

Report on Kick-off Meeting

Project: Joint Action NFP4Health2

Date: 17 december 2025

Place: HaDEA, Bruxelles

1. Opening of the Meeting

The meeting was opened by **Giovanni Nicoletti**, Italian National Focal Point of the Ministry of Health and project coordinator, who thanked the participants for their commitment to the second Joint Action (JA). He emphasized the importance of this project, which represents a crucial step in strengthening the capacity of NFPs to support health policies at the European level. This was followed by institutional presentations by:

- **Marina Zanchi** (HaDEA): She outlined the importance of NFP4Health2, which is an opportunity to promote and support beneficiaries. She pointed out that the program is now well known and that it is time to maximize its impact.
- **Nadia Elhaggagi** (HaDEA Unit A1): She presented the figures for the **EU4Health 2021-2024 program**, with a budget of €1.44 billion, and outlined the main launches of the program in 2025, including those dedicated to crisis preparedness and health promotion.
- **David Garria Cordesa** (DG Sante): Introduced the **EU4Health** regulatory framework, outlining the main priorities for the period 2025+1 and how the European Commission is working with Member States to set annual targets.
- **Nicolas Krieger** (HaDEA Unit A2): He explained the different procedures, such as grants and procurements, and described the characteristics of open and negotiated procedures.

The importance of the new Joint Action was emphasized in order to make the network of National Focal Points (NFPs) in European territories increasingly operational and impactful, with the aim of making them ambassadors for EU policies and initiatives in the field of health. Furthermore the importance of understanding the evolving role of NFPs was stressed, particularly in light of the changes introduced in the upcoming European programming period 2028-2034.

2. Presentation of the Work packages

The WP leaders provided a detailed overview of the activities, specifically:

- **WP1 - Coordination and Management:** Elena Squizzato (ProMIS) provided details on the implementation and management of the project.

- **WP2 - Communication and Dissemination:** Ida Munch (Region Zealand) presented the communication and dissemination of the project results. It was discussed how NFPs will need to constantly update their communication platforms and actively contribute to the dissemination of information through various channels, including the project website and social media.
- **WP3 - Evaluation and Monitoring:** Tamara Munoz (Fundación Progreso y Salud) presented the planned methods for continuously monitoring the progress of the project through the evaluation of deliverables, milestones, and identified risks.
- **WP4 - Sustainability:** Valentina De Cosmi (ISS) provided an overview of the actions planned to ensure the long-term sustainability of the project.
- **WP5 - Networking:** Maria Druet (Carlos III Health Institute) described the activities for creating a network of NFPs and promoting transnational collaboration.
- **WP6 - Knowledge Hub:** Pietro Pomella (ProMIS) presented the central resource and knowledge platform for NFPs.
- **WP7 - Support for beneficiaries' needs:** Federica Rosin (ProMIS) outlined the support activities at national level, specifically to strengthen the capacity of NFPs to support the beneficiaries of the EU4Health program.

At the end of the presentations, several comments and suggestions emerged from the audience. It was proposed to reflect on the future role of **NFPs**, considering the organizational changes within institutions, with the need for NFPs to adapt to these new dynamics. In addition, some participants requested that **DG Sante** and **HaDEA** provide timely and clear information. It was therefore suggested that closer cooperation with HaDEA be promoted in order to amplify the impact of the services offered by NFPs. Furthermore, the usefulness of having **guidelines for surveys** and other communication documents was highlighted. Finally, the importance, especially for newcomers, of using the **Grant Agreement** as the main regulatory and operational reference for projects was emphasized.

At the end of the lectures, there was an interactive and participatory session on the *Companionship Program*. It was introduced by Irene Mikulcik (GÖG), with the aim of facilitating support between NFPs and promoting the exchange of experiences and good practices among the various members. Participants were divided into discussion groups to identify challenges and opportunities in the program, with a focus on creating a mutually supportive environment.