



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
Health systems, medical products and innovation
Performance of national health systems

Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in health

Drafting group on European solidarity in public health emergencies

(Virtual meeting)

5 July 2021

Draft Minutes

1. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved without changes. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved in writing and published on the EXPH website.

2. Nature of the meeting

The seventh drafting group meeting on European solidarity in public health emergencies took place on 5 July 2021 via MS Teams. The meeting, which was chaired by Dr Dionne Kringos, chair of the drafting group, was a non-public meeting.

No declarations of interest that could in any way interfere with the topic discussed were submitted from any member.

3. Points discussed

Feedback/comments on the draft opinion

The latest draft of the opinion was presented by the rapporteurs. The members agreed on the updated structure, discussed various comments received as well as how best structure and acknowledge the work EU has done during the current Covid-19 pandemic within its competencies.

Some members stressed the need to address in the opinion not only the current Covid-19 pandemic but other emergencies: the opinion should be a guidance how to face future health emergencies.

Members further focused on recommendations. The importance of perception of solidarity, common communication towards citizens, and transparency were underlined during the discussion.

Some members suggested a two-step approach towards recommendations, first identifying the gaps, and then recommending how to address them.

Members agreed that the trust of citizens at the EU level is crucial and can give an opportunity to broaden EU competencies in health, and foster and further promote solidarity in health emergencies.

They stressed the importance of data availability, data sharing and their harmonisation to ensure interoperability.

Members agreed to elaborate on a separate recommendation on how to tackle the active undermining of solidarity.

The importance of investing in primary care was also emphasised as well as the exchange of good practices.

Members highlighted the need for a rapid reaction during the crisis, therefore an appropriate mix of centralised/decentralised decision making was needed.

Members agreed to use a proposed virtuous cycle with three parts: EU solidarity, EU trust, EU cooperation and propose recommendations suggesting how to strengthen each of these parts.

Members reiterated the need to shift away from the current defensive approach to solidarity.

4. Conclusion

Members agreed to provide individual contributions to the different chapters and work on recommendations in order to have an updated draft before the public hearing on 16 September.

The Chair thanked all for their active participation to move forward with the opinion.

5. Next meeting

The draft opinion should be finalised and presented to the stakeholders in the virtual public hearing on 16 September 2021.

6. List of participants

EXPH Members

DE MAESENEER Jan
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LEHTONEN Lasse
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