

MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON NATIONAL CANCER PLANS

Athens, 24 September 2012, 11.15 – 17.30

Summary Report

The meeting of the Working Group on National Cancer Plans of the EPAAC Joint Action was co-chaired by Mr. Tit Albrecht, Leader of Work Package 10, National Cancer Plans and Mr. Stefan Schreck, Head of Health Information Unit, DG Sanco,

The first agenda point was reporting from the last Core Working Group meeting held in Rome alongside the Open Forum in June 2012. High-level guidelines for the preparation of National Cancer Control programmes will be called 'guides'. Survivorship was identified as a key issue and comprehensiveness, measurability and usefulness were identified as key points for indicators in Member States. The next Core Working Group is tentatively scheduled to take place in Brussels in February 2013.

Regarding the preparation of the guides, Member States stated that needs of Member States should be listed and initiatives already launched from the scientific perspective taken into account.

It was mentioned that different sources of literature should be attained, which are also beneficial for survivors of other chronic diseases and that it is important to gather data for insurance purposes as well.

It was suggested that the role of NGOs should also be discussed in the document, as well as psychosocial care across all stages of care, not just in relation to palliative care. A more elaborate definition of psychosocial care needs to be included, taking into account work previously done on EUROCHIP.

It was also stressed that though the report should be comprehensive and include several disciplines, care should be taken not to include too wide range of topics. The possible linkage with other projects or JAs was discussed. The need to distinguish between guides (implementing guidelines for NCPs) and guides for the future Joint Action was also identified.

A proposal to publish a book on the culmination of the work in the National Cancer Plans Work Package was presented. Additional material exists which will not be present in the final report and so it was proposed that a book is drafted, with additional chapters to be prepared by the Core Working Group on National Cancer Plans. The audience for the book would be policy makers, cancer stakeholders, public health professionals, etc. Different views were stated in regards to the usefulness of such a publication, with some caution expressed as to the feasibility of producing the book alongside the Work Package deliverables (the book was not planned in original deliverables). It was also suggested that articles should be published in scientific journals and easily accessible online journals should be approached in order to increase visibility.

The conclusion was that work would progress on the scheduled Work Package deliverables. At their next meeting, the Core Working Group will discuss which dissemination activities should be considered to supplement the formal deliverables. It was also agreed that besides being published on the EPAAC website as formal

deliverables, the guides and the final report will be published in booklet format and publication in various journals, including online format, will be sought.

Under AOB, Miriam Dalmas presented the Maltese example of use of structural funds for the construction of a new oncology centre hospital extension. The presentation “Moving cancer care into 21st century” is available at: https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/sanco/heidi/images/o/oa/EPAAC_WG_Athens_New_Oncology_Centre_Malta.pdf

The next meeting of the Working Group on National Cancer Plans is provisionally scheduled to take place in Malta in May 2013.