MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON NATIONAL CANCER PLANS

Luxembourg, 22 January 2014, 14.00 – 18.15

Summary Report

The meeting of the Working Group on National Cancer Plans of the EPAAC Joint Action was co-chaired by Dr. Tit Albreht, Leader of Work Package 10 (National Cancer Plans), and Mr. Michael Huebel, Head of Health Programme and Diseases Unit, DG Sanco who welcomed the participants.

After a short introduction Dr. Tit Albreht presented the agenda. Minutes from the last Working Group (WG) meeting and last Core Working Group (CWG) meeting were the first agenda point. He pointed out the main conclusion from the previous meetings. The European Guide for Quality National Cancer Control Programmes (the Guide on NCCPs) as the main deliverable of Work Package 10 should be a short document for policy makers and their advisors and not one heavily loaded with references and scientific evidence. He also repeated the statement that the Guide should standardise the format of NCCPs, make them comparable, understandable, it should be a synopsis, framework or policy brief, very practical and focused. Discussing the indicators Dr. Albreht explained that CWG members tried to include indicators recommended by the previous projects. Regarding the authorship he informed the WG members that it was agreed that all the authors will be listed together at the beginning of the Guide and not in the chapters because of the fact that CWG members participated with their comments in all chapters. Mr. Karl Freese will be contacted and kindly asked to review the Guide. European Commission was suggested as the new owner of the Guide in the future. Mr. Huebel agreed with this and commented that the Guide represents an important assistance to Member States in tackling cancer.

The Guide was presented and discussed chapter by chapter. All suggestions expressed by WG members were taken into consideration. Percentage of patients referred to treatment to other countries was suggested as indicator to be included in the chapter Diagnosis and treatment. It was suggested to rename two institutions in the chapter Data and information. The participants agreed that the Guide should not be a benchmarking tool and that it is not a good idea to compare countries using this tool.

The final steps for WP 10 was the last content agenda point. Among final steps Dr. Albreht stated the finalisation of the text of the Guide including the suggestions (he proposed 28 January 2014 as deadline for the final comments from the MSs), obtainment of the review of the Guide and delivery of the final version of the text by February 2014. He concluded that preparation of the Guide was an excellent experience and a very good base for the future work in the field of cancer. In the opinion of the chairs and WG members the work should be continued in JA CANCON.