

## MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

Berlin, 21 March, 9.00 – 18.00

### Summary Report

The Steering Committee meeting of the EPAAC Joint Action was co-chaired by Mr. Martin Seychell, Deputy Director General of DG Sanco, and Ms. Marija Seljak, Director of the National Institute of Public Health Slovenia.

The first agenda point was reporting from the Coordination and individual Work Packages. All Work Packages are involved in the preparation of the first Interim Report following the conclusion of the first year of the Partnership. A GANTT chart has also been constructed and following final coordination with the Work Packages, will be published on the EPAAC website to ensure a full overview and transparency of all EPAAC deliverables. The programmes and logistical preparations for the European Week Against Cancer Conference (31 May – 1 June, Rome) and the Open Forum on Cancer Promotion & Prevention and Cancer Information and Data (19-20 June, Rome) were also presented; detailed information on these events will be available on the website shortly, information on the Poster Competition occurring as a part of the EWAC 2012 conference is available at this link:

<http://www.europeancancerleagues.org/>

The Quality Criteria for Health Checks initiative was also presented (part of WP 6) and the information on this action is also available on the website: <http://www.epaac.eu/events-and-meetings/4-past-events/56-kick-off-meeting-of-quality-criteria-for-health-checks>, as well as the Conference on European Standards of Care for Children with Cancer (part of WP 7) - <http://www.epaac.eu/news/53-conference-on-european-standards-of-care-for-children-with-cancer>.

The status of the final version of the Preliminary Report on National Cancer Plans was presented by the WP 10 Leader, Tit Albrecht. Two additional weeks will be allowed for comments. The final version of the Preliminary Report is expected to be ready in April and available internally for EPAAC; it will also be circulated to the Council Senior Level Working Party on Public Health. The publication of a book as a follow-up of this report, among other EPAAC deliverables, was also discussed; it was agreed that work on the book should be finalised by mid-2013. A structure for this book will be proposed at the next Steering Committee meeting.

WP 9 presented their proposal for a future European Cancer Information System to the Steering Committee. Despite support for this general concept, some concerns were voiced regarding the implementation of this system. The issue of governance of data in the draft document needs to be resolved as well as some other open issues voiced by several participants. All agreed that a high consensus among all relevant stakeholders needs to be reached. A keen interest was expressed in building consensus and it was proposed that the WP 9 partners discuss the document internally as well as coordinate it with other relevant stakeholders in the field. The Joint Research Centre - Institute for Health and Consumer Protection was identified as being the institution that would be well equipped to oversee such a consolidated cancer information system. The sensitivity of this topic, due to its reliance on country-specific data, was recognised by all participants. Due to this, it was agreed

that further internal coordination of the document and concept will be necessary, with a proposal for the concept to be presented to stakeholders at the Open Forum in Rome for discussion.

The Joint Research Centre – Institute for Health and Consumer Protection updated the participants on the initiatives taken so far for setting out the framework necessary for implementing the activities in cancer information and screening area. In relation to "First voluntary EU Accreditation Scheme for breast cancer services" project JRC-IHCP intends to use EPAAC Member States' representatives as the contact points for further information and at the same time the Council Senior Level Working Party on Public Health will be informed of the plans.

The EU Rare Diseases Policy was also presented, where the link between rare disease and cancer policy was stressed. The Rare Diseases policy was a product of an internal reflection process within the EU and resulted in the wish to improve the interface of work on cancer.

The penultimate agenda point focused on the active engagement of Steering Committee members in a strategic discussion on EU cancer policy beyond 2014. The focus of the discussion was to explore how EPAAC and in general EU work on cancer could continue following the conclusion of the EPAAC Joint Action financing mechanism in 2014. Participants and in particular Member State representatives were prompted to state where added value could be found by continuous cooperation on EU level and explore options for effective and sustainable ways forward. The Steering Committee was divided into three groups in order to facilitate easier discussion. This discussion served as a brainstorming session for the way ahead and these were the conclusions made after this first discussion on the issue:

- Priority: identification of key areas for action based on EPAAC evaluation
- Structure consolidation through continuation of JA in select areas based on EPAAC evaluation
- Network as long-term structure (possible examples: EUCERD/body of Member States' representatives, advisory groups, involvement of other stakeholders)
- Set up of chronic disease umbrella including cancer (both support and opposition in the discussion)
- Development of European standards
- Clear political and infrastructural support of EC

Finally, under AOB, the Danish representative presented an update regarding the Danish Presidency of the Council of the EU. Professor Moreno also spoke on behalf of WHO Europe and presented the work of the WHO on non-communicable diseases including cancer in 2012 and stressed the opportunities for collaboration and joint advocacy. The participants were briefly informed on the current situation of the proposal for the revision of Data Protection Directive.

The next Steering Committee meeting is provisionally scheduled to take place in Athens, Greece in October 2012.