professionals by having the opportunity to acquire cutting edge expertise in their initial training and as part of their continued professional development
- Health systems by retaining professionals and enhancing system efficiency as well as introducing innovation in a safe and programmed manner



Thank you for your kind  
attention!