



EU Health Policy Platform Annual Meeting: Stakeholders' Dialogue (5th May 2022)

The second day of the EU Health Policy Platform annual meeting took place on 5th May and showcased the Joint Statements prepared by the 2021 Thematic Networks. These Joint Statements are the culmination of a year of exchange and research, each of them in a particular area of public health.

More than 200 people from all over Europe and beyond followed this second day of the seventh annual meeting of the EU Health Policy Platform.

The meeting has been chaired by Irène Athanassoudis, Policy Officer, Health information and integration in all policies Unit, Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety, European Commission, and moderated by Wendy Winn.

The EU Health Policy Platform Annual Meeting provides the opportunity to present the achievements of the health stakeholder community and this year, the second day was dedicated to the three Thematic Networks on (1) Climate and health education in Europe, (2) An inclusive and equitable pharmaceutical strategy and (3) Integrated Nutrition in Cancer Care.

Presentation of 2021 Joint Statements

The presentation of the Joint Statements that have been prepared by stakeholder organisations is a central part of the Health Policy Platform annual meeting. (The EU Health Award Ceremony, held the day before on 4th May 2022, is another integral part).

The 2021 Thematic Networks and their corresponding Joint Statements are:

“Climate and health education in Europe”: presented by John Middleton, President of the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER).

- This Joint Statement urges public health leaders from European institutions and Member States, public health and healthcare schools, education decision makers, public health and healthcare professional organisations, and civil societies to bring climate change and health concerns to the forefront of the debates. It also stresses the need to train and prepare health professionals for dealing with the impact of climate change on health and health systems increases.

“Health as a fundamental value. Towards an inclusive and equitable pharmaceutical strategy for the EU” presented by Aurélie Mahalatchimy, CNRS Permanent researcher in law, and Éloïse Gennet, Postdoctoral researcher in law, UMR 7318 International, Comparative and European laws (DICE) CERIC, Aix Marseille University, Toulon University, Pau & Pays de l'Adour University, Aix-en-Provence, France.

- This Joint Statement includes five calls to actions in order to support the European Commission and Member States in promoting an inclusive and equitable European pharmaceutical

strategy, where health is reaffirmed as a fundamental value. Among those actions: targeting unmet medical needs by identifying vulnerability situations, optimising specific incentive models and promoting digital tools as means for inclusiveness and integrity.

“White Paper of the EU Thematic Network on Integrated Nutrition in Cancer Care (INC2)” presented by Nicole Erickson, European Federation of the Associations of Dietitians (EFAD), Erin Stella Sullivan, University College Cork, Joost Wesseling, Executive Director, the European Nutrition Health Alliance, and Marianna Kalliostra, Moderator, Integrated Nutrition Cancer Care.

- This Joint Statement proposes a list of actions that could be taken into account to improve the nutrition of the cancer care patients and could be coordinated at all levels. These recommendations on advocacy, evidence, quality assurance and European actions should act as an essential guide to ensure that the important role of nutrition in cancer care is not neglected.

The Joint Statements received feedback from representatives from the European Commission’s Directorate General for Health and Food Safety.

A question and answer session provided the opportunity to find out more about the Joint Statements, which are now up for endorsement.

“I am particularly grateful for this work, and I appreciate the effort that went into it both by the Thematic Network leaders and Commission colleagues. And of the opportunities they offer for stakeholder organisations to share their knowledge, concerns and expectations to the Commission in an inclusive and coordinated way”, said Irène Athanassoudis, as she brought the event to a close.

Endorsing a Joint Statement means showing support for the initiative and to the organisation that is leading it. Endorsements can be made by contacting the network leaders in the Thematic Network section of the [EU Health Policy Platform \(registration required\)](#) or by email. The Thematic Networks are accessible by all EU Health Policy Platform users.

“The Thematic Networks are meant as a cycle of 9 to 10 months, and as such, this 2021 cycle is ending at the end of May, when the networks will be transformed into stakeholder or exchange networks in the EU Health Policy Platform. So the work will continue there. Do join them! What next? I encourage everyone to read the Joint Statements, and to express support for their preferred Joint Statement – or all three of the! – by contacting the leaders, before the end of May at the latest”, said Athanassoudis.

In a roundtable discussion, the leaders of the Thematic Networks shared positive experiences of working with the Health Policy Platform and of how they were supported there. They reported being able to fully concentrate on their scientific work and briefly discussed the process of drafting and delivering their final Joint Statements in time for the EU Health Policy Platform annual meeting.

The Thematic Network leaders definitely encouraged other health stakeholder organisations to take an active part in the next cycle. The audience online participated in the discussions through Slido and proposed some topics for the upcoming cycle.

The recording of the event, the presentations and Joint Statements are available on:

- the EU Public Health website https://ec.europa.eu/health/events/eu-health-policy-platform-annual-meeting-2022-05-04_en

- the EU Health Policy Platform (Agora library) registration required:
<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/hpf/>

Register now in the EU Health Policy Platform, if you haven't yet done so, to receive and share the latest public health news and events and to be part of the next cycle of Thematic Networks.

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/hpf/>