



# NFP4Health

## TASK 4.4

### D 4.8 Map of key sources



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## Task 4.4 “EU Coordination in the Health Field”- Deliverable 4.8 “Map of key sources”

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## ABSTRACT

This document has been elaborated in the context of the Joint Action NFP4Health (Grant Agreement no. 101035965); it is one of the key activities of WP4 that focuses on analysing, testing and/or improving existing and new roles/actions/paths of the National Focal Point (NFP) in order to support the effective and sustainable implementation of the EU4Health programme at national level. The overall objective of Task 4.4 is to provide concrete steps that improve cooperation between NFPs and major European stakeholders in the health field. The main goal is to improve the efficiency of NFPs when delivering on their core tasks, based on the NFP Profile elaborated by Task 4.1.

This report lists the principal stakeholders and analyses the pertinence for NFP to establish a collaboration with these entities. The deliverable has been drafted using different sources of information, public information available on each entity as well as insights and personal experience of NFPs involved in the drafting of this report.

The report also provides a concise illustration that maps these stakeholders according to their importance for NFPs and sets the stage for deliverable II of task 4.1 that will provide operational steps that will help improving information gathering for NFPs as well as general collaboration between NFPs and the concerned stakeholders.

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## STATEMENT OF ORIGINALITY

This deliverable contains original unpublished work except where clearly indicated otherwise. Acknowledgement of previously published material and of the work of others has been made through appropriate citation, quotation, or both.

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## 1- Introduction

The EU4Health programme was adopted as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic with the overall objective to reinforce crisis preparedness in the EU. The pandemic highlighted the fragility of national health systems. The EU4Health programme aims at contributing to the long-term health challenges by building stronger, more resilient, and more accessible health systems.

Since 2014, given the importance of the Health Programme's objectives, EU Member States and participating countries have designated National Focal Points (NFPs) to assist the Commission in the promotion of the 3rd Programme for the Union's action in the field of health (2014-2020) established by Regulation (EU) No 282/2014, and, where relevant, in the dissemination of its results and the information available on its impact in the Member States and participating countries. Through the appointment of NFPs, Member States intend to boost European cooperation, while enhancing an increasing participation in the Programme at national level. This deliverable should be seen as a first step to further improve the functioning of NFPs.

## 2- Objectives of the Deliverable

The EU4Health National Focal Points (NFPs) representatives' actions aim at achieving EU4Health programme's objectives, notably through increased participation and success rate of national beneficiaries in the programme. Acting as the national experts for the Health Programme in EU- and associated countries, the NFPs support the Programme implementation by ensuring equitable participation in it and the dissemination of its results.

In order to be able to achieve this function, NFPs need to gain access to first-hand information from EU stakeholders in charge of shaping European public health policy. Furthermore, one of the general objectives of this Joint Action is not only to strengthen cooperation and information exchange between National Focal Points and other key stakeholders in the health field under the new EU4Health programme, but also to improve the channelling of information to potential beneficiaries for EU4Health related projects and actions.

This deliverable will represent the first step towards achieving these objectives, as it will try to map all relevant sources of information in the health field that could help improve the functioning of NFPs. The end goal would be to facilitate communication, information and dissemination with the stakeholders identified as part of this mapping exercise. While mapping these stakeholders, we will evaluate the pertinence for NFPs to establish a cooperation with each identified stakeholder.

## 3- Methodology



First of all, we will list all relevant stakeholders and regroup them thematically according to the sector to which they belong, using mainly the 4 main thematic strands of the 2021-2027 EU4Health Programme. Furthermore, we will evaluate the importance for NFPs to establish a cooperation with the concerned stakeholder according to the following 3 key criteria:

1. Mandate of the stakeholder

What are the functions and missions of this stakeholder in the field of health and how strongly are they related to the objectives of the EU4Health Programme? To which EU-body does the stakeholder belong (Council/Parliament/ Commission / other)?

2. Interconnection with the role of NFPs

To what extent do interconnections exist between the mandate of the stakeholder on the one hand and the role and tasks of NFPs as discussed in the NFP-Profile on the other hand?

3. Evaluation of the pertinence to establish collaboration for NFPs with this stakeholder

How pertinent would it be for NFPs to establish a collaboration with the concerned stakeholder? The pertinence to establish a collaboration will be analysed by considering the following questions:

In general terms – Would the cooperation help implementing the 4 overall objectives of the EU4Health programme?

- 1) Improve and strengthen health in the EU
- 2) Combating cross border health threats
- 3) Enhance medications, medical devices and lifesaving products in a crisis
- 4) Strengthening health systems and their resilience

In specific terms – Would the cooperation support the Programme's implementation by ensuring equitable participation to the Programme on national level and the dissemination of its results, channelling of information to potential beneficiaries of the programme as well as increasing awareness of the programme among these EU stakeholders? What would be the practical implications of such a cooperation?

In a second step, we will try to organise these stakeholders cartographically by producing an overall map that also classifies the pertinence for NFPs to develop a collaboration with each stakeholder.

#### 4- Functional Tasks of NFPs

Before starting the actual mapping activity, we would like to recall the principal tasks of National Focal Points, as established by the NFP-Profil deliverable under task 4.1 of this Work-Package. These NFP core tasks form the basis of our further stakeholder analysis:

##### Informing and awareness raising

- a) Promulgate general and specific documentation on the EU4Health Programme (Related strategic documents, Annual Work Programme, Stakeholders Consultations and any other document published by the European Commission and/or by HaDEA.)
- b) Organize promotional events and info days at the national level with the aim to:
  - promote the Annual Work Programme – in liaison the European Commission and the European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA).
  - disseminate the results
  - inform on the impact generated by the Programme at the national level.
- c) Raise awareness of:
  - Funding opportunities under the EU4Health Programme published in the [Funding&Tenders Portal](#)
  - Synergies with other health related programmes at European/national level and improve cooperation with national and European key stakeholders.

##### Support and capacity building

- a) Support potential applicants with the participation to the Programme aiming at increasing the participation and the performance
- b) Explain the scope and the modalities of types of action foreseen in EU4Health as well as ensuring that the proposals fall under the financial framework
- c) When appropriate, organise courses and training sessions to strengthen the knowledge of relevant stakeholders
- d) Report to the European Commission the results, opportunities and difficulties encountered by applicants to participate and make proposals for improvement purposes.

##### Transnational Information Gathering and Networking

- a) Considering the collaborative nature of EU Programmes and the European Health Union's objective and the Health in All Policies (HiAP) approach and intersectoral action capacities, NFPs should participate actively in transnational networks (according to each national ecosystem in each MS) /European platforms in the field (NFPs Interaction Platform, EU Health Policy Platform. Etc.) and develop mutually supporting relationships.
- b) Furthermore, they should obtain first-hand information needed to effectively support implementing the EU4Health programme from relevant committees and expert groups that are involved in the set



up and implementation of actions foreseen under the annual EU4Health programmes, where possible through formalized cooperation with these entities.

## 5- Listing of Major Stakeholders (Regrouped according to the 4 major objectives of the EU4Health Programme)

### 0) EU4Health Comitology – Transversal scope spanning across the 4 major objectives of the EU4Health Programme

#### **European Commission - EU4Health Steering Group and Programme Committee**

##### **a) Mandate**

- The EU4Health “Steering Group” and “Programme Committee” were set up by Regulation 2021/522 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 March 2021 on establishing a Programme for the Union’s action in the field of health (‘EU4Health Programme’) in its Article 15. Both bodies are chaired by DG Santé and allow for Member States to provide expertise to the Commission, when setting up and implementing annual Work Programmes. Each Member State nominates national representatives to both bodies that work towards ensuring consistency and complementarity between the Member States’ health policies as well as between the Programme and other policies, instruments and actions of the Union, including those relevant to the Union agencies. They also follow up on the effective implementation of the Programme and propose any necessary adjustments.
- While the Steering Group intervenes in the early drafting process of annual work programmes, the Programme Committee is primarily in charge of adopting the finalized work programme.
- Provides expertise to the Commission when preparing and implementing the EU4Health annual work programmes.

##### **b) Interconnection with Role of NFPs:**

- NFPs have an important role to play with regards to the implementation of the EU4Health annual work programme, as they are charged with promoting and promulgating the final document and the specific funding opportunities that it contains
- The Programme Committee and Steering Group meetings are important occasions, where key information is shared by the Commission on the adoption and implementation of current and past work programmes.





**c) Pertinence to establish collaboration for NFPs with this stakeholder:**

- **Very Strong 9** – besides playing an important role in the drafting and adoption of work programmes, meetings of the Steering Group and Programme Committee provide national stakeholders with important information on the implementation of the EU4Health work programme, such as data on the mobilization of programme beneficiaries or information with regards to the realization of key programme objectives
- It would be pertinent improve collaboration, in order to allow for NFPs to directly obtain information provided to Member States via these committees.

**I) EU4Health objective I - Improve and strengthen health in the EU**

**European Commission Expert Group on Public Health (PHEG) - formerly Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases (SGPP)**

**a) Mandate**

- The “Public Health Expert Group” (PHEG) was set up in December 2022 to replace the Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases(SGPP). The new expert group will advise the Commission on actions and initiatives, promote coordination between the Member States, address major public health challenges in the Union.
- Sub-groups on cancer and non-communicable diseases, which were set up under the SGPP, should continue as sub-groups under the PHEG. Additionally, DG SANTE may set up sub-groups for the purpose of examining specific questions, such as an Expert Group on Mental Health that was recently set up.
- The Expert Group is chaired by the Commission and the members are representatives of the Member States.
- The Expert Group provides advice and expertise to the Commission on developing and implementing activities in the field of health promotion, disease prevention and the management of non-communicable diseases. Its scope will no longer be limited to non-communicable diseases, as it will also address other major health challenges, such as communicable diseases including HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and hepatitis as well as related challenges including vaccination and antimicrobial resistance.
- It also fosters exchanges of relevant experience, policies and practices between the Member States. As part of the process, the Commission presents to the Expert Group tested policies and approaches selected according to national and EU priorities and based on agreed-upon criteria. EU countries indicate which of these they are interested in implementing or scaling-up. The Commission launches open calls for best practices according to priorities of the Expert Group. The calls can be accessed on the Best Practice Portal. The Commission then identifies the best ways to support the implementation of these policies, using all available instruments at the Commission's disposal.



- Governs the Market Place of Good Practices for the Prevention of Non-Communicable Diseases

**b) Interconnection with Role of NFPs:**

- NFPs take up an important role in the setup phase of Joint Actions. They directly or indirectly help identify good practices on the national level that could be shared on the European level and picked up in future Joint Actions
- The PHEG is an important tool used by the Commission to communicate on funding opportunities under the EU4Health programme and promotes participation in EU4Health Joint Actions, especially through the sub-groups (currently are set up one Subgroup on Cancer and one on Mental Health). Numerous joint actions have been presented within the PHEG and its predecessor, the SGPP.

**c) Pertinence to establish collaboration for NFPs with this stakeholder:**

- **Strong 8** - obtaining via NFPs a better knowledge on how to submit and select good practices through the Market Place tool would help support potential applicants that wish to participate in the EU4Health Programme as these good practices are often included in future Joint Action and Action Grants.
- Furthermore, there is a strong interrelation with NFP core functions, when it comes to communicating funding opportunities and participation in Joint Actions, as these information are provided in meetings of the committee or its sub-groups. Thus, there exists specific added value for NFPs in establishing a common line of communication with the committee and its sub-groups on a European level, in addition to information flows that may already exist at the national level.

**European Parliament - Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) and its subcommittee on public health**

**a) Mandate**

- European Parliament Committee “on the environment, public health and food safety” has over 80 members of parliament and maintains relations with major European health stakeholders, such as ECDC, ECHA, EEA, EFSA and EMA.
- While the ENVI Committee puts a strong focus on environmental policy, it is also responsible for (assisted by a subcommittee on public health) :
  - “programmes and specific actions in the field of public health”
  - “pharmaceutical and cosmetic products”
  - “health aspects of bioterrorism”
  - “the European Medicine Agency (EMA) and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)”

**b) Interconnection with NFPs**



- The European Parliament ENVI Committee can have a crucial role in the context of negotiations for the annual EU4Health work programme and its budget
- In the past, the ENVI committee has suggested specific actions to be included in the new work programme. The committee can also influence the budget of the annual work programmes.
- The ENVI Committee could become an important possible partner for NFPs.

#### **c) Pertinence to establish collaboration for NFPs with this stakeholder**

- **Medium 6** - Suggested pertinence of collaboration
- In general, a possible collaboration could benefit the implementation of all four EU4Health objectives.
- In specific terms, the ENVI Committee can become an important stakeholder for cooperation. A collaboration could be beneficial for broader topics regarding programming or budget as well as more specific suggestions for actions. Also NFP also stakeholders

### II) EU4Health Objective II - Combating cross border health threats

#### **European Commission - Health Security Committee (HSC)**

##### **a) Mandate :**

- The EU Health Security Committee was set up in 2001 at the request of EU Health Ministers as an informal advisory group on health security at European level
- The 2013 Decision 1082/2013/EU formalised its role, while the 2022 Cross-Boarder-Health-Threat Regulation further strengthen its role.
- The Committee is mandated to reinforce the coordination and sharing of best practices and information on national preparedness activities. Member States also consult each other within the Committee with a view to coordinating national responses to serious cross border threats to health, including events declared a public health emergency of international concern by the World Health Organisation in accordance with the International Health Regulations.
- The Committee further deliberates on communication messages to health care professionals and the public in order to provide consistent and coherent information adapted to Member States' needs and circumstances. It is chaired by a representative of the Commission, which also provides the secretariat.

##### **b) Interconnection with Role of NFPs:**

- An important part of the EU4Health budget is allocated to the prevention of and response to cross border health threats (358 M Euros out of 735 M Euros for the 2023 programme)
- Major joint actions and direct grants other than joint actions in the field of health security have first been discussed in the HSC in order to identify national stakeholders and assure strong Member State participation in these programmes (Example: the 50M Euros joint Action on



antimicrobial resistance focusing on national action plan has first been discussed in the HSC with France taking up coordination role within a HSC meeting dedicated to this joint action). Also grants dedicated to civil society entities have been discussed within the HSC, such as action grants in context of the ongoing Ukrainian refugee crisis

- National Focal Points have an important role to play in the set-up of Joint Actions and the identification of funding opportunities for national stakeholders

**c) Pertinence to establish collaboration for NFPs with this stakeholder:**

- **Strong 7** – HSC as well as NFPs would indeed benefit from establishing a collaboration. Participation of NFPs in HSC-meetings would notably be pertinent, when specific projects and funding opportunities in relation to the EU4Health programme are being discussed within the HSC

## ECDC Management Board

**a) Mandate**

- ECDC is an independent EU Agency that reports to a Management Board whose members are nominated by the Member States, the European Parliament and the European Commission.
- **The ECDC Management Board:** Ensures the Centre carries out its mission and tasks in line with the founding regulation. It also approves and monitors implementation of ECDC's work programme and budget. Furthermore, it adopts its annual report and accounts, acts as the governing body of the Centre and meets at least twice a year and also appoints the Director.
- **The ECDC Advisory Forum:** is composed of senior representatives of national public health institutes and agencies, nominated by the Member States on the basis of their scientific competence, and a public health official from the European Commission. The European scientific associations and civil society groups also send observers to the Advisory Forum.
- The ECDC Founding Regulation states that ECDC in its relations with the Member States cooperates with the competent bodies operating in the technical field of ECDC, in particular in the area of surveillance (article 3, paragraph 2), responses to health threats (article 4), scientific opinions, scientific and technical assistance, collection of data and identification of emerging health threats (article 5, paragraph 4) and public information campaigns (article 12, paragraph 3).
- Since 2012, a system is in place with a designated Coordinating Competent Body (CCB) in each Member State. Interactions between ECDC and the CCBs work at three levels based on a chain of delegations:
  - **High-level relational and coordination interactions** between ECDC and the CCBs works at the level of a National Coordinator.
  - **Strategic and overarching interactions related to a specific disease group or public health function** works at the level of National Focal Points.
  - **Technical and operational interactions related to specific area within the domains of a disease group or public health function** works at the level of the Operational Contact Points.



- **Public Health Unit Functions:** This Unit is responsible for the delivery of ECDC's statutory public health functions. The Unit works closely with the disease programmes as it provides the data for the respective disease-specific outputs and needs the input from the DPs for the respective specific emergency preparedness and training needs.

**b) Interconnection with the role of NFPs:**

- ECDC is one of the few actors to do indirect management of actions or funds under EU4Health. They are taking active part in several joint actions and other direct grants, currently implemented under the EU4Health programme.

**c) Pertinence to establish collaboration for NFPs with this stakeholder:**

- **Medium – 5** Within the Public Health Unit, the ECDC is aiming at focusing on the emergency preparedness and response support. Considering that crisis preparedness is an overarching strand of the Work Programmes, depending on national structures, ECDC also could provide information to NFPs on national expert contacts. Furthermore, ECDC has in the past been Stakeholder in several Joint Actions. On the other hand, it is not a formal platform for information sharing on future action of the EU4Health programme.

**European Commission - Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA) Comitology: HERA Board, HERA Health Crisis Board, HERA Coordination Committee**

**a) Mandate**

- The Health Emergency Preparedness and Response (HERA) is Directorate-General within the European Commission, which mission is to prevent, detect, and rapidly respond to health emergencies
- HERA was created in 2022 at the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and will anticipate future threats and potential health crises, through intelligence gathering and building the necessary response capacities.
- When an emergency hits, HERA will ensure the development, production and distribution of medicines, vaccines and other medical countermeasures – such as gloves and masks – that were often lacking during the first phase of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and has two operating modes :
  - o **During the preparedness phase** HERA will work closely with Member States to analyse, identify, and priorities possible health threats. This will be the basis for strategic coordination for the development of medical countermeasures, and the industrial capacity to produce and supply those countermeasures.



- **During the crisis phase**, HERA will rely on its anticipatory overall management system and deploy it in the context of an emergency framework activated by the Council on a proposal of the Commission where that is appropriate to the economic situation.
- HERA is designed to be a flexible structure and will be adapted as required. Its particularity is the governance change when in preparedness phase and when in crisis phase. Member States and other stakeholders participate in its decision making process via different committees :
  - **The HERA Board** brings together European Commission expertise and senior Member States representatives. The Board will contribute to the preparation of multiannual strategic planning, which will help set HERA's objectives and shape the strategic direction of both EU and national health preparedness and response actions.
  - In the event of a public health emergency, the Council can immediately activate HERA's emergency phase, where this is appropriate to the economic situation. During the emergency phase, **the Health Crisis Board** chaired by the President of the European Commission will be mandated to ensure coordinated action by the Commission, the relevant Union agencies and bodies, and Member States to ensure the supply of and access to medical countermeasures
  - As HERA is set-up as an internal Commission entity, it is governed by a **HERA Coordination Committee**, composed of high-level Commission representatives

**b) Interconnection with Role of NFPs:**

- As HERA has not been issued a dedicated funding, its budget of €6 billion is sourced by existing programmes of the current Multiannual Financial Framework (2021-2027), notably EU4Health; as a consequence an important part of EU4Health grants are, including grants for national beneficiaries, are earmarked as funds related to HERA's activities. HERA also supervises major procurement activities and publishes multiple calls to national service providers
- Furthermore, the annual Hera work programmes, that are adopted via the HERA board, set up major grants and activities, including projects dedicated to national beneficiaries, that are funding through the EU4Health programme and are including in the annual EU4Health programmes
- National Focal Points have an important role to play in the set-up of Joint Actions and the identification of funding opportunities for national stakeholders, including private entities that compete for procurements rolled out under the EU4Health programme

**c) Pertinence to establish collaboration for NFPs with this stakeholder:**

- **Strong 7** – NFPs would indeed benefit from establishing a collaboration with HERA. Participation of NFPs would notably be pertinent, when specific projects and funding opportunities in relation to the EU4Health programme are being discussed within the Hera Board as part of the drafting of annual Hera Work programmes. Regarding HERA's activities as triggered by the crisis mode, it seems that it would not be pertinent for NFPs to develop a dedicated exchange of information. NFP could also advice national Hera board member with setting up of the annual programme, giving feedback on the state of implementation of grants that are being implemented on national level. Finally, NFPs could improve awareness of procurements opportunities published by HERA



that target private service providers. In the past, calls like the feasibility study for the HERA IT Platform have been unsuccessful due to a lack of proposals by private service providers.

## European Council - Integrated Political Crisis Response Mechanism(IPCR)

### a) Mandate

- The integrated political crisis response (IPCR) arrangements support rapid and coordinated decision-making at EU political level for major and complex crises, including trans-border health threats.
- In times of crisis, the presidency of the Council brings together key actors, notably from EU institutions and affected Member States, to ensure coordination and address gaps.
- The Council's crisis coordination mechanism can be triggered either by the Presidency or following the invocation of the solidarity clause by a Member State.
- The IPCR mechanism supports the Council Presidency, the Committee of Permanent Representatives of the governments of the Member States to the European Union (Coreper) and the EU Council, by providing concrete tools to:
  - o streamline information sharing
  - o facilitate collaboration
  - o coordinate crisis response at political level.

### b) Interconnection with Role of NFPs:

- The ICPR has a role of political coordination among EU stakeholders in times of imminent crisis, it does not discuss any funding opportunities within the EU4Health programme or has a direct influence on the drafting of the annual work programmes
- NFPs do not directly intervene in coordination of political decision making in health crisis settings

### c) Pertinence to establish collaboration for NFPs with this stakeholder:

- **Low 2** – NFPs would not gain essential information from establishing a cooperation with the ICPR that is only activated in crisis mode.

## III) EU4Health Objective III - Enhance medications, medical devices and lifesaving products in a crisis

### EMA Management Board





#### a) Mandate

- The Management Board consists of one representative of each Member State, two representatives of the Commission, two representatives of the European Parliament, two representatives of patients' organisations, one representative of doctors' organisations and one representative of veterinarians' organisations appointed for a term of three years, which may be renewed.
- The Management Board is the European Medicines Agency's integral governance body. It has a supervisory role with general responsibility for budgetary and planning matters, the appointment of the Executive Director and the monitoring of the Agency's performance.
- The Board sets the Agency's budget, approves the annual work programme and is responsible for ensuring that the Agency works effectively and co-operates successfully with partner organisations across the EU and beyond.
- Furthermore, the work of the European Medicines Agency is to facilitate the development and access to medicines; to evaluate applications for marketing authorisation; to monitor the safety of medicines across their lifecycle and to provide information to healthcare professionals and patients. To fulfil its mission, the EMA works closely with national competent authorities in a regulatory network.
- EMA has daily contact with the Commission's **Directorate General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE)**, which deals with issues concerning the regulation of medicines. DG SANTE is represented on EMA's Management Board and its officials regularly attend the Agency's scientific and stakeholder meetings as observers.
- EMA participates in the European Commission's pharmaceutical committees and relevant expert groups for human and veterinary medicines and its Health Security Committee.
- EMA also provides input to the Commission on major European public health issues, including support for drafting relevant legislation.

#### b) Interconnection with Role of NFPs:

- Possible interconnection could be established through the medicines regulatory network: identify priorities at technical level, that can be communicated through the EU4Health Steering Group
- Through the EMA's Stakeholders and Communication Division: the work of the Division is to manage relations with and information to patients and healthcare professionals and coordinates medicines information in the European medicines regulatory network. NFP could become another partner and use this fora to identify new stakeholders and potential applicants.

#### c) Pertinence to establish collaboration for NFPs with this stakeholder:

- **Medium 5** – NFP could use this channel to support priorities identified by the national stakeholders. As well, through the Division and related expert network, the NFPs could find pertinent stakeholders and disseminate information and results. There is a chance for NFPs to become aware of pertinent national stakeholders that interact with EMA on a regular basis. EMA is also involved in several actions and grants under the current programme. On the other hand, to our knowledge, no specific funding opportunities under the EU4Health programme are being discussed by the EMA Management Board





#### IV) EU4Health Objective IV - Strengthening health systems and their resilience

##### **European Commission - Expert Group on Health Systems Performance Assessment (HSPA)**

###### **a) Mandate**

- The Commission established the Expert Group on Health System Performance Assessment in 2014 with the aim to strengthen the efficiency and resilience of Member States' health systems.
- It is mandated to focus each year on a priority policy area identified as strategically relevant, or with the potential for most impact, and to identify tools and methodologies to support national policy makers in developing HSPA in that specific area.
- The HSPA is co-chaired by a Member State representative and a representative from the Commission. The participation in the Expert Group is voluntary.
- The HSPA provides EU countries with a forum for exchange of experiences and best practices and promotes strategic innovation and transformation to strengthen health systems.
- In addition to experts from the Member States, international organisations as the World Health Organisation, the Organization of Economic Co-Operation and Development as well as the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies are members.
- The Expert Group supports tailored activities in countries that are interested, in undertaking performance assessment at national level. These include seminars and workshops to engage policy makers and take place at the request of national authorities.

###### **b) Interconnection with Role of NFPs:**

- To strengthening national health systems in the Member States is one of the four overall objectives of the EU4Health and the programme provides substantial funding in this field. The HSPA is an important tool to strengthen the national health systems in the Member States and the only current for a on EU-level to discuss policy related to health systems. The NFPs directly or indirectly help identify best or promising practices in health care on national level that could be rolled out on the European level and implemented via different funding mechanisms in EU4Health.

###### **c) Pertinence to establish collaboration for NFPs with this stakeholder:**

- **Medium (5-6)** - The pandemic has showed how important resilient health systems are, and HSPA is a vital tool to strengthen the effect of the health system in the Member States The NFP have knowledge on how to implement the different funding mechanisms and could support the



possible applicants in Member States in this topic. Also the HSPA has been used by Member States to present initiatives for new Joint Actions.

## **European Council - Informal Working Group of the Presidency on Global Health**

### **a) Mandate**

- The group is chaired by the current EU Presidency.
- Under the Finish Presidency, the informal working group on the EU's role in Global Health was started in 2019. The aim of the working group is to exchange thoughts and ideas on current Global Health issues and on how the EU and its Member States could position themselves more strategically in the Global Health arena.
- Under the Swedish Presidency the working group will be continued. Parallel to the formalised working groups (public health and medical devices), this informal group gives a platform to discuss global health policy among Member States in a more informal way. A formalisation of the working group was discussed during the last meeting of the group in December 2022, without a final result.
- Since the European Commission has published the new EU Global Health strategy on November 30<sup>th</sup> 2022, the topic of Global Health has become a more pressing issue. Concerning the implementation of the new EU Global Health strategy, the European Commission has identified the EU4Health programme as an important instrument for future activities in this field. Under the EU4Health work programme 2023, one Joint Action has been dedicated to Global Health coordination among Member States. First discussions among Member States about this Joint Action were held in the context of the informal working group on Global Health.

### **b) Interconnection with Role of NFPs**

- Interconnections with the specific tasks of NFPs are not apparent. Indirectly, NFPs could benefit from the information gained during discussions in the informal working group. Future activities under EU4Health in the context of Global Health will most likely be discussed in this group. The informal nature of the working group might mean a more easy access for NFPs to cooperate with the stakeholder on specific topics.
- Whether the informal working group on Global Health becomes more relevant for NFPs depends on the extend of Global Health related activities in future EU4Health annual work programmes.

### **c) Pertinence to establish collaboration for NFPs with this stakeholder**

- In general, a possible collaboration could benefit the implementation of all the EU4Health objectives activities in the context of Global Health, especially on programming level.



- In specific terms, specific benefits from a cooperation between NFPs and the informal working group can mainly be seen in the information gained from policy discussions among Member States. Other possible EU4Health beneficiaries, besides Member States and related public authorities, will probably not benefit from a collaboration.
- **Suggested pertinence of collaboration = 3-4 (Low)** - with a possibility that topic will lose importance in the upcoming years

#### V) EU4Health Overarching Strand - Digital

#### **European Commission - eHealth Stakeholder Group**

##### **a) Mandate:**

- **Mission:** The primary purpose of the Group is to provide advice and expertise, contributing to policy development and the implementation of the Communication on enabling the digital transformation of health and care in the Digital Single Market. The Group shall also foster coordination and cooperation with stakeholders, serving as a forum to discuss topics and address important issues relevant to legislation or policy related to eHealth and to the implementation of the Communication.
- **Members:** NGOs, professionals' and business/trade associations and unions, think tanks, academic/research institutions, companies.

##### **b) Interconnection with role of NFPs:**

- The transversal digital strand is a key thematic area for the EU4Health programme. Grants and Procurements in the area of E-Health and more specifically the creation of the European Health Data Space will take up an ever increasing role within the current and future working programmes.

##### **c) Pertinence to establish collaboration for NFPs with this stakeholder:**

- **Medium 4-5:** advisory function to the European Commission on digital transformation/eHealth policy development, therefore potentially relevant in the same vein as PHEG and their sub-groups (however, stakeholder representatives, not Member States/country representatives participate in this group) since influence is exerted on one core thematic area of EU4Health programming (Digital strand). This could also be an important fora for NFPs in order to identify national stakeholders as potential beneficiaries of the programme.



## European Commission - eHealth Network

### **a) Mandate:**

- **Mission:** It was founded on the basis of Article 14 of the cross-border healthcare directive. The form in which the eHN will be continued is currently being discussed. In the X-eHealth project, a Working Package worked on proposing a sustainable governance structure for it. In more technical projects, it was usually the goal to submit change proposals or new use cases for adoption in the eHealth/ digital Health space to the eHMSEG, a sub-group of this network.
- **Members:** The Network is composed of members coming from all EU Member States and Norway (observer), with members usually appointed from the national Ministries of Health at head of section/department/division level. The network is chaired by one chair from Commission side, and one chair from Member States side determined by vote in regular intervals.

### **b) Interconnection with role of NFPs:**

- The transversal digital strand is a key thematic area for the EU4Health programme. Grants and Procurements in the area of eHealth and more specifically the creation of the European Health Data Space will take up an ever increasing role within the current and future working programmes

### **c) Pertinence to establish collaboration for NFPs with this stakeholder:**

- **Medium 4:** Somewhat similar to the eHealth stakeholder group – influence of the network exists if not directly on EU4Health programming but on overall policy/practice developments in the eHealth/digital Health space, therefore on an important topic area reflected in EU4Health programming. Similarly to a few other bodies in this mapping, e.g., the Informal Working Group on Global Health, future pertinence of this group to NFP activities will also depend on the scope in which it does or does not continue to convene, which is as of yet uncertain.



## 6- Mapping Proposal

The following graphic allow to highlight major findings of the deliverable in a concise way. It helps to position the stakeholders and committees analysed above with regards to their pertinence for establishing a collaboration for NFPs on an overall map. The stakeholders are regrouped around the NFPs, with the most important stakeholders situated the closest to National Focal Points.

The colour code further highlights the pertinence for NFPs to establish relationship with these stakeholders. The results of this mapping proposal will help shaping the Contact and Consultation Phase within task 4.4. In the second phase, the task member will contact the identified parties for presenting the work of the NFPs and discuss a possible solution for channelling the information needed.

### Illustration I – Mapping Key Stakeholders in the Health Field and the Pertinence for NFPs to Establish Collaboration with these Entities

