



Subject: Summary Record of the 3rd Meeting of the Health Information Committee, 30 March 2010, Luxembourg

1. WELCOME AND ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA

The draft agenda was adopted.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The draft minutes were approved.

3. UPDATES ON ONGOING HEALTH INFORMATION WORK

Update from SANCO C2 Health Information Unit

Information was provided on the basis of the written information circulated before the meeting. In discussion, the following points were raised:

- on the EHES, there was agreement on the importance of involving as many Member States in the pilot phase. Bio-monitoring was an important potential area, but would depend on the scope of different modules included by different Member States. There was also scope to include cooperation with other agencies, including the OECD and IARC, which should be taken into account;
- on the ECHIM joint action, those countries who had still not nominated representatives were invited to do so. Other topics included the importance of further development of indicators (eg: obesity) with regard to socio-economic inequalities;
- on the Commission membership of the Observatory, it was confirmed that the primary role of the Observatory is to support evidence-based health policy-making through analysis of the dynamics of health care systems in Europe, not primary data collection (as for example done through the System of Health Accounts).

Update from ESTAT

ESTAT provided information regarding upcoming meetings, including a Causes of Death meeting on the 4-5 May 2010; a Disability Statistics meeting on 11-12 March 2010.

Update from EAHC

The objective of the Agency is to sign agreements by the end of this year. Some key projects of relevance to the health information area are on mapping home care and secondary care, diabetes and amenable mortality.

4. WORK PLAN 2011

Information was provided on the basis of the written information circulated before the meeting. In discussion, the following points were raised:

- on the HBSC, the concern was expressed that some Member States might need financial support from the EU. Some members felt that it would be preferable to target younger age groups as it is difficult to reach older teenagers;
- it was confirmed that no sub-delegation to ESTAT is planned during 2011;
- on cooperation with IARC, Some members expressed an interest in receiving more recent field cancer data from the IARC. The IARC responded that timely data is country-dependent and that it can take up to two years to close data for a particular calendar year;
- on the European health wiki, it was agreed that it would be important to clearly identify the target group and role of such a tool, its added value in comparison to other tools, and how it would take into account previous work such as EUPHIX. It would be important to ensure the quality and validation of information, but in a manageable way given available resources.

5. HEALTH INFORMATION STRATEGY AND STRUCTURES

Information was provided on the basis of written updates circulated before the meeting. In discussion, the following points were made:

- on any 'health scoreboard', it would be important to avoid ranking countries, and instead to provide an informative, educational, and action-focused document, with analysis, that sets the stage for development of public health policy. Any such document should keep an equal balance between graphs and text, avoiding text being preponderant;
- on the renaming of the committee following the Lisbon Treaty, some members of the committee did not favour a name change from "Health Information Committee" to "High Level Group". The alternative option of 'expert group on health information' was therefore agreed;

- regarding the committee website, it was agreed that many members preferred the possibility of being able to review documents through private circulation by email, with documents only being posted publicly after agreed, and the public website would work on that basis.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Regarding the date of the next meeting, if funding could be secured an enlarged committee meeting (with participants from the neighbouring countries of the Union) would be held on 8 June; if funding was not available, this meeting would not take place. The next regular meeting of the committee was planned for 19 October 2010.

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