



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Public health, country knowledge, crisis management
Health determinants and inequality

EU Health Policy Platform Meeting – 5 December 2016

The **EU Health Policy Platform meeting took place on the 5th December 2016** when the draft joint statements initiated in the previous meeting in April were presented. Stakeholders had also an opportunity to present proposals for the next joint statements in the Thematic Networks of the Web Platform. **Jurgen Scheftlein, Team Leader in the Health Determinants and Inequality Unit**, was chairing the meeting. More than 60 interest groups participated in the meeting.

The Deputy Head of the Strategy and Coordination Unit presented the European Solidarity Corps, a European Commission initiative launched on the 7th December. The leaders of four Thematic Networks presented Joint Statements and invited health interest groups to sign up to them. The joint statements focused on the following topics:

EuroHealthNet presented the joint statement on health inequalities. The statement contained proposals to the Commission for addressing health and social equity as an explicit priority and cross cutting theme across all relevant policies and programmes. 5 organisations contributed to the drafting on the Web Platform. Further organisations such as the Committee of Regions, the European Associations of Hospital Pharmacists and the European Hospital and Healthcare Federation made contributions during the meeting;

The **Standing Committee of European Doctors** presented the joint statement on patient safety and quality of care. The statement suggested continuing the work of the Expert Group on Patient Safety and Quality of Care and enhancement of initiatives in the field of patient empowerment. 10 organisations were involved in the drafting on the Web Platform. Further organisations such as the European Society for

Quality in Healthcare, the European Pharmaceutical Students' Association, WHO – European Office, the European Associations of Hospital Pharmacists, the European Federation of Complementary and Alternative Medicine, the European Patients Forum, the European Hospital and Healthcare Federation, ILGA-Europe and the European Federation of Nurses Associations made contributions during the meeting;

The **Association of Schools of Public Health of the European Region** presented the joint statement on public health workforce development and professionalization. The statement focused on a call for action on the continuing development of a sufficient and competent public health workforce. 2 organisations gave input on the Web Platform. Further organisations such as WHO – European Office, the European Federation of Medical Unions and the European Federation of Complementary and Alternative Medicine made contributions during the meeting;

The **European Federation of Associations of Families of People with Mental Illness and Mental Health Europe** presented the joint statement on mental health. This statement proposed priorities for a broad coalition of organisations for implementing the EU Framework of Action on Mental Health and Wellbeing. 3 organisations gave contributions on the Web Platform. Further organisations such as the European Pharmaceutical Students' Association, the European Society for Quality in Healthcare, the European Midwives Association, EuroHealthNet and the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants made contributions during the meeting.

Each of the joint statements received first feedback by SANTE representatives in charge of the files. The **Chair** explained the EU level action on health inequalities and the intention of launching a Joint Action on Health Inequalities and Migration. The **Deputy Head of Health Programme and Chronic Diseases Unit** highlighted the approach of looking at mental health within the Chronic Diseases framework. The possibility to coordinate discussion and promote best practices and benchmarking was offered. The **Cross-Border Healthcare and eHealth Unit** highlighted a call for tender published on the 29 November to create an expert network that would follow up and continue to support exchange on health workforce planning and forecasting via the EU Health Policy Platform as a tool.

The afternoon was chaired by **John F. Ryan, Director for Public Health, Country Knowledge and Crisis Management**, who firstly responded to the joint statement on patient safety highlighting that the action would focus on the context of EU-level work against anti-microbial resistance and hospital acquired infections, and monitoring of new indicators of patient safety with OECD. The Statements will be finalised over the next two weeks and health stakeholder organisations were invited to signal their wish to endorse them via the Web Platform.

The **Chair**, gave an overview of the latest health policy priorities and key developments and **the Head of the Health Information Unit and the Head of Performance of National Health Systems Unit**, presented the State of Health-cycle which included a presentation of the new Health at a Glance Europe 2016-report by the **OECD**.

The **European Commission** proposed participants to lead and work on two new topics for the joint statements:

- *“Employment of Persons with Chronic Diseases”* and,
- *“Access of Vulnerable Groups to Healthcare”*.

Participants of the meeting also suggested topics for the preparation of a next set of three Joint Statements:

- **European Public Health Alliance**, proposed to lead a joint statement on *“antimicrobial resistance”*;
- **European Association of Senior Hospital Physicians**), proposed to lead a joint statement on *“litigation claims - defensive medicine – safety risks from unnecessary examinations”*;
- **European Federation of Salaried Doctors**, proposed to lead a joint statement on *“Inequalities in working conditions and remuneration in healthcare”*.

Conclusions by the chair:

- Stakeholders are invited to give further contributions to the presented joint statements. The first set of joint statements should be ready for endorsement by 18 December 2016. Endorsement will be made via the Web Platform.
- Stakeholders are welcome to show interest and lead on one on the topics for new set of joint statements proposed by the European Commission, namely Employment of Persons with Chronic Diseases and Access of Vulnerable Groups to Healthcare. Please, contact secretariat on SANTE-HPP@ec.europa.eu
- Once all topics are led by one (or more) organisations, stakeholders are invited to vote on their preferred topics via a poll that will be published on the [Agora of the Web Platform](#). Topics that gather most interest would be opened for work, previous agreement by the European Commission.