



EU Health Policy

Martin SEYCHELL

Deputy Director General, DG Health and Consumers

7 May 2012

EU Health Policy

Major challenges call for an EU approach

- Ageing population
- Financial sustainability of health systems
- Health workforce shortages
- Control and prevention of chronic diseases
- Increasing inequalities in health throughout Europe
- Global and cross-border threats
- Rapid development of health technologies

EU Health Policy

- ***Treaty provisions on public health (Art. 168 TFEU)***
A high level of health as an objective of all EU policies

- ***EU Health Strategy adopted in 2007 «Together for Health: A strategic approach for the EU»***

EU Health Policy

Treaty provisions on public health (Art. 168 TFEU)

The EU shall:

- **Complement national policies** towards: improving public health, preventing physical and mental diseases, promoting research as well as information and education, and monitoring and combating serious cross-border health threats
- **Encourage cooperation** between Member States; the **Commission** may, in contact with Member States, take any useful initiative to promote coordination
- Foster cooperation with **third countries**
- Adopt **legislation** to meet common safety concerns related to human components, the veterinary and phytosanitary fields, medical products and devices

The EU may adopt measures:

- designed to protect and improve public health (**incentive measures**)
- concerning monitoring, early warning of and combating **serious cross-border threats** to health
- with the direct objective to **protect** public health regarding **tobacco** and the **abuse of alcohol** (excluding harmonisation of laws of Member States)

The EU Health Strategy

An overarching policy framework

4 principles:

- Shared EU health values (universality, access to good quality care, equity and solidarity)
- Health as the greatest wealth
- Health in all policies
- Strong EU voice in global health

3 objectives:

- Fostering good health in an ageing Europe
- Protecting citizens from health threats
- Supporting dynamic health systems and new technologies

Implementing the EU Health Strategy

An integrated approach

Strategy implemented by:

- EU institutions
- Member States
- Regional and local authorities
- Other stakeholders

Through structures such as:

- Council Senior Level Working Party on Public Health (MS)
- EU Health Policy Forum (stakeholders)

3 instruments:

- Legislation
- Cooperation
- Financing



Legislation-Cooperation-Financing

An integrated approach

- **Add value** to work of Member States (and regions) while respecting national responsibilities
- Help Member States improve **efficiency of health systems**
- Support **implementation of EU laws** and **cooperation** (e.g. exchange of good practices) with **EU funding**
- Involve health **stakeholders** in EU policy making
- Contribute to **science-based decision making** through agencies and scientific committees

Legislation

Patients' rights in Cross-border Healthcare

EU Directive adopted March 2011 - Deadline for transposition Oct 2013

- ❑ *Clarity for patients treated abroad*

- ❑ *Cooperation between national health systems:*
 - **Health technology assessment (HTA)**: A permanent EU structure to help decision-makers to make the right decisions on health investment and spending
 - **eHealth**: A first step towards "interoperability" of ICT for health at EU level for safety and quality of care, continuity of care, and health research
 - **European references networks**: It will bring together specialised centres across Europe helping health experts to disseminate information and expertise in particular in the area of rare diseases
 - **Mutual recognition of e-prescriptions**: A prescription issued in another EU country will be recognised in a patient's country of residence and vice versa

Legislation

Pharmaceuticals

- **Pharmacovigilance** (adopted Dec 2010): **Regulation** and **Directive** applies from July 2012
- **Falsified Medicines** (adopted May 2011, transposed by Jan 2013)
- **Information to Patients:** Revised proposals adopted in October 2011 (split into Pharmacovigilance and Information to Patients in February 2012 to facilitate discussion by co-legislators)

Legislation

Organs, Blood, Tissues and Cells

- Implementing legislation to ensure procedures for coordinating vigilance, traceability and characterisation of organs exchanged between Member States
- Build EU-level coordination for vigilance and traceability of tissues and cells (IT platforms discussed with EMA and ECDC Management Boards)

Health threats

Health Security Initiative: Commission proposal for a Council and EP Decision on serious cross-border health threats (adopted 7 Dec 2011, under negotiation)

It aims at:

- reviewing and updating the existing EU legislation on communicable diseases
- ensuring adequate prevention, control of and follow-up to all public health threats at EU level
- putting the Health Security Committee on a legal footing

Tobacco

- Tobacco advertising and sponsorship Directive (2003)

Legislation

Council Recommendations

- Prevention of drinking of alcohol by young people (2001)
- Prevention of health-related harm associated with drug dependence (2003)
- Cancer screening (2003)
- Prevention of injury and the promotion of safety (2007)
- Patient safety, including the prevention and control of healthcare associated infections (2009)
- Action in the field of rare diseases (2009)
- Smoke-free environments (2009)
- Seasonal influenza vaccination (2009)

Forthcoming Legislation

Reg. Framework for Medical Devices, 3Q 2012

- Ensure patient safety and support of innovation
- Close legal loopholes and remedy current system weaknesses
- Build on lessons from “PIP breast implants” case and stress test
- Regulation on medical devices (including active implantable medical devices) and Regulation on *in vitro* diagnostic medical devices.

Clinical Trials Directive, 3Q 2012

- Strengthen knowledge and innovation in clinical research, remain proportionate and risk-adapted, facilitate multinational clinical trials.

Revision of Tobacco Products Directive, 4Q 2012

- Possible changes: scope; packaging and labelling; ingredients and sales arrangements including traceability.

Cooperation

European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing

Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP) foresees a first set of specific actions to be launched in 2012:

- Prescription adherence action at regional level
- Personal health management starting with falls prevention initiative
- Action for prevention/ early diagnosis of functional decline and frailty
- Replicating and tutoring integrated care for chronic diseases, including remote monitoring at regional level
- Development of interoperable independent living solutions, including guidelines for business models

All stakeholders who wish to be involved can do so by:

- Invitation for Commitment
- Invitation for expression of intent for candidate reference site
- Marketplace for innovative ideas
- Innovation support

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union>

Cooperation

Reflection process with Member States on Sustainable Health Systems

Group 1. Enhancing the representation of health in the Europe 2020 Strategy and in the European Semester process (coordinator: SANCO)

Group 2. Success factors for the effective use of Structural Funds for health investments (coordinator: HU) → Preparing policy report and to develop concrete toolbox for MS and regions

Group 3. Cost-effectiveness of medicines (coordinator: NL)

Group 4. Integrated care models and better hospital management (coordinator: PL)

Group 5. Measuring and monitoring the effectiveness of health investments (coordinator: SE)

Cooperation

Economic Governance: Monitoring Country Health Systems

Why ?

- Fiscal consolidation measures should consider impact on long-term structural reforms
- Health sector contribution to the economy and to EU2020 targets should be recognised
- Utilise the expertise of the Reflection Process on Health Systems

Which countries ?

- Countries receiving european financial assistance:
 - *Economic Adjustment Programme (with ECB and IMF): Greece, Ireland and Portugal.*
 - *Balance-of-Payment precautionary assistance programme: Romania.*
- Countries with specific recommendations on health systems in the European Semester
 - *Cyprus, Hungary, Latvia*

Cooperation

Antimicrobial Resistance Action Plan (adopted 17 Nov 2011)

Goals:

- Making sure antimicrobials are used appropriately both in humans and animals
- Preventing microbial infections and their spread
- Developing new effective antimicrobials or alternatives for treatment
- Cooperating with international partners to contain the risks of AMR
- Improving monitoring and surveillance in human and animal medicine
- Research and Innovation
- Communication, education and training

Cooperation

Reflection process with Member States on Chronic Diseases

- Process initiated following the Dec 2010 Council Conclusions
- Aim: Identify options to optimise the response to the challenges of chronic diseases in the areas of health promotion, prevention and management
- Outcomes will be summarised in a reflection paper by 2012

Cooperation

Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

Nutrition

- **Strategy on Nutrition, Overweight, and Obesity-related health issues (2007)**
- **High-level group on Nutrition and Physical Activity (Member States' authorities)**
- **EU Platform for Action on Diet, Physical Activity and Health (stakeholders)**
- **Regulatory framework on food products (food labelling and nutrition claims)**

Tobacco

- **Council recommendation for a “Smoke-free Europe” by 2012**
- **«Ex smokers are unstoppable» campaign (launched in June 2011)**
- **Legislation on tobacco products**

Alcohol

- **Council recommendation on prevention of drinking of alcohol by young people (2001)**
- **EU Strategy on reducing alcohol related harm (2006)**
- **Committee for national alcohol policy and action (Member States' authorities)**
- **European Alcohol and Health Forum (stakeholders)**

Cooperation

Further areas of EU cooperation (examples):

- **Cancer: Screening guidelines, European Partnership for Action Against Cancer**
- **Mental Health: European Pact for Mental Health and Well being**
- **Rare diseases: Joint Action to share expertise and information**
- **HIV/AIDS: Think Tank (Member States) and Civil Society Forum (stakeholders)**
- **Health Workforce: Member States Working Group on Health Workforce**
- **Health Inequalities: Joint Action**

International cooperation

- **World Health Organization/Framework Convention on Tobacco Control**

Cooperation

With the Committee of the Regions

NAT Commission

- * Discussion on the opinions by the CoR on e.g. proposal for Health for Growth Programme

Intergroup on Health

(Informal forum of exchange gathering all members of the CoR (beyond NAT Commission) and representatives of regional associations and regions in Brussels)

- * Information and discussion on EU health policies

Financial instruments

Health Programme 2008 - 2013

Budget of € 321.5 million

- Improve **health security**
- Promote health and reduce health **inequalities**
- Generate and disseminate health **information and knowledge**

Health for Growth Programme 2014 - 2020

(Commission proposal Nov 2011)

Budget of € 446 million

- Contribute to innovative and sustainable health systems
- Increase access to better and safer healthcare for citizens
- Promote good health and prevent diseases
- Protect citizens from cross border health threats

Other financial instruments

Research

- **€6 billion for health research in 7th Framework Programme:**
 - Biotechnology, general tools and medical technologies for human health
 - Translating research for human health
 - Optimising the delivery of healthcare to European citizens
- **Horizon 2020 (2014-2020) : Research and innovation funding**
Proposal November 2011: health, demographic change and wellbeing are major societal challenges

Other financial instruments

New Cohesion Policy and Health

Commission proposals (Oct 2011) for 2014-2020 regulations

- Close alignment with Europe 2020 Strategy
- Common logic and priorities for funding outlined in *Commission Staff Working Paper (2012) on Common Strategic Framework*
- €336 billion overall

Funding for Health:

2007-2013 reference: over €5 billion on direct health investment, €1 billion on active and healthy ageing, €5 billion for e-services (including e-health)

Other financial instruments

New Cohesion Policy and Health

Overall priorities

- Implementation of EU directives (e.g. cross-border healthcare Directive) incl. institutional infrastructure, capacity investments
- Development of innovative, efficient and sustainable health systems (innovative technologies, health infrastructure, health workforce adaptation, medical research and services)
- Reduction of health inequalities (healthcare access for all)

Additionally, and in line with EU 2020:

- Sustainability and effectiveness (ref. working group of Health Systems Reflection Process in the Council)



Thank you for your attention!

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