

POLICY AND STRATEGY MEETING 2023

For EuroHealthNet members, associate members, and observers

Friday, 17 February 2023, 9:30-13:00 CET (ONLINE)

The purpose of this meeting is to take stock of the most relevant policy and strategic initiatives of both the EU and the WHO institutions to support achieving health equity. We aim to prioritise, discuss and take decisions on how we can work together to achieve best policy impact across Europe in 2023.

Given the upcoming EU institutional renewal and the constant state of poly-crisis, the meeting will also kick start a participatory process for the EuroHealthNet Partnership to set targets for health and social equity for the post-2023 period.

9:30 **Introduction: Our health equity mission, an accelerator for addressing multiple crises and boosting resilience?**

*Chaired by **Martin Dietrich***

- **Martin Dietrich** President EuroHealthNet – *How do we fare on the EuroHealthNet Strategic Development Plan (2021-2026)*
- **Dorota Sienkiewicz** Policy Manager – *Achievements and policy impacts to date: 2022 in perspective*
- **Caroline Costongs** Director - *Reflecting on our policy objectives and strategising ahead of the EU institutional renewal (2023-2024)*

Discussion

10:00 **Session 1: Improving Health and Social Equity: relevant EU and WHO policy initiatives now and coming up**

*Chaired by **Caroline Costongs***

- **Sandra Gallina**, Director General at DG SANTE - *SANTEs priorities around health equity, health promotion and prevention – the NCDs healthier together initiative – video message*

- **Stefan Olsson** – Deputy Director General at DG EMPL – *A new social contract - the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan half-way, what next?*
- **Oxana Doment**, World Health Organization Representative to the European Union – *Taking forward accelerated actions on health equity: what role for the WHO in the EU policies, where and how Non-state Actors can support*
- **Nina Tegmark Wisell**, Director General, Public Health Agency of Sweden – *Health equity and wellbeing at the forefront of health promotion and prevention in the EU: Sweden's example; public health ambitions for the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the EU*

Discussion

11:00 **Break**

11:15 **Session 2: EuroHealthNet Policy and Strategy Plan 2023**

- **Alison Maassen**, Programme Manager – EuroHealthNet policy and advocacy priorities for EU and WHO & Instructions for the working groups. The aim of the working groups is to discuss, exchange policy actions and define next steps for EuroHealthNet.

Questions for clarification

Round of working groups (11:25 – 12:05)

1. Rising costs of living and catastrophic spending on health

Over the last months, the rising cost of living, threat of poverty and social exclusion have become some of the most pressing worries of many Europeans. The rising prices have impacted equal access, affordability, availability and quality of underlying determinants of health. In consequence, people's physical and mental health may worsen, adding pressure to already overstretched health and social systems. What is the situation in the countries and how do members act? What can we do together and what support is expected from the EU and WHO?

Facilitators: Pia Sundell (Executive Board member) and Dorota Sienkiewicz (Policy Manager)

2. Sustainable food, climate and health – inclusive and socially fair green transition

Firmly rooted in EuroHealthNet's ongoing work on systems-approach to climate, sustainability, air pollution, food, diets and NCDs crises, these issues of concern as well as the emerging policy, practice and research solutions need to be brought to the attention of policy makers. What do members do and what are EuroHealthNet's policy activities in these areas? How can we help support a socially just green transition and promote a One Health approach, contributing to EU and WHO policy actions?

Facilitators: Plamen Dimitrov and Sumina Azam (Executive Board members) and Alba Godfrey (Senior Project Coordinator)

3. Reflecting on eight years of health in the European Semester – what opportunities for achieving a Wellbeing Economy?

Health and social protection system reforms through the European Semester process have taken place in the last years. The indicators to measure social fairness progress have emerged with the Social Scoreboard and EU and national Recovery and Resilience Funds have included health and equity aspects. In the meantime, new concepts of Wellbeing Economies emerged, and are yet to take roots in EU macroeconomic governance. What can be the role of health promotion in these processes and how can we further work together?

Facilitators: Martin Dietrich (President) and Vania Putatti (Policy Coordinator)

4. Taking forward social prescribing and strengthening capacities and skills of health and social services and workforce, and their cooperation in caring communities

The recognition of the potential of innovative models of caring communities and health promoting care and services has been growing. They will lead to better and more equal health and wellbeing across Europe. However, their contribution to resilient health and social systems in the EU has to be strengthened, with substantial investments made towards capacities and skills of the sector. What is needed to scale up social innovation such as social prescribing and health promoting primary care? What are EU and WHO policies in this area and what can we do to support the change and make progress?

Facilitators: Daniela Kállayová (Executive Board member) and Ingrid Stegeman (Programme Manager)

5. Filling the gaps in European health promotion and prevention policy agenda – remaining issues of interest

With a busy European policy agenda, it is of importance not to lose sight off remaining issues of interest for the health promotion and prevention community. Both the WHO Europe and the European Commission have taken up strategies and initiatives on mental health, digital health, migrants and refugees' health, commercial determinants, or behavioural and cultural insights to name but a few. What is our added-value to deliver impact in those important areas of work and how can we best work together?

Facilitators: Raffaella Bucciardini (Executive Board member) and Anne Wagenführ-Leroy (Programme Manager)

Short Plenary feedback round (15 min), moderated by Alison Maassen

12:20 **Session 3: Reflections, Foresight and Target-setting process**

Co-chaired by Martin Dietrich and Caroline Costongs

- **Pia Sundell**, Vice-President EuroHealthNet, -WHY?- The need to define our collective vision, priorities and targets ahead of the EU elections
- **Mojca Gabrijelcic**, Honorary Advisor EuroHealthNet, -HOW?- Proposals for the EuroHealthNet Foresight Exercise and participatory approach
- **Sumina Azam**, Vice-President EuroHealthNet, -WHAT?- First outline for a useful and attractive Outcome and Advocacy statement (2023-24) with targets

Open discussion moderated by co-chairs

Concluding words

Martin Dietrich, President EuroHealthNet

Caroline Costongs, Director EuroHealthNet

13:00 **End of meeting**