

EU Health Policy Platform Annual Meeting

12 November 2018, 9:00 – 16:30

European Commission, Breydel Auditorium, Brussels

On 12 November, the EU Health Policy Platform held its third annual meeting in Brussels. The meeting brought together 150 participants coming from across Europe. Speakers included Thematic Networks leaders as well as high level EC officials including the **Commissioner for Health and Food Safety** (DG SANTE), **Vytienis Andriukaitis** and new **DG SANTE Director General Anne Bucher**.

The event was attended by the **Societal Impact of Pain (SIP) partners** and was represented by **Vittoria Carraro (EFIC)** in the panel discussion and in the presentation of the SIP Thematic Network Joint Statement.

The meeting focused on the following:

- The role of stakeholders in EU health policy and the [EU Policy Platform](#)
- Presentation of the 2018 Thematic Networks and the 2019 Thematic Networks Cycle
- Discussion on the [Best Practice Portal](#)

The role of stakeholders in EU health policy

Discussions were kicked-off by Commissioner Andriukaitis who underlined the key role of stakeholders in helping the EC to define policies, especially when it comes to health. He stressed the importance of having public health present in the next European elections and the need for civil society to actively campaign on health issues to be put on the top of the agenda.

John F. Ryan, Director Public Health, Country Knowledge and Crisis Management (DG SANTE) outlined how new tools such as the EU Policy Platform have changed policy development. The [EU Policy Platform](#) represents a new way of working in the EC, which will involve larger stakeholder involvement in the creation and development of policy through digital collaboration. The Platform provides a constant horizontal dialogue instead of an issue-based one. This includes inputs received by Member States as well and not only from stakeholders present in Brussels.

There were suggestions on how to make the Platform more user-friendly, to be as inclusive as possible to people with different associability or linguistic needs. The EC believes that providing more information about the work the EC will do (i.e., EC work programme) could be a path to explore to further involve stakeholders.

The EU Health Platform is a tool in the hands of stakeholders that can have a key role in view of the definition of the priorities of the upcoming College of Commissioners. To make sure health is a priority heard, the Platform should be sufficiently active. The EC put forward concrete thoughts on how to promote the tools available on the Platform suggesting looking into funds from different envelopes to achieve this objective.

2018 Thematic Networks

The second part of the meeting focused on the presentation of the 2018 Thematic Networks and the 2019 candidates.

The **SIP Joint Statement** was presented by Vittoria Carraro (EFIC) who put forward concrete next steps for the future of the Joint Statement:

- Continued collaboration with the EC and SIP partners and supporters to endorse implementation
- Further endorsement until 31 January 2019
- Ensure a link with SIP activities at national level
- Follow up and continuity through the SIP stakeholder group on the EU Health Policy Platform

The EC positively reacted to it stressing the relevance of the recommendations that will be then taken forward other than committing to raise the issue in other fora such as the Chrodis Plus work package on employment of people with chronic diseases. The EC committed to continue working on the topic after the conclusion of the 2018 Thematic Network cycle.

The three Thematic Networks for 2019 will be announced in December while the Annual meeting will take place in September 2019 (date to be defined).

Best Practice Portal

The meeting was concluded by the presentation of the of the Best Practice Portal for best practice sharing. Participants are encouraged to submit practices, which would then be evaluated based on criteria that have been adopted by the Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases. If the submitted practices meet a threshold, they would be seen as “best” and shared on the [Best Practice Portal](#).

The selected best practices will also be presented to member states. If a group of member state is interested in a particular practice, DG SANTE would assist in finding the right EU funding to support transferring this particular best practice to those member states that are interested in adopting it.