



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Country knowledge and scientific committees

EU Health Policy Platform Annual Meeting – 17 October 2019

More than 65 interest groups and health stakeholders took part in the fourth annual meeting of the **EU Health Policy Platform** on **17 October 2019 in Brussels**. The meeting was chaired by **John F. Ryan**, the European Commission's Director of Public Health at the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety.

The Director-General for Health and Food Safety **Anne Bucher** opened the meeting, highlighting the importance of the EU Health Policy Platform for coordinating the efforts of health stakeholders, sharing expertise and creating synergies.

2019 EU Health Award Ceremony for cities, NGOs and schools

This year's EU Health Award focused on preventing and reducing obesity and overweight in young people, and it was open, for the first time, to cities and schools as well as to NGOs. European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety Vytenis Andriukaitis presided at the event. Before handing out the prizes, he spoke passionately about the importance of adopting healthy lifestyle habits early on to avoid poor health in later life.

The winner in each category was awarded a prize of €100,000, a certificate and a trophy. The CITY category winner was **Amsterdam**, the Netherlands, for its "**Amsterdam Healthy Weight Programme**". The winner in the NGO category was the **Society "Our Children" Zabok** from Croatia for its **Project "Healthy and Tasty"** and the SCHOOL category winner was **IES Guadalquivir** from Spain for its "**Be Active @IES Guadalquivir**" programme.

Receiving certificates were two shortlisted initiatives per category. Shortlisted in the City category were the municipality of **Sintra**, Portugal, for its initiative "**Sintra Grows Healthy**", and the city of **Genk**, Belgium, for its initiative "**Weighty friends**". In the NGO category, the NGO **RÉPPOP BFC** from France was recognised for its initiative "**Crockymove programme**", and the NGO **FitforKids** from Denmark was honoured for its initiative by the same name, **FitforKids**. Taking home certificates in the school category were **Primary School Podturen** from Hungary for its initiative "**School scheme for fruit and vegetables, milk and dairy products**", and **Antsla Gümnaasium** from Estonia for its initiative "**Active School Break**".

A special mention was given to the Greek Primary School of London for its initiative "**ZoKala**", which works for the inclusion of healthy eating habits in the school curricula and for the inclusion of lower socioeconomic families in the scope and outreach of its activities.

Over 130 people attended the event, including the teachers and students from the three nominated schools, and some 1,076 people watched the live stream. The video recording of the Award Ceremony and photographs from the event are available online: https://ec.europa.eu/health/ngo_award/home_en

Interactive round table

Immediately after the EU Health Award Ceremony, shortlisted and winners were invited to participate in an interactive round table discussion on **Promoting healthy weight in children and young people**, moderated by Wendy Winn and involving the audience

through the use of the interactive app Sli.do for taking polls and making comments. Chairing the panel was the Director of Public Health John F. Ryan, and joining him on the panel were **Anne Bucher**, Director General of DG SANTE, **Isabel de la Mata**, Principal Advisor for Health and Crisis Management and president of the EU Health Award Jury, **Philippe Roux**, Head of Unit for the Country knowledge and the Scientific Committees, and the **shortlisted and winners of the Award..** The **130 people** in the audience and the many more watching online could participate in the polls and share their views and questions via Sli.do. A total of 450 votes were registered during the polling, and the numerous comments got more than 100 'likes' during the event.

Presentation of 2019 Joint Statements

A central part of the Health Policy Platform annual meeting is the presentation of the Joint Statements, which have been prepared by stakeholder organisations over the past year. This year, four Joint Statements by the leading Thematic Networks of 2019 were presented.

The Joint Statement on **“Healthcare cross-border regions“** led by **EUREGHA** aimed to support the European Commission in its exercise of mapping and building cross-border and regional cooperation in healthcare through the identification of crucial challenges and successful existing experiences to be scaled up.

The Joint Statement on **“Improving Organ Donation and Transplantation in the EU - Thematic Network led by EKHA**, aimed to enhance the efficiency of transplant systems in EU member states, and empower patients, healthcare professionals and the public to contribute to organ donation and transplantation in Europe.

The **Nobody Left Outside Platform** Thematic network led by the **Nobody left Outside platform** aimed to identify common challenges to supporting the health of vulnerable populations and to serve as an incubator for practical guidance and innovative solutions to

improve access to integrated health and social services.

The Joint Statement on **Improving INtegrated people-centred healthCare Solutions** led by **ProMIS** aimed at improving people-centered health care solutions, defining a common vocabulary, specific priorities and interests and at creating synergies among the partners and at EU level using various means including through the mapping and collection of good practices.

Each Joint Statement received feedback from DG SANTE and DG REGIO representatives, and members of the audience had numerous comments and questions that were also addressed.

2020 Thematic Network proposals

Following the presentation of the 2019 Joint Statements, the chair invited the stakeholder organisations with the five leading proposals for 2020 Thematic Networks to present their ideas and rally support for their projects. The five proposed themes for Joint Statements are (in alphabetical order)

1. **“A human rights-based approach to task-shifting: the role of peer workers”**, led by **Mental Health Europe (MHE)**;
2. **“Colorectal Cancer Screening in the European Union”** led by **Digestive Cancers Europe –**
3. **“Digital skills for future-proof doctors – Digital Doc”**, led by **Erasmus MC, University Medical Center Rotterdam**
4. **“Inter-professional Education for Digital Skills”**, led by the **International Network of Health Workforce Education (INHWE)**
5. **“Profiling and training the health care workers of the future**, led by **Health First Europe and European Health Management Association (EHMA)**

Health stakeholders are warmly invited to vote for the theme of their choice by 6 November 2019. Anyone registered in the Health Policy Platform can vote. The themes with the most votes will become the 2020 Thematic Networks. <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/hpf/item/item/21792>

Presentation of the new EU Action on Cancer

Although the Commission has been working in the field of cancer for many decades, the new Commission has made it an EU priority to beat cancer and is calling on cross-DG collaboration to help it reach this ambitious goal. The new EU Action on Cancer was presented by Barbara Kerstiens, Head of the Combatting Diseases Unit at DG Research and Innovation and Stefan Schreck, Head of the Health Programme and non-communicable disease Unit at DG Health and Food Safety.

Closure

Director of Public Health John F. Ryan, in his capacity as chair, thanked all the participants, both in the room and online, for their presence and participation. He announced that the **fifth annual meeting of the EU Health Policy Platform** would take place toward the end of **2020** and said that the exact date, along with the theme for the next EU Health Award, would be publicised soon.

The video recording of the meeting and all of the presentations are available on the EU Public Health website:

https://ec.europa.eu/health/policies/events/event_20191017_en

Register now in the EU Health Policy Platform to vote, to join the new Thematic Networks, and to receive and share the latest public health news and events, including news about the 2020 EU Health Award.

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/hpf/>