

MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

Ljubljana, 30 September, 9.00 – 16.00

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. Mojca Gobec, Director of Directorate for Public Health, Slovenian Ministry of Health.

The Coordinator, Sandra Radoš Krnel, reported on the status of the Partnership and on the conclusions of the Advisory Committee. Work Package 1 is on time with all its deliverables and is preparing the first 6 month financial report of the Partnership, as well as preparing an amendment to the grant agreement and Consortium Agreement. Topics of note include the fact that the partner previously responsible for Work Package 3, Evaluation, has withdrawn and been replaced by the National Institute of Public Health. There are also issues regarding the involvement of one of the partners in Work Package 7, as they may have to withdraw due to financial difficulties. As a consequence **this may impact the action on psychosocial support within the Work Package. The final decision from the responsible partner is awaited by the end of October.**

The Work Package Leaders continued by giving reports of their Work Packages and focusing on the coming six months. In the framework of the Work Package 8, participants were informed that **Germany will host a meeting (around the EPAAC Steering Committee in March) related to research coordination. Member States' representatives for health and for research will be invited. More information will follow before the meeting.**

The leader of Work Package 5, Wendy Tse Yared, gave a presentation on the first European Week Against Cancer Conference with plans for the next conference to be held in Rome in the last week of May 2012. ECL was invited to also consider involving the European Economic and Social Committee next year. Better implementation of EWAC at Member States' level was also pointed out.

The leader of Work Package 4, Tina Lipušček, gave a presentation containing the SWOT analysis of the Open Forum held in Madrid, while Mr. Giovanni Nicoletti representing the Italian Ministry of Health, gave a presentation on plans for the next Open Forum in Rome on June 19-20 2012. **Member States were invited to send any comments/suggestions to Mr Nicoletti before the end of the year.**

The European Commission gave the Steering Committee a brief overview of their work plans in connection to the Partnership, **inviting Member State representatives to pass along the message to the relevant national screening and registry authorities that they would be collaborating with the Joint Research Centre in future.** The Member State representatives of the Trio EU Presidency, Poland, Denmark and Cyprus, gave short outlines of the cancer-related activities of their countries during the presidency period.

Invited guests, Professor Eric van Cutsem and Professor Rolf Hultcrantz of UEGF, as well as MEP Pavel Poc, gave a presentation on their proposal to produce an EU-wide European Booklet on Colorectal Cancer. Member States were asked to state their preliminary position with regard to the booklet in a *tour de table*. Also the opinion of

absent Member States that were received before the meeting were presented. Member States showed strong consensus with regard to the importance of screening and early detection of colorectal cancer, while expressing different opinions as regards the implementation of the booklet as proposed in their own country. Member States interested in the idea will be invited to bilateral discussions with UEGF in order to further their cooperation. The leader of Work Packages 5 expressed openness for collaborative partnership within this work package.

Mr. Vladimir Stevanovic from the OECD was invited to present the informative OECD study – cross-national analysis of the performance of cancer care systems. Professor Michel Coleman also outlined his thoughts regarding a potential book to be published on EPAAC, coinciding with the end of the Joint Action in late 2013/early 2014. These fed into the strategic discussion, where participants raised a number of important issues, such as the sustainability of support for action against cancer at EU level in the future, cancer control in the context of the financial crisis, cancer data and information and in this context also the revision of the data protection legislation, a holistic approach to cancer prevention and control, inequalities.

The next Steering Committee meeting will take place in Berlin. It will also be **merged with the meeting on coordination of cancer research** (the day before or after the Steering Committee), to which both Member State ministry representatives and research representatives will be invited. **The envisaged dates for the two meetings are 21 -22 March 2012.**