



EU Health Policy Platform Meeting – 12 November 2018

The third annual meeting of the **EU Health Policy Platform** took place on **12 November 2018** in Brussels. **John F. Ryan**, Director of public health, country knowledge and crisis management, Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety, European Commission, chaired the meeting. More than 60 interest groups participated.

The meeting was opened by the new Director-General for Health and Food Safety **Anne Bucher**, who gave a welcome speech highlighting the role of stakeholders in EU health policy.

Ceremony for 2018 EU Health Award for NGOs

European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety Vytenis Andriukaitis gave a speech about the importance of the fight against tobacco.

The Commissioner handed over certificates to the 8 candidate NGOs considered for the Award in alphabetical order: **Berlin Working Group Environment and Development "BLUE 21"** from Germany; **The Choice Foundation** from Sweden; **L'Espace du Souffle**, from France; **Hellenic Cancer Society**, from Greece; **Hungarian Respiratory Society**, from Hungary; **VIVID – Institute for the Prevention of Addiction**, from Austria; **Institut für Therapie- und Gesundheitsforschung** from Germany; and the **Slovenian Coalition for Public Health Environment and Tobacco Control (SCTC)**, from Slovenia.

The Commissioner handed over the first prize to the **Irish Cancer Society** from Ireland, the second prize to **Education Against Tobacco** from Germany and the third prize to the **Youth Network No Excuse Slovenia** from Slovenia.

Round-table

After the EU Health Award Ceremony, stakeholders were invited to participate in an interactive round table discussion on The Role of Stakeholders in EU Health Policy. The Chair, Director **John F. Ryan**, **Philippe Roux**, Head of the Country knowledge and scientific committees' Unit, **Isabel de la Mata**, Principal Advisor for Health and Crisis Management and the **leaders of the three 2018 Thematic Networks**, all participated in this roundtable. Over **120 people** were in the audience, **actively taking part** by asking questions and making comments throughout the meeting. Over **150 people** were watching the event via live **web streaming**, and they were also able to post their questions and comments.

Presentation of 2018 Joint Statements

Three Joint Statements, which had been prepared by stakeholder organisation leading three different Thematic Networks, were presented.

The Joint Statement on "**Societal Impact of Pain (SIP)**" led by the **European Pain Federation (EFIC)** and the **Pain Alliance Europe (PAE)**, aims to provide a roadmap for improving pain management around Europe and to gather a broad coalition of organisations who wish to support the improvement of pain management through European policies.

The Joint Statement on "**Smart Healthy Age-Friendly Environments (SHAFE)**" was led by **Caritas Coimbra** and **AFedemy**. SHAFE aims to develop the main aspects of Age-Friendly Environments Places and People in the creation of eHealth and mHealth solutions, focusing in particular on quality and costs.

The Joint Statement on **“Stimulating fresh fruit and vegetable consumption for healthier European consumers”** led by **Freshfel Europe** is a platform for sharing information, knowledge and best practices on the benefits of fresh fruit and vegetable consumption.

Each Joint Statement received feedback from DG SANTE and DG CONECT representatives.

2019 Thematic Network proposals

Following the presentation of the Joint Statements, the chair invited the six leader stakeholder organisations to present their proposals for a 2019 Thematic Network. The six proposed themes for Joint Statements are (per organisation in alphabetical order): **“Deinstitutionalisation and community care (including family-based and home care)”** led by the European Expert Group on the Transition from Institutional to Community based Care’s (EEG); **“Improving Organ Donation and Transplantation in the EU”** led by European Kidney Health Alliance (EKHA); **“Healthcare in cross-border regions”** led by European Regional and Local Health Authorities (EUREGHA); **“Enhancing citizen and patient empowerment and digital health literacy (EDHEAL)”** led by Funka Nu AB; **“Improving access to healthcare for vulnerable and underserved groups”** led by No Body Left Outside Platform (NLO); and **“Improving INtegrated people-centered Solutions Health CAre SOLutions (INCASO)”** led by Mattone Internazionale Salute Programme (ProMIS).

The Thematic Networks cycle will kick off early 2019. The **poll on the themes for 2019 Thematic Networks** is on the EU Health Policy Platform until 6 December. All registered users of the Platform are allowed to vote.

Presentation of Commission initiatives

Ingrid Keller from DG SANTE presented the **Best Practice Portal**. This portal is a "one-stop shop" for consulting good and best practices. Those practices that are selected as "best" against the criteria adopted by the **Steering Group on Prevention and Promotion** are **published on this portal**. DG SANTE has made it

a priority to identify, disseminate and **transfer best practices** in order to make progress in **health promotion** and in **non-communicable disease prevention** in Europe.

Closure

The Chair thanked all participants on-site and watching online for their presence and announced that the **fourth annual meeting of the EU Health Policy Platform** is planned to take place in **September 2019**.

The video recording of the meeting, the poll on proposals for the 2019 Thematic Networks and all presentations will be available in the EU Health Policy Platform (Agora network), under the following link: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/hpf/> (registration required).