

Flash Report

Meeting of the Sub-group on the “Healthier together, the EU Non-communicable Diseases Initiative” 8 April 2022

On 8 April 2022, the Sub-group on the “Healthier together, the EU Non-communicable Diseases Initiative” under the Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases held a virtual meeting, chaired by DG SANTE. The representatives of 19 Member States, plus Iceland and Norway, attended the meeting.

General update on the draft EU NCD Initiative

DG SANTE presented an update on the current version of the EU NCD Initiative document that incorporates comments and recommendations from Member States and international organisations. The strand on Mental Health and Neurological disorders has been further developed and includes refinements of priority areas and suggestions for actions related to mental health and neurological disorders, namely dementia. DG SANTE then reported on the preparatory work that has already started concerning the Joint Action on diabetes and cardiovascular diseases, which enables the priorities of the EU NCD Initiative to be translated into action under the 2022 EU4Health Work Programme. A similar process is envisaged for the Joint Action on health determinants of cancer and other non-communicable diseases in future years.

Mental Health and Neurological Disorders: priorities, policies and best practices

DG SANTE presented ongoing activities in the Mental Health and Neurological Disorders area, highlighting examples of priorities and work packages that Member States may wish to consider for a future Joint Action. Priority areas include, among others, awareness raising, suicide prevention, combating stigma and early detection of dementia. Strengthening cooperation, mental health literacy and eHealth are examples of aspects that could be addressed in work packages under this area. The presentation concluded with an update on the current call for best practices.

Chronic Respiratory Diseases: priorities, policies and best practices

DG SANTE presented Member State priorities for chronic respiratory diseases such as the prevention of the onset and progress of chronic respiratory diseases, early detection and improved care and management. Member States will submit written comments related to this strand.

Conclusion and next steps

At the request of Member States, a **dedicated workshop on methodology and criteria for promising practices** will be organised by DG SANTE **on 12 May 2022**. The next meeting of this Sub-group will take place on **19 May 2022**, jointly organised with the Sub-group on Cancer, to discuss the horizontal strand of health determinants.

Participants were encouraged to submit their input on the current version of the EU NCD Initiative document by 17 April. After this date, Member States will still have until 30 April to further revise and provide additional comments in writing. DG SANTE will organise a **meeting with stakeholders on 27 April 2022** to receive their input **on mental health and neurological disorders and chronic respiratory diseases**. The members

agreed to circulate the current draft of the NCD document to stakeholders who had registered into the EU NCD Initiative network at the Health Policy Platform. The Chair thanked everyone for their engagement and valuable contributions.