Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases

7 June 2019

Flash report

The Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases held its third formal meeting on Friday 7 June. Hosted by DG Health and Food Safety, the meeting was attended by the representatives of 25 Member States and Norway. Colleagues from the Secretariat General, other Commission DGs notably Agriculture and Rural Development; Communications Networks, Content and Technology; Economic and Financial Affairs; Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion; Research and Innovation; the Structural Reform Support Service also attended, as did the European Investment Bank, the Joint Research Centre, the Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction.

Following the approval of its Rules of Procedure the Steering Group explored its future and complementary role in the next Multiannual Financial Framework especially as regards anticipatory consultation on matters related to health.

The Steering Group was then informed about the European Semester process, the recently published Country Specific Recommendations, and opportunities to advance the implementation of the recommendations relevant to health and health systems.

In view of the development of the annual work plan for 2020 under the Health Programme, the Steering Group reflected on potential priorities and expressed their appreciation to engage in this process early on.

The Steering Group was then informed about specific instruments within the next Multiannual Financial Framework: the Structural Reform Support Service, the European Social Fund +, and Horizon Europe, with a view to prepare and support Member States maximise the benefits these instruments may bring to advance their national health priorities. The important contribution of the Steering Group to the consultation processes on these new funding instruments was underlined, also in relation to the Commission’s commitment to develop synergies, work across policies and leverage impact.

Building on earlier priority setting by the Steering Group, the Group was updated on the development of a proposed Joint Action on Best Practice Implementation in the field of food reformulation, public procurement and marketing, and encouraged to indicate their
interest to participate. The Steering Group was also updated on the current state of play as regards the planned Joint Action on integrated care.

The Steering Group was then consulted on potential priorities for future good practice exchange and implementation, agreeing to focus on measles vaccination in children (more specifically on encouraging the uptake of the 2nd dose). The potential for specific collaboration and good practice exchange in the area of patient safety will be explored in the near future.

Following up on agreed policy action a stepwise approach was agreed to work towards a sustainable future for Orphanet. This will be taken forward via a temporary focus group which is to specify Member States opportunities to bilaterally contribute to Orphanet.

Finally, the Steering Group was informed on the CHRODIS Plus joint action which is preparing a questionnaire related to collaboration across the EU countries on non-communicable diseases.