

Revised update on the Roadmaps for EC/WHO EURO collaboration

Title: Implementation Roadmap for EC/WHO EURO collaboration on In-country Collaboration following the Moscow Declaration

Key elements of the Roadmap:

- *to increase cooperation at in-country level between the two organizations with the aim to realize further health improvements in the countries*
- *to start by identifying:*
 1. *areas that are relevant for the exchange of information*
 2. *ways to exchange information on the specified areas*
 3. *possible combined country assessments focusing on a) common features and challenges of grouped countries; b) specific issues per country where cooperation between the two organizations would be beneficial*
 4. *possible missions on common areas of interest*
 5. *meetings (training, workshop) between the two organizations on common areas of interest, or either involving EC/WHO EURO and the national authorities of the beneficiary country on key priority areas in view of more commitment to achieve results*

Update on the progress made with the implementation of the Roadmap so far (context, main issues, most recent activities, upcoming activities, WHO/EC joint activities, opportunities for WHO/EC collaboration, other partners engaged or to be engaged etc)

- *DG DEVCO has undergone restructuring and re-allocation of human resources in June 2011. The mandate of the new organization comprises policy formulation, quality support for country implementation and execution of thematic budgets.*
- *WHO EURO Regional Director S. Jakab met Commissioner Andris Piebalgs in August 2011. The meeting recognized the positive evolution of the partnership on health and development. It underlined the need for a more strategic approach of the cooperation between WHO and Commission for better in-country support for health systems strengthening and progress towards equitable access to essential health services, thereby improving health outcomes. An EU/WHO cooperation on country support for improved health sector plans and health financing strategies is being prepared under the Investing in People 2012 programme.*
- *DG DEVCO undertook a survey on EU/WHO collaboration in ENL, ENP and Central Asian countries. Analysis of responses from EU Delegations indicates good collaboration, regular communication and exchange between the two organisations. Respondents confirmed the crucial role of WHO in providing support to national health authorities, especially in the area of policy development.*
- *Till now, Technical Assistance related to Health Sector Budget Support has taken place only in Moldova. Delegations indicated their interest in working with WHO.*

- *DG SANCO met with WHO EURO in December 2011 and agreed first steps forward to implement the In-country Roadmap for EU enlargement countries as well as for the Eastern part of the European Neighborhood Countries. These include: Acceding country: Croatia; Candidate countries: Iceland, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Serbia; Potential candidate countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo under UNSCR 1244. ENP East countries: Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. It was agreed to:*
 1. *have small meetings on a quarterly basis to exchange information on the specified areas and determine the next steps forward; two meetings would be held in person and two over VC.*
 2. *explore the feasibility of sharing country assessments on Enlargement Region and ENP East Region. As a first step, discussions could take place immediately to prioritise for which countries such information could be shared*
 3. *explore the feasibility of performing country needs assessments together in some countries of the Enlargement Region and ENP East Region. The logistics and timing of country assessments need to be further discussed.*
- *As follow-up to the December meeting, DG SANCO shared a survey of the EU public health activities in enlargement countries and ENP East countries, and provided a list of EU Delegations contacts.*
- *WHO EURO responded by:*
 1. *Sending list of all Heads of Country Offices in the WHO European Region and their contact details*
 2. *Reporting back on the priorities in the ENL countries and in ENP East*
 3. *Sending a list of all the priorities listed in the Biennial Collaborative Agreements for 2012-2013*
 4. *Agreeing to contribute to the annual ENL reporting by Commission starting May 2012 and also to the annual ENP East reporting by Commission starting in December 2012.*
 5. *Offering to host the Autumn meeting for counterparts of the roadmap to come together and discuss relevant matters of mutual interest*

Major challenges (context, main issues)

- The follow up of the agreed objectives and actions of the ambitious 2011 roadmap was a challenge, partly due to the restructuring process in DG DEVCO and shift of responsibilities. DG SANCO D1 will continue its bilateral contacts with WHO EURO to further contribute to the implementation of the EC/WHO EURO in-country collaboration roadmap.
- WHO EURO to continue cooperation with DG SANCO D1 and achieve tangible results in the implementation of the roadmap with the aim to realize further health improvements in Enlargement and ENP East countries.

Future steps (expected results, suggestions on how to move forward, possible changes of direction required, specific objectives, subthemes to be covered etc)

- *DG SANCO D1 to review the input provided by WHO EURO on 28 February, and call for the next quarterly meeting in first half of May 2012. WHO/EURO will organize the follow up meeting in first half of November 2012.*
- *In first instance, it would be beneficial to decide on a common regional approach prioritizing the Enlargement and ENP East Regions before focusing on country specific health issues.*
- *We will discuss on which ENL and ENP East countries we can share country assessments, and explore the possibility of collaborating on country assessments for some of these countries. The report of such assessments would be useful for both organizations.*
- *As a first step towards this, the Commission identified assessment missions in the field of communicable diseases as one of the possible areas for future cooperation with WHO EURO.*
- *DG SANCO believes it is premature at present to start discussions on meetings, trainings, workshops between the two organizations on common areas of interest, or either involving EC/WHO and the national authorities of the beneficiary country. The first steps to do so would be to determine common areas of interest and identify countries where resources from both organizations allow for increased cooperation.*
 - *WHO EURO proposes that as a first step and as soon as feasible, a workshop could be organized for these countries to introduce the different mechanisms of working in-country by the two organizations*
- *DG SANCO and WHO EURO both agree it would be helpful to have a complete picture of donors' projects and donor coordination mechanisms in the field of public health that are relevant for both organizations and could have an added value. WHO EURO is developing a database on health projects and donors in the countries and will examine/propose how EC can collaborate in this*
- *More discussion is required on how best to improve in-country cooperation in WHO EURO countries not covered by the European Neighborhood Policy.*