



Meeting of the Public Health Expert Group

DG SANTE
European Commission

*Health and
Food Safety*

Agenda

1. Welcome and introduction
2. Commission Communication on Mental Health
3. Presentation of Prevention package
4. Update on other policies and sub-groups
5. Rolling agenda
6. AOB
7. Next steps and conclusions
8. End of the meeting

Background

- COVID 19 pandemic, Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, climate crisis and rising living costs have increased the risk of development of various mental health conditions.
- Health at a Glance (2022) one in two young Europeans report unmet needs for mental health care.
- 2022 State of Union speech - President von der Leyen announced "a new initiative on mental health".



“We should take better care of each other. And for many who feel anxious and lost, appropriate, accessible and affordable support can make all the difference”.

Mental health in figures

1 in 6 people

Number of people in the EU suffering from mental health issues prior to the COVID-19 pandemic

EUR 1.23 billion

funding from different financial instruments

1 in 4 workers

Experience work-related stress in the EU

EUR 600 billion

The cost of doing nothing to tackle the EU's mental health crisis

Key issues that are addressed

Mental health
across policies

Promotion,
prevention and
early intervention

Children and
young people

Helping those
most in need

Risks at work

Reforming mental
health systems
and improving
access

Breaking through
stigma

Fostering mental
health globally

3 guiding principles



ACCESS TO
ADEQUATE AND
EFFECTIVE
PREVENTION



HIGH QUALITY AND
AFFORDABLE
TREATMENT AND
CARE



REINTEGRATION
INTO SOCIETY
AFTER RECOVERY

20 flagships - 1

1. European Mental Health Capacity Building Initiative

2. European Depression and Suicide Prevention Initiative

3. Healthier Together Initiative – strengthening the Mental Health

4. Access Gate for People experiencing Mental Health issues

5. European Code for Mental Health

6. Joint Ecosystem for Brain Research

7. Child and Youth Mental Health Network

8. Children Health 360 – prevention toolkit

9. Youth First Flagship

10. Health Screens, Healthy Youth

20 flagships - 2

11. Protecting Victims of Crime

12. Platform for Young Cancer Survivors

13. EU- level initiative on Psychosocial Risks

14. EU Workplace Campaigns

15. Initiative for training and exchange of Professionals

16. Technical Support for Mental Health Reforms

17. Gathering Data on Mental Health

18. Tackling Stigma and Discrimination

19. Mental Health Support for Ukraine's Displaced and Affected People

20. Supporting the Minimum Service Package on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

Implementation

The Commission continues to work closely with Member States and stakeholders to implement the flagships and other actions of the Communication on mental health.

- mental health sub-group of the Public Health Expert Group
- network on mental health at the EU Health Policy Platform.

Thank you

https://health.ec.europa.eu/publications/comprehensive-approach-mental-health_en



Prevention package: Smoke free environment and Vaccine preventable cancers

DG SANTE
European Commission



Commission Proposal for a revision of the Council Recommendation on smoke-free environments

Meeting of the Commission Public Health Expert Group (PHEG)

29 June 2023

DG SANTE, Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

Health



Objectives

- Better protect people in the European Union, particularly children and young people, from exposure to second-hand smoke originating from traditional combustible tobacco products and second-hand aerosols originating from the use of emerging products
- Positively contribute towards the tobacco-related objectives of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, namely to achieve a 'Tobacco-free Generation' in which only 5% of the population uses tobacco by 2040

Key areas

- To protect from second-hand smoke and aerosols in indoor public and work places and public transport
- To protect from second-hand aerosols originating from aerosols, for example from Heated Tobacco Products and electronic cigarettes
- To protect from second-hand smoke and aerosols in specific outdoor spaces such as schools, playgrounds and outdoor terraces of bars and restaurants
- To encourage the exchange of best practices among Member States

Next steps

- Discussion and validation of the proposal within DG SANTE and the Commission
- Translation
- Adoption procedure in the Commission
- Adoption procedure in the Council



European
Commission

Thank you!

Health





Commission proposal for a Council Recommendation on vaccine-preventable cancers

Meeting of the Commission Public Health Expert Group (PHEG)

29 June 2023

European Commission, DG SANTE, Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

Objectives

- Help EU Member States address cancer risks linked to infections with Human papillomaviruses (HPV) and Hepatitis B virus (HBV)
- Focus on increasing vaccination uptake and better monitoring of coverage, to inform public health action
- HPV: Call for actions to increase the uptake of vaccination among girls and boys + better monitoring of vaccination uptake, in particular for boys
- HBV: call for actions to increase access to vaccination for all affected population groups + better monitoring of vaccination uptake, in particular where data gaps

Key areas

- Easy access to vaccination, with a focus on vulnerable groups
- Addressing vaccine hesitancy, including by fighting mis- and disinformation
- Improving monitoring of vaccination coverage rates to better inform interventions, including by means of consistent implementation of the GDPR in relation to the collection of vaccination data
- Integration of vaccination in cancer prevention programmes, at operational level but also with a view to providing integrated health communication on cancer prevention
- Coordination of vaccination and cancer registries, including to increase the cost-efficiency of screening programmes.
- Sharing best practices

Next steps

- Discussion and validation of the proposal within DG SANTE and the Commission
- Translation
- Adoption procedure in the Commission
- Adoption procedure in the Council



European
Commission

Thank you!



Other policies and sub-groups

DG SANTE
European Commission

Health and
Food Safety



Sub-group on cancer

Meeting of the Commission Public Health Expert Group (PHEG)

29 June 2023

DG SANTE
European Commission

*Health and
Food Safety*

Update cancer sub-group

Recent developments:

- ✓ **New Council Recommendation on cancer screening (Dec 2022)**
- ✓ **European Cancer Imaging Initiative (Dec 2022)**
- ✓ **Country Cancer Profiles (Feb 2023)**
- ✓ **Website showcasing 28 EU4Health funded cancer projects (May 2023)**

Update cancer sub-group

Ongoing / upcoming:

Joint Actions EU4Health WP 2023

✓ 2nd wave (nominations 17 April)

- Cancer screening
- SAMIRA

✓ 3rd wave (nominations 15 September), follow-up to:

- Network of Comprehensive Cancer Centres (CRANE)
- New Networks of Expertise (JANE)

Work on code of conduct concerning access of cancer survivors to financial services



Sub-group on NCDs

Meeting of the Commission Public Health Expert Group (PHEG)

29 June 2023

DG SANTE
European Commission

*Health and
Food Safety*

Sub-group on NCDs

- Subgroup was set up to develop policies and actions under Healthier Together
- In June 2022 Healthier Together was presented
- Implementation of actions under the EU4Health WP 2022/2023
- Next, the subgroup will reinforce priority areas
- Next meeting Subgroup on NCDs on 18 October



Calls for Joint Actions and proposals

- Joint Actions to be launched on:
 - Chronic respiratory diseases
 - Dementia and other neurological disorders
- Deadline to nominate competent authorities is 15 September 2023
- 30 June – Info session by HaDEA on calls for proposals EU4Health WP 2023



Subgroup on mental health

Meeting of the Commission Public Health Expert Group (PHEG)

29 June 2023

DG SANTE
European Commission

Health and
Food Safety

Sub-group on Mental Health

- Second meeting of the sub-group on 28 March.
- To inform Member States on the state of play of the new EU approach on mental health
- Under the 2023 EU4Health Work Programme :
 - **EUR 6 million : a joint action on mental health challenges**
 - **EUR 2.36 million : support to stakeholders**
 - both actions will target particularly vulnerable groups
 - **EUR 10 million :**
 - projects that aim to address mental health challenges in cancer patients
 - the development of a European Code for Mental Health
 - Tomorrow : **info session** on the EU4Health 2023 Work Programme
 - A call for tenders launched: **training and exchange programme**, 9 EUR million, deadline 04/09
- Next meeting: 27 September



Sub-group on vaccination

Meeting of the Commission Public Health Expert Group (PHEG)

29 June 2023

The PHEG subgroup on vaccination – tasks

- 1. Advise on support to Member States in terms of e.g.:**
 - Addressing vaccine hesitancy, including working with health professionals
 - Addressing structural barriers to vaccination
 - Communication/awareness-raising campaigns, including addressing mis- and disinformation
 - Monitoring vaccination coverage rates to inform interventions
 - Addressing possible vaccine shortages/stockouts
- 2. Advise on the identification, validation and transfer of best and/or promising practices**
- 3. Inform on national and regional actions aiming to increase vaccination uptake and provide recommendations to the Commission on how to support such efforts**



The PHEG subgroup on vaccination – activities so far

- **First meeting on 30 March 2023:**
 - Consultation on the Commission proposal for a Council Recommendation on vaccine-preventable cancers
- **European Immunization Week 2023:**
 - Participation in Health Security Committee meeting on polio and measles (28 April 2023)
- **Next meeting planned for 4 October 2023**
- **Activities of the subgroup dependent of the overall priority-setting of the PHEG**

Thank you



Network of Expertise on Long COVID (NELC)

Meeting of Public Health Expert Group

29 June 2023

DG SANTE
European Commission

Health and
Food Safety

NELC:

- 14 Member States,
28 experts
- Nominations are open
- EUSurvey: 9 responses
from 8 countries

| INITIATIVES | NUMBER OF MS IN WHICH THE INITIATIVES HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED | NUMBER OF MS IN WHICH THE INITIATIVES ARE PLANNED TO BE IMPLEMENTED |
|--|---|---|
| Multidisciplinary care pathways of Long COVID patients | 7 out of 14 | 1 out of 14 |
| Rehabilitation programmes | 7 out of 14 | 1 out of 14 |
| National guidelines for diagnosis and treatment of Long COVID | 6 out of 14 | 2 out of 14 |
| Establishment of specialised clinics | 6 out of 14 | 1 out of 14 |
| National funding for Long COVID research | 4 out of 14 | 1 out of 14 |
| Education of Long COVID patients and medical providers (e.g. on diagnosis and treatment of Long COVID) | 3 out of 14 | 3 out of 14 |
| Awareness raising campaigns | 2 out of 14 | 3 out of 14 |
| Surveillance systems to monitor Long COVID patients | 1 out of 14 | 4 out of 14 |
| Actions contributing to the prevention of Long COVID | 1 out of 14 | 3 out of 14 |
| Interagency coordination to educate the public, including employers and schools, on the impact of Long COVID | 2 out of 14 | 2 out of 14 |
| Screening and early detection of Long COVID | - | 3 out of 14 |

Main needs

| TOPICS | SHOULD THIS TOPIC BE A PRIORITY? | WHICH THREE TOPICS HAVE THE HIGHEST PRIORITY? |
|--|----------------------------------|---|
| Identification of research needs and gaps relating to Long COVID | 8 out of 14 | 7 out of 14 |
| Sharing guidelines and intelligence on diagnosis and treatment | 8 out of 14 | 3 out of 14 |
| Surveillance systems to monitor Long COVID patients | 5 out of 14 | 3 out of 14 |
| Rehabilitation programmes | 5 out of 14 | 3 out of 14 |
| Social and economic consequences of Long COVID | 6 out of 14 | 2 out of 14 |
| Unification of the definition of Long COVID | 5 out of 14 | 2 out of 14 |
| Risk factors | 5 out of 14 | 1 out of 14 |

Other reported needs:

- Mapping the state of the art of Long COVID approaches
- Assessing activities and organization of Long COVID specialized Centers
- Establishment of indicators to monitor quality of care provided in relation to Long COVID

Proposed deliverables

| PRODUCTS | SHOULD THE PRODUCT BE A DELIVERABLE OF THE NETWORK? |
|--|---|
| Guidelines, clinical recommendations, good clinical practice | 7 out of 14 |
| Enhanced support to patients, including education programs | 6 out of 14 |
| Experts opinions | 5 out of 14 |
| Knowledge Centre on Long COVID | 5 out of 14 |
| Exchange of expertise | 4 out of 14 |
| Enhanced support to health care workings, including education programs | 4 out of 14 |
| Collection of patient experiences | 1 out of 14 |



Expert Group on Health Systems Performance Assessment

State of Health, European Semester, Health Technology Assessment

DG SANTE

Expert Group on Public Health

29 June 2023

Background of the HSPA Expert Group

- The Expert Group on Health Systems Performance Assessment (HSPA) was established in 2014
- Member States Expert Group with Norway, OECD, WHO Europe and European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies as observers
- Produced HSPA reports on several topics:
 - quality of care (2016); integrated care (2017); primary care (2018); efficiency of health systems (2019); resilience of health systems (2020); access to health care (2021); **health promotion and disease prevention (2023)**
- Facilitated and supported development of several national HSPA frameworks triggering greater interest in HSPA at country level

Key points from the report

- Indicators in cancer screening and vaccination coverage were the most commonly used to measure prevention activities
- Some countries also look at lifestyle and risk factors as well as indicators which go beyond the health system such as education or other socio-economic determinants
- 3 case studies based on main country interests: Health literacy and mental health as indicator-based case studies as well as a country case study on Austria's Health Promotion Strategy
- Also looks at additional best practices such as social prescribing

Extended mandate of the HSPA Expert Group

- Originally, the Group was foreseen as forum to exchange experiences and best practices of HSPA, support policy-makers and defining priority areas for HSPA
- Since July 2022, the Expert Group also serves as forum to discuss and promote strategic innovative approaches to strengthening health systems (going beyond HSPA)
- New workplan foresees 5 priority topics: workforce, environmental impacts of healthcare, HSPA governance, health inequalities and **mental health**
- Important to avoid duplication of work and use synergies

Thank you



© European Union 2022

Unless otherwise noted the reuse of this presentation is authorised under the [CC BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) license. For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders.





Rolling agenda

DG SANTE
European Commission

*Health and
Food Safety*



AOB

DG SANTE
European Commission

*Health and
Food Safety*



Next steps and conclusions

DG SANTE
European Commission

*Health and
Food Safety*



**Thank you
for your participation**