



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Health systems, medical products and innovation
Performance of national health systems

Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in health (2019-2022)

6th plenary meeting

10 February 2021

10:00-13:00h CET

MS Teams

Minutes

The sixth plenary meeting of the Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in health (term of office 2019-2022) took place on 10 February 2021 virtually. The meeting, which was a non-public meeting, was chaired by the Panel's Chair, Professor Jan De Maeseneer.

1. Welcome and introduction

The agenda was approved without changes, the minutes of the previous plenary meeting of 25 November were approved earlier in writing and have been published on the Expert Panel website.

Professor Pita Barros informed the Secretariat about his involvement in advisory capacity in a project organised by the Office of Health Economics (OHE) on pharma pricing (multi-indication pricing). He also confirmed that he has not renewed his mandate in the EC Mission Board on Cancer.

No conflicts of interest were raised on matters of the agenda.

2. EU health developments – short update by COM

The Commission (COM) gave a short update on EU actions to fight the COVID-19 pandemic as well as on recent health policy developments, including the European Health Union package, the Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe, Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and the European Health Data Space.

COM also presented EU funding possibilities under the new MMF and more specifically via the new EU4Health programme as well as the key elements of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) as the centrepiece of the Next Generation EU recovery instrument. It was stressed that the existing COM initiatives should be taken into consideration when elaborating

the opinions. Members welcomed the presentation and agreed it would be useful to have regular updates.

3. Opinion on European solidarity in public health emergencies

The mandate was circulated to the Panel prior to the meeting. Members of the drafting group met in the first meeting on 29 January. The chair of the drafting group gave the update to the Panel on the initial work on this opinion. The structure of the opinion was discussed. Some members suggested that a sociological approach is needed with the concept of social inclusion, human rights, and fight against health inequalities. The different dimensions of solidarity, cohesion and connectedness were highlighted. The opinion template as well as relevant documents are available in MS Teams under the dedicated channel where members should add their contributions. The next meeting will take place at the end of February or beginning of March.

4. Opinion on public procurement in healthcare systems

The chair thanked rapporteurs and all members for their work on the opinion. An online public hearing took place on 3 February with over 140 participants. A number of comments received during the hearing and in writing within the given deadline were taken into consideration. The final draft opinion was circulated to members prior to the plenary meeting.

Rapporteurs gave a short update on the final draft. The paragraph added on COVID-19 vaccines was discussed. Taking into account the comments and further clarification needed on the mentioned paragraph, members have **adopted the opinion** as well as an accompanying **factsheet**.

SANTE informed the Panel how it plans to promote and disseminate the opinion via different COM channels to reach health stakeholders as well as MS authorities. The members stressed the importance to publish the findings of the opinion in scientific journals and disseminate opinion via their professional and national networks.

5. Opinion on mental health of health workforce and other essential workers

The mandate was circulated to the Panel prior to the meeting. Members of the drafting group met in the first meeting on 4 February. The chair of the drafting group and rapporteurs updated the Panel on the initial work on this opinion and presented the agreed structure elaborating on interventions to address mental health support needs, effectiveness of interventions in mental health field and conditions for delivery of cost-effective, affordable, inclusive interventions. It was further stressed that members of the drafting group agreed to identify interventions delivered at societal, organisational, team, and individual levels by means of psychosocial support services, primary care, community care, occupational health programs, and e-Health. The opinion template as well as relevant documents are available in MS Teams under the dedicated channel. The next meeting is scheduled for 4 March.

6. Survey – evaluation of EXPH work

Members received the EU survey to evaluate the work of the Expert Panel based on the experience from their work on the opinion on care organisation in the course of 2020. COM presented the outcome of the survey. Members highlighted the positive aspects of the work and suggested a number of ways for improvement. Members agreed to draft guidelines/core process on how opinions are developed.

7. Any other business and next steps

The chair thanked the members who took part in various events where they presented the EXPH opinions.

The chair thanked all participants and before closing the meeting reminded members that the next plenary meeting is scheduled for 28 April 2021 via MS Teams.

8. List of participants

MEMBERS

BARROS PITA Pedro
DE MAESENEER Jan
GARCIA-ALTES Anna
GRUSON Damien
KRINGOS Dionne
LEHTONEN Lasse
LIONIS Christos
MCKEE Martin
MURAUŠKIENE Liubove
NUTI Sabina
ROGERS Heather
SICILIANI Luigi
STAHL Dorothea
WIECZOROWSKA-TOBIS Katarzyna
ZACHAROV Sergej
ZALETEL Jelka

DG SANTE

MATTHEWS Maya (B1)
DAJKA Bela (B1)
VOLOSINOVA Viera (B1)