The second annual meeting of the EU Health Policy Platform took place on 27th November 2017.

John F. Ryan, Director of public health, country knowledge and crisis management, DG Health and Food Safety, European Commission, chaired the meeting. More than 70 interest groups participated.

Presentation of Joint Statements
Four Joint Statements, which had been prepared by Thematic Networks under the lead of a stakeholder organisation, were presented:

The European Public Health Alliance presented a Joint Statement on “Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)”. It makes proposals aiming to support the Commission’s new “EU One Health Action Plan on AMR”

The European Chronic Diseases Alliance presented a Joint Statement on “Employment of people with chronic diseases”. The statement provides recommendations to EU and national policymakers to improve the participation of people with chronic diseases in the employment market.

The European Society of Radiology presented a Joint Statement on “Medical training and professional development for patient safety”. The statement underlines the role of medical and health professional education and training in healthcare and possible measures to improve patient safety.

The Joint Statement on “Migration and Health” prepared under lead of the Platform for Undocumented Migrants together with the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims focuses on proposals for a better targeted response to migration health needs and inequalities, and for tackling existing structural and educational gaps.

Each Joint Statement received first feedback from DG SANTE representatives. Follow-up meetings to have more in-depth discussions were announced.

Following the presentation of the joint Statements, the chair invited stakeholder organisations to participate in the poll on the themes for thematic networks in the 2018 cycle, open on the Platform until 7 December. The Commission will consider the outcomes of the poll when confirming the selected themes.

Three NGOs receiving operating grants from the European Commission (period 2014 to 2017) gave presentations about their activities (Aids Action Europe, Association of European Cancer Leagues, European Network for Smoking and Tobacco Prevention).

The European Health Parliament (3rd edition) was presented, with its intention of involving young people in health policy and healthcare-related issues.

Ceremony for EU Health Award for NGOs 2017 on promoting vaccination
European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety Vytenis Andriukaitis gave a speech about the role of health in the EU policy context, the role of stakeholders and the importance of vaccination.

Following a presentation by Isabel de la Mata Barranco, Principal Adviser for Health and Crisis management at DG SANTE, about the Commission’s vaccination promotion initiatives, the Commissioner handed over certificates to the 7 shortlisted NGOs: Collaborative Center for Clinical Epidemiology and Outcomes Research from Greece; Confederation of Meningitis Organisations from UK; GHAPRO
vzw from Belgium; KBO-PCOB from the Netherlands; Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre from Ireland; Romanian Association for Education In Family Medicine from Romania; Vienna Vaccine Safety Initiative Think Tank, from Germany. The Commissioner handed over the 1st prize to SloMSIC Ljubljana from Slovenia, the 2nd prize to the Association National Network of Health Mediators from Bulgaria and the 3rd prize to the European Pharmaceutical Students’ Association.

Presentation of Commission initiatives
The Commission (DG SANTE), together with the OECD and the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, presented the new deliverables from the “State of Health in the EU”-process, country health profiles for all Member States and a companion report. (https://ec.europa.eu/health/state/summary_en)

The plans for health and care in a Commission Communication on the Digital Single Market were presented by the Commission (DG SANTE), together with the results of a public consultation on this.


Finally, the Commission (DGs EMPL) gave a presentation about the principles and rights summarised in the European Pillar of Social Rights and the Social Scoreboard, which measures progress. DG SANTE presented data and activities related to principle 16 of the Pillar (“Health care”) on unmet medical needs. (https://ec.europa.eu/commission/priorities/deeper-and-fairer-economic-and-monetary-union/european-pillar-social-rights_en)

The new composition of the EU Expert Panel on Health and a recently launched project for the Commission (“SEPEN”) on health workforce policy and development in Europe were addressed under Any Other Business.

The Chair announced that the third annual meeting of the EU Health Policy Platform is planned to take place on 5 November 2018.

A video of the meeting, the poll on themes for Thematic Networks and all presentations are available on the EU Health Policy Platform (Agora), under the following link: https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/hpf/ (registration required).