



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Health systems, medical products and innovation
Performance of National Health Systems

EXPERT GROUP ON HEALTH SYSTEMS PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

10TH MEETING

11 RUE EUGÈNE RUPPERT, HITEC BUILDING, ROOM 02/280

LUXEMBOURG

8TH JUNE 2017, 13:30-17:30

MINUTES

Participants: Austria, Belgium, Estonia, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, OECD, CHAFAEA, European Commission.

* * *

OPENING OF THE MEETING

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed participants.

Anne Calteux (Adviser of the Minister of health, Luxembourg) also welcomed the Group on behalf of the Ministry of Luxembourg. She outlined the added value of the Expert Group, especially in times of financial constraints when the necessity to learn how to health systems effective, accessible and resilient is even greater. Three words were given to define the success of the Group: voluntary, focus and synergy.

The Group adopted the agenda of the meeting.

ASSESSMENT OF PRIMARY CARE

Federico Paoli (DG SANTE) presented the main findings of the Survey on Primary care performance assessment conducted in March 2017. Federico highlighted the early stage of the analysis and invited countries to complement the findings by the end of June 2017. Some questions from the Expert Group referred to further plans to deepen the analysis, inclusion of some reference to the timeframe between the evaluation and the impact of performance assessment into the policy-making, sources of registries or the existence of an organising framework. The Group concluded by suggesting the potential benefits to go more into detail in the performance indicators. Particularly, they expressed their interest in having case studies where the use of performance indicators led to better health systems performance.

The Chair introduced the Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in health – established by DG SANTE to provide non-binding advice – and highlighted its independent nature. Federico (DG SANTE) presented the ongoing work of the Panel in preparing its opinion on primary care performance assessment. The next meeting of the Expert Panel is scheduled for the 15th of June, and the main lines of the opinion will be presented tentatively at the next meeting of the Expert Group.

At the end of this section, suggestions on the topic of the Policy Focus Group were proposed by some of the members of the Group.

TAILORED COUNTRY-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Péter Gyenes (Ministry of Health, Hungary) presented the Workshop on HSPA that took place in Budapest on 4-5 April and introduced the findings of the country's first national HSPA report. He expressed appreciation for the work and assistance provided by the Expert Group during the two-day workshop, where the HSPA report was first publicly presented. Péter reinforced that the workshop was inspiring and had an impact in the way the Hungarian administration thought about system performance. The Chair mentioned the previous seminars in Rome, Ljubljana, and Budapest and invited Member States that have an interest in similar events to contact the Commission to organise them.

Françoise Berthet (Ministry of Health, Luxembourg) presented their preliminary experiences in measuring a culture of patient safety measurement, defined as complement and direct link to the performance of the health system. At the end of the presentation, Group members were asked about the impact of patient safety culture in their respective countries and the impact on patient safety. Several insights and reflections about the importance of measuring safety were expressed and some challenges regarding the use of indicators were reported.

ACTIVITIES OUTLOOK ON RELEVANT EU PROJECTS ON HSPA

Anne-Marie Yazbeck (Consumers, health, agriculture and food executive agency – CHAFEA) introduced the Agency and the Health Programme. She explained the financial mechanisms and the beneficiaries, informed about the website and the new database and presented projects and joint actions that are relevant for the Expert Group. Anne-Marie explained more in depth some direct grants that could be useful for the participants. Finally, the audience was invited to refer to the database in case of interest in any programme. The Chair highlighted that the aim of programme is to support Member States to inform policy-making.

PREPARATION OF THE JOINT MEETING WITH EGHI

The Chair introduced the rationale and expectations for the joint meeting with the Expert Group on Health Information and opened the floor for discussion. Concretely, the inter connexion between health information and HSPA was highlighted and the audience was invited to reflect on two different points: 1) How to make sure that ERIC provides the highest added value for policy making, 2) How can HSPA bring the Group's view in selecting and defining indicators.



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Health systems, medical products and innovation
Performance of National Health Systems

EXPERT GROUP ON HEALTH SYSTEMS PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT
JOINT MEETING WITH THE EXPERT GROUP ON HEALTH INFORMATION

11 RUE EUGÈNE RUPPERT, HITEC BUILDING, ROOM 02/280

L-1443, LUXEMBOURG

9 JUNE 2017, 9:30-12:30

WELCOME AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

John Ryan, SANTE Public Health Director, opened the meeting and outlined the complementary nature of the two Groups. He called for close cooperation with the aim of steering health data collections towards areas that better reflect policy priorities, thereby enabling Member States to improve the health of their populations and the performance of their health systems.

OPENING BY THE LUXEMBOURG GOVERNMENT

Jean-Claude Schmit, Chief Medical Officer of Luxembourg, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Luxembourg Government and thanked SANTE for its efforts to support Member States. In his words, the HSPA group has been an inspiration for Luxembourg to expand health indicator collections beyond acute care, and emphasised that EU-wide health indicator collections provide an essential resource for Luxembourg to benchmark services, identify best practice, and develop better health policies.

UPDATES ON RELEVANT ACTIVITIES ON HEALTH INFORMATION AND HEALTH SYSTEMS PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Philippe Roux (DG SANTE) outlined that one of the key priorities has been to support Member States in identifying a sustainable organisation of health information generation and allow Member States' policy priorities to influence what indicators are collected in the EU. He highlighted DG SANTE's work with other relevant Commission services and international organisations (such as OECD and WHO-Europe) towards aligning international health data collections and reducing the data collection burden on Member States. He reiterated that, by launching the Joint Action on Health Information, the Commission has been inviting Member State proposals towards achieving these aims.

Sylvain Giraud (DG SANTE) added that the aim of EU level cooperation on health information should primarily be to ensure that EU-wide health data serve policy making at the national level, allowing comparability.

Daniel Reynders, co-Chair of the HSPA group, presented the work of the Expert Group on HSPA and highlighted that its aim is not to compare the performance of EU health systems, but to serve as a platform to exchange best practice and identify tools and methodologies to inform policy making. He explained that each year The Expert Group focuses on one key policy priority such as 'quality of care' 'integration of care', and 'primary care', with 'efficiency and resilience' being analysed next years.

DISCUSSION ON AREAS OF COMMON INTEREST OF THE EXPERT GROUPS ON HEALTH INFORMATION AND HEALTH SYSTEMS PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Herman Van Oyen (BRIDGE Health project coordinator) and Petronille Bogaert (Joint Action on Health Information coordinator) explained that a 'European Research Infrastructure Consortium' would be a feasible organisational structure to coordinate cross-EU health information networks and help generate, manage and translate knowledge. They set out that the Joint Action on Health Information would serve as a proof of concept showcasing the value for Member States of better coordinating health information activities, improving the policy-relevance of EU collected data, and reducing the data collection burden on Member States.

Ian Brownwood (OECD) provided an overview of the OECD's Healthcare Quality Indicators project, outlining on-going work streams to develop patient-reported quality measures (the PaRIS project), patient safety indicators, hospital quality indicators, and indicators to measure the quality of dementia care.

Suszy Lessof (European Observatory) presented the final deliverable of the State of Health in the EU cycle: the voluntary exchanges, organised by the OECD and the Observatory with the support of the Commission. Health Ministries will be able to apply for voluntary exchanges from November 2017. These Voluntary Exchanges will be tailor-made for the country-context and for Ministries' specific policy questions, and can take the form of seminars, workshops, symposia or policy dialogues. EGHI and HSPA expert groups agreed to play a role in raising awareness of these opportunities within their respective governments and contribute their specific expertise to these exchanges.

AOB AND CONCLUSIONS OF THE MEETING

The two Expert Groups agreed to develop the cooperation between the health information sector and the health system assessment sector. The collaboration has to take place primarily at national level between the respective countries' EGHI and HSPA members and the different national administrations involved with a way to set a clear vision of this process at national level and to input in the EU level discussions in a coordinated manner.

This cooperation should focus on: 1) Identifying a sustainable health information structure in the EU to concretely support decision making at national level based, in particular, on health system performance. 2) Reviewing the policy-relevance of on-going health information activities and collected indicators and propose possible prioritisation of these with the aim of reducing the data collection burden and ensuring the added value of the information for the Member States.

In particular, the EGHI and HSPA expert groups agreed that their respective members should collaborate at the national level to coordinate their countries' input into:

- The mapping of health information activities and health indicator by the Joint Action on Health Information
- The developing of methodologies for patient reported outcome measurement High priority indicator development projects (such within the OECD's PaRIS) and including those into the policy cycle work or the work on health which will be undertaken under the Digital Single Market.
- The Commission will ensure that the two groups are kept informed of each other's activities of common interest;
- The Chairs of HSPA and EGHI can explore the possibility to have additional joint meetings and to increase collaboration among the two expert groups in high priority areas of common interests for both Member States and the Commission.
- The experts from the two Groups are invited to contribute to the Voluntary Exchanges as part of the State of Health in the EU cycle.



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Health systems, medical products and innovation
Performance of National Health Systems

EXPERT GROUP ON HEALTH SYSTEMS PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT
11 RUE EUGÈNE RUPPERT, HITEC BUILDING, ROOM 02/280
L-1443, LUXEMBOURG
9 JUNE 2017, 14:00-16:00

OPENING OF THE MEETING

The Chair opened the second day of the meeting.

FEEDBACK OF THE JOINT MEETING

The Chair opened the floor for discussion by asking Members of the Group to provide feedback on the outcomes of the joint meeting with the Expert Group on Health information and the definition of possible follow-up. The Joint meeting was generally considered as interesting; the discussion focused on differences between outputs and outcome indicators, role of administrative registries and problematic with data quality. In addition, possible areas of collaboration between the groups were proposed. The Chair highlighted that the dialogue between the health information and the HSPA domains needs to happen primarily at national level.

SCOPING THE CONCEPT OF EFFICIENCY

Jonathan Cylus (London School of Economics and Political Science) and Peter Smith (Imperial College) provided an overview of the concept of health system efficiency and different ways to measure it. Furthermore, they presented some frameworks to facilitate the development of efficiency metrics. Limitation of registry data and too much emphasis on hospital level were highlighted in their presentation. During the following debate it was highlighted the complementarity with the work of the OECD on waste, allocative efficiency, and appropriateness of care. Federico (DG SANTE) anticipated the creation of a sub-group of volunteers to start shaping the work on efficiency assessment, with the goal to present a scoping paper to be discussed in the Expert Group before the end of the year.

CONCLUSIONS OF THE MEETING

The next meeting is provisionally scheduled on 18 September 2017.