



NOTE OF THE MEETING

STEERING GROUP ON HEALTH PROMOTION, DISEASE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

17 MARCH 2017, BRUSSELS

This was the second meeting of the Steering Group on Promotion and Prevention. The agenda was structured around the three tasks of the Steering Group: 1.) identifying best practices and their prioritisation for implementation; 2.) coordination of activities of the sectorial groups and; 3.) improving multisectorial collaboration.

Welcome and introduction

Director-General of DG Health and Food Safety, Mr Prats Monné welcomed the participants to the meeting. Following his speech, the meeting was chaired by Mr Martin Seychell, Deputy Director-General of DG Health and Food Safety.

The participants were nominated representatives of the Member States and Norway. In addition, colleagues from DG EMPL and SRSS attended the meeting.

Mandate and the work plan

The Steering Group discussed the revised draft mandate and the work plan. The mandate was further amended during the meeting to reflect a number of comments made by the representatives, after which it was agreed by the Steering Group. It was decided that the full name of the group will be the Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases and the short name will be the Steering Group on Promotion and Prevention. *The mandate is available at the SANTE website.*

Criteria for selecting best practices

The Steering Group also agreed the revised draft criteria for selecting best practices without any amendments. It was agreed that the Secretariat will keep the Steering Group informed on the process for the methodology to be developed and that the criteria maybe modified following any new developments.

Mapping and selection of best practices

At the first meeting on 30 November 2016 the Member States requested to have a mapping exercise for an overview of the main outputs and results from relevant projects, joint actions and by the expert groups where best practices have emerged.

On this basis the Secretariat had prepared a mapping table. Mr Stefan Schreck, Head of Unit – Health Programme and Chronic Diseases, and Mr Wojciech Kalamarz, Head of Unit – Health determinants and inequality, explained the rationale for the selection of best practices. They also described the mapping table with a number of potential areas and examples of best practices which could be taken forward by the member States. It was stressed that the initial idea would be to include some elements of implementing best practices already in the annual work plan for 2018 of the Health Programme.

The Steering Group had a first look at these selected best practices, and agreed to identify first priorities for implementation to support national policy making. It was also emphasised by the Steering Group that it is essential to identify best practices systematically in order for the Member States to select them and to ensure transferability of best practices for an effective implementation. In addition, the Steering Group asked that economic impacts of implementation would be looked at, for example with the support from the OECD.

The Chairman concluded this agenda point by stating that the Commission is ready to support national policy making and priorities by setting up an EU resource center with best practices. The Commission will also support the implementation of best practices by the Health Programme and other financial programmes. In the future, a call for best practices can also be considered once the methodology for the criteria to select best practices has been tested and is in use.

Sectorial groups on public health: Priorities for work 2017-2018

Following a presentation by Mr John F. Ryan, Director for Public Health, Country Knowledge and Crisis Management the Steering Group also had a reflection on how to create synergies between sectorial expert groups in the area of public health as well as with non-health sectors, in particular in relation to identifying and implementing best practices. It was agreed that it is important to coordinate the work of the sectorial groups both at the EU level and nationally. For this purpose the Secretariat will provide lists of members of each sector specific group to the members of the Steering Group on Promotion and Prevention.

It was also mentioned that recommendations by the sectorial groups can support national implementation of specific policies, but sometimes the outputs of the groups are hard to apply in national settings.

Finally, it was concluded that the overall strategy for all sector specific groups should be that their outputs ought to be aligned with national priorities and to be applicable for implementation in practice.

Multisectorial collaboration

Mr Costa David, policy officer from DG EMPL made a presentation on the Commission Communication on Occupational Safety and Health – impacts on chronic/non-communicable diseases. *The presentation is available at the SANTE website.*

Conclusions and next steps

The Chair concluded by thanking the members of Steering Group on Promotion and Prevention for their active participation and asked everyone to provide input for the priorities on the selection of best practices by 20 April 2017. The next meeting of the Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases is planned for October 2017.