

Progress made since 2010 Joint Declaration

Priority Area 4: Health Systems Strengthening

RATIONALE

Facilitate the efforts of Member States to get more value and health for money. In the present perspective, where no real increase in health funding can be expected, it will be crucial to assess, identify and disseminate information on the most cost-efficient practices and technologies, as well as obsolete practices, in order to inform decision-making on health budgets with the aim of protecting the values of solidarity, universality and equity of access to health care.

The EC and WHO/Europe agreed to:

- *Assist interested countries to make the most effective use of available resources by disseminating evidence and best practices on how to protect health budgets*
- *Support countries to maximize returns on health and non-health investments*
- *Support countries to orient public spending toward the most effective and efficient interventions*

1. KEY PROGRESS MADE SINCE 2010

1.1. Assist interested countries to make the most effective use of available resources by disseminating evidence and best practices on how to protect health budgets:

WHO/Europe and the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies produced the policy brief on “**Economic crisis, health systems and health in Europe: impact and implications for policy**”. The study updates evidence presented and discussed at two high-level WHO meetings generously hosted by the Norwegian Directorate of Health in Oslo: ‘Health in times of global economic crisis: the situation in the WHO European Region’ held in April 2009 and ‘Health systems in times of global economic crisis: an update of the situation in the WHO European Region’ held in April 2013. The 2013 meeting agreed on an outcome document that was ratified in the form of a resolution at the 63rd WHO Regional Committee for Europe in September 2013.

EC presented at the WHO High Level Meeting on “Health systems for health and wealth in the context of Health 2020: Follow-up meeting on the 2008 Tallinn Charter”, 17-18 October 2013. The meeting participants reviewed the Tallinn Charter and health system strengthening in the context of Health 2020; identified key health system challenges and opportunities to tackle Europe’s major disease burden; shared inspiring good practices of ways to strengthen health systems; and started the process of agreeing on future directions for health systems up to 2020”.

1.2. Support countries to maximize returns on health and non-health investments:

WHO supports Member States in comprehensive country-specific reforms with the alignment of service delivery with financial protection, transformation of health and community workers training and education towards multi-professional team work and task shifting with new competencies, improving efficiency, investing more in public health and using health financing policy to strengthen Universal Health Coverage (UHC). Importantly, as a signal of the WHO Regional Office’s commitment to support Member

States in strengthening the delivery of health services founded on the principles of primary health care, a new Geographically Dispersed Office has been agreed, and will be hosted in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

1.3. **Support countries to orient public spending toward the most effective and efficient interventions:**

There has been strong collaboration between DG Sante and WHO/Europe in the “Human Resources for Health” area. WHO/Europe is a collaborating partner on the EU Joint Action on Health Workforce Planning and Forecasting.

In addition, WHO/Europe has developed a European roadmap to implement the WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel, which was presented at the working group on European Workforce for Health. National reports by EU Member States have been shared with the EC, and follow-up stakeholder meetings and workshops have had participation from both sides.

1.4. **EC (Healthy Ageing innovation Partnership) presented at the consultative workshop** hosted by the Ministry of Health of Belgium on 1 April 2014 in Brussels with Member States of the WHO European Region, representatives of stakeholder organizations and policy-makers which provided a forum to exchange ideas and experiences and discuss which roles and responsibilities they see for themselves within an integrated system. There was a general consensus on the need for transformational change towards more integration and coordination within health systems.