

EuroHealthNet Technical Working Group (TWIG)

Health Systems

I. HS-TWIG Purpose and objectives

The Technical Working Group on Health Systems (HS-TWIG) has been established by EuroHealthNet to support its members' and partners' work in the reorientation of health systems to promote health equity and wellbeing. It will encourage active communication and exchanges on national, regional, local and EU policies and projects. The HS-TWIG will provide an opportunity for experts working in EuroHealthNet member and partner organisations to discuss their work and specific initiatives in the areas of health systems, including their links with inequalities. The discussions will focus on EU-level policy developments in these areas and how partners can benefit from, and contribute to, a wide range of European initiatives.

By joining this TWIG, experts will have access to:

1. Specific updates from our news and information gathering service of developments in the context of EU and WHO policies, programmes and events;
2. Opportunities to inform and advise EuroHealthNet inputs into relevant EU policy, legislation and programmes;
3. Networking and sharing opportunities on what works for sustainable health systems;
4. Opportunities to publicise and promote work being done in their countries, regions and communities;
5. Making requests for support or to build capacities for the reorientation of health systems to promote health equity and wellbeing;
6. Opportunities to advocate for the essential role that health promotion has in making investments in health systems a wise decision.

At the 2015 EuroHealthNet General Council and Annual Meeting, the following topics were suggested for TWIG discussions and exchanges:

1. How to include social determinant indicators in Health Systems Performance Assessments (HSPA);
2. The successful implementation of Health in All Policies (HiAP), how best to link-up health services with other public services such as education and welfare and progress towards integrated social and health services;

3. How to avoid the exclusion of different population groups and link-up the management of health systems in the struggle against poverty and inequalities;
4. How to monitor and evaluate health systems' progress towards cost-effectiveness and greater equity;
5. How to promote the use of standardised, comparable data across Europe on health promotion and its impact on health and equity.

In the past year, EuroHealthNet attended the Belgian Peer Review on Health System Performance Assessment and has worked with the European Commission's Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, and the Social Protection Committee on the Joint Assessment Framework. EuroHealthNet attended the Anti-Poverty Convention with several member agencies and organised a debate on Integrated Care with AGE Platform and Eurodiaconia. An article on these subjects is included in our latest online magazine [here](#).

It is important for all our partners to contribute to the development of the Joint Assessment Framework in the area of health and the Health System Performance to ensure that health inequalities and health promotion interventions are properly considered. With the expertise from partners, we can contribute to using evidence-based approaches within the current debates on sustainable health systems and modern social protection systems.

The HS-TWIG will focus on the following key EU policies:

1. *Joint Assessment Framework in the area of Health;*
2. *EU Health System Performance Assessment (HSPA) initiatives;*
3. *European Commission Communication on effective, accessible and resilient health systems (2014);*
4. *The Social Investment Package (2013) and the modernisation of social protection systems.*

II. HS-TWIG Next Steps in 2015

TWIG participants will soon be contacted by EuroHealthNet to help draft a policy paper on health promoting health systems and for potential participation in EU events related to health systems.

For further information, please contact Ingrid Stegeman: i.stegeman@eurohealthnet.eu

III. Terms of Reference

1. Establishment

A Technical Working Group (TWIG) on Health Systems has been established by the EuroHealthNet Executive Board (EB) with the following objectives:

- (a) To encourage and support thematic collaborations by participants of EuroHealthNet;
- (b) To exchange evidence-based content which may be used for policy, advocacy, project and events purposes;
- (c) To exchange experiences and collect good practices by members and partners and highlight these at EU level;
- (d) To increase awareness and analyse specific European developments in more detail, identify opportunities for collective action and work together on common positions and activities.

2. Accountability

Performance of all TWIGs shall be reviewed annually by the EB. Activities of every TWIG shall be reported to the annual meeting of the General Council, which is responsible for all final decisions on the Annual Work Programme and may vote to continue, redefine the mandate or terminate any TWIG.

3. Participation

Any member or partner body of EuroHealthNet may apply to be part of any TWIG if it wishes. This is voluntary, not compulsory. All members and partners shall be informed of the establishment of all TWIGs upon joining the partnership and annually. The lead contact person for each EuroHealthNet member or partner will be asked to suggest qualified experts in his/her institution who wish to participate. This shall be done separately for each TWIG. More than one expert from each institution in the EuroHealthNet partnership may participate in a group, but it is suggested that a maximum of five people from any one institution should be in any one TWIG. This may include the institution's lead contact person.

Contact details (name, position, organisation, telephone number and email address) shall be provided to the EuroHealthNet office. Any participant may leave the TWIG(s) at any time by providing a written (email) resignation.

4. Rights and benefits

All participants will receive occasional updates from the secretariat on matters relevant to the specific theme of the TWIG. All participants will be included in an online HS-TWIG mailing

list and may share and discuss issues with other participants or request information from them.

Requests will be circulated for comments and inputs on matters for which EuroHealthNet may wish to provide evidence or to generate inputs, for example for EU or WHO consultations, in publications and documents, or for project preparations.

Comments may be provided directly to the secretariat, without public attribution if necessary, and may be shared with other participants or used publicly. Please note that EuroHealthNet habitually uses a standard disclaimer on collective submissions, which clarifies that any member body may choose to vary its own submission.

Online discussions, telephone and video conferences or webinars may be organised by the office or in collaboration with TWIG participants. The Executive Board shall consider requests for convening an annual TWIG meeting with a specific agenda as part of the EuroHealthNet annual meeting or in other events, subject to available resources.

Participants may submit suggestions for topics for joint consideration, or to inform the group of sectoral or geographical initiatives, changes, needs or opportunities.

Participants may initiate the consideration of subjects or items, but may not mandate work by the office or commit resources beyond what has been agreed by the Managing Director and Executive Board as part of the work programme.

5. Commitment and roles

Initially, each TWIG will gather and share information on its subject as set out above. However the aim is to develop towards groups of collective expertise which will proactively develop position statements, anticipate needs and opportunities, be a reliable source of content input and contribute towards achievement of the EuroHealthNet Business Plan and its Strategic Development plan to 2020.

Once critical mass is achieved in an individual TWIG, with at least ten participants from at least five different states, the EB may call for a Convenor to be nominated and elected by TWIG participants to lead the setting of agendas and chairing discussions. The Convenor will also be able to make public statements on behalf of the collectively-agreed positions of the TWIG, but only when a majority of all participants is achieved. The Convenor would be invited to meetings of the EB where the specific TWIG remit and activities are considered and to the Annual Meeting of EuroHealthNet. The secretariat and convenors will remain accountable to the EB and GC as above.