

Flash report

Meeting

Sub-group on Cancer and Sub-group on Non-Communicable Diseases of the Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases

19 May 2022

The Sub-group on Cancer and the Sub-group on Non-Communicable Diseases, both under the Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases held a virtual meeting on 19 May, chaired by DG SANTE. Representatives of research and health ministries from 23 Member States, plus Norway, attended the meeting together with a number of Commission services.

Participants were updated on the EU NCD Initiative, namely on the suggested priorities from Member States and the resultant work areas. Updates on the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and the Mission on Cancer were also provided, with a focus on identifying synergies on health determinants for cancer and other NCDs.

Participants were invited to reflect on the priority areas as well as on the suggested actions within the health determinants strand, as listed in the NCD Initiative document, in order to pave the way for the launch of a Joint Action supporting Cancer and other NCDs prevention through action on health determinants (EU4Health AWP 2022- EUR 75 million) Commission and Member States agreed on the importance of engaging early and actively in the preparation of the Joint Action in order to have the best possible application in the autumn, making sure that the financial and political opportunity will be used to its full extent.

An animated tour de table of Member States highlighted the benefits of the approach, including the references to 'Health in all Policies', and its potential to address challenges in health determinants, including environmental, psycho-social and commercial aspects. Due to the participation of both research and health ministries, many complementarities and synergies were identified. The Member States welcomed the NCD Initiative document, commending the co-creation process and recognising this great opportunity to work on cancer and NCDs health determinants. Member States would collaborate in the next practical steps in taking forward the actions on health determinants through the planned joint action.

Conclusions

Participants were informed of the key dates on the Joint Action on health determinants: DG SANTE sent the invitation letter to the Health Ministries on 15 March, informing them about all the Joint Actions under the EU4Health 2022 Work Programme and inviting them to appoint competent authorities by 1 September. An Info Day was organised by HaDEA on 10 May to present all JAs.

A webinar is scheduled by SANTE on 14 June to start preparing the proposal for the JA benefitting from the work of the last months on the EU NCD Initiative in view of the HADEA hand-on workshop of 13 September where work packages, coordinator and work package leaders would be discussed. MSs, representatives are invited to attend.

Concerning the NCD Initiative, the last webinar with stakeholders, focusing on the health determinants strand, will be held on 3 June. SGPP sub groups' representatives are invited to attend.

The EU NCD Initiative will be presented by the Commissioner for Health and Food Safety on 22 June at an on-line event hosted by Commissioner Kyriakides.

The Chair reminded participants that the next meeting of the SGPP Sub-group on Cancer will be on 29 June from 10.00-12.30.