

Flash Report

Meeting

Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases

15 December 2021

On 15 December 2021, the Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases held a virtual meeting, chaired by the Director for Public Health, DG SANTE. The representatives of 21 Member States plus Norway attended the meeting, together with Commission services and agencies, OECD, and the European Investment Bank.

Overview of the Non-Communicable Diseases initiative

DG SANTE presented the new 'Healthier Together' – EU Non-Communicable Diseases Initiative' aiming to help Member States reduce the burden of non-communicable diseases. It will cover the period 2022-2027 and include five strands: cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases and mental health and neurological disorders, and a horizontal strand on health determinants. In each of these strands, the initiative will promote the reduction of health inequalities.

Member States were invited to join the co-creation process, to prioritise topics, and to make full use of the existing EU financial and legal tools to support this work.

All Member States welcomed and strongly supported this Initiative. Among others, mentions were also made to the relevance of cross-sectorial work, to the importance of addressing jointly health determinants, to health literacy and health in all policies.

Establishment of a temporary Subgroup: Mandate and nominations

DG SANTE presented the mandate for a SGPP sub-group to support the governance of the Healthier together- EU Non-communicable Diseases Initiative.

This sub-group should advise the Commission, contributing to increase the impact of EU action to reduce the burden of the non-communicable diseases while reducing related health inequalities. The proposed sub-group will advise the Commission on implementing the Initiative, and help to identify potential actions such as transfer of validated best or promising practices, revision of existing protocols, preparation of NCD national action plans, pilot testing of approaches, preparation of training materials, twinning and sharing actions, etc.

It is foreseen for the sub-group to meet at least five times in 2022.

The establishment of the **sub-group was generally welcomed** by the Member States. SGPP members asked concerning the nomination of representatives, the reporting to the SGPP, and the coordination with the cancer sub-group. DG SANTE will re-circulate the text for written approval and nomination of members.

Conclusions and Next Steps

The meeting was concluded by thanking participants for their valuable and enriching input and reminding them of the next SGPP meeting planned for 9 February 2022.