

Progress made since 2010 Joint Declaration

Priority Area 6: In-Country Collaboration

RATIONALE

There are strong synergies to be gained by reinforcing the cooperation between the EU delegations in third countries and the WHO country offices. We see particular opportunities where health is a focal issue under the external policies of the EU. These policies and the related policy instruments are implemented with the WHO in close cooperation between the European Commission and the European External Action Service. Such cooperation can concern many areas, such as information exchange, health sector assessment, policy dialogue with the host country, facilitation of donor coordination and identification of capacities and areas where support is needed. We are of the view that a “one size fits all” approach will not work and we need to adapt to the varying needs, capacities and strategic goals among countries.

1. KEY PROGRESS MADE SINCE 2010

1.1 Improved communication between the two organisations: The regular communication and exchange between the two organisations at country level, where EU delegations are present, have improved since 2010. Also DG SANTE and WHO/Europe had regular discussions and exchanged information on in-country collaboration through video-conferences throughout the past five years.

1.2 WHO contribution to European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) progress reports: Since 2010, WHO/Europe has provided information to DG SANCO for input to the EU progress reports on enlargement countries,¹ as well as those for the European Neighbourhood Policy countries.²

1.3 Presentation by SANTE on EU policies: DG SANTE participated in the WHO/Europe Regional Office retreat held in early 2013 and gave an extensive presentation of EU policies and processes in various parts of the Region. WHO/Europe and DG SANTE agreed to explore the possibilities on how to encourage a reciprocal approach through specific ad hoc meetings.

¹ These countries included the candidate countries Croatia (acceded to the EU in 2013), Iceland, Montenegro, FYR Macedonia, Turkey and Serbia; as well as the potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo (*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.*)

² The WHO country offices have provided information on the health developments in Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Israel.