



Project full title
Acronym:
Work programme topic:

Improving science advice for health in Europe, EuSANH
EuSANH-ISA
FP7-SIS 2008-1.3.3.1: Transnational networking between advisory structures; submitted March 2008

Abstract

The general objective of this proposal is to improve the quality, effectiveness and efficiency of science advice for health across Europe.

Science advice is any recommendation for policy action based on scientific knowledge, considering also expert judgment, ethical and societal values, and experience from relevant stakeholders. Many EU Member States have national science advisory bodies. However, many health issues have transnational dimensions. Moreover, the rapid increase of scientific knowledge and health issues to be addressed exceed what can be dealt with by national bodies. Accordingly, international collaboration between national bodies will lead to more effective and efficient science advice, in support of decision-making at national and EU level. This objective narrowly fits in FP7-SIS-2008-1.3.3.1.

The general objective has been translated into the following specific objectives:

- Describe the functions and structure of existing national science advisory bodies for health in twelve European countries; and carry out a thematic analysis of reports from each country.
- Establish a common 'best practice' methodology for science advice.
- Develop a plan for communication and cooperation in the expanding network of science advisory bodies, taking advantage of the SINAPSE electronic communication system.
- Illustrate the common methodology and the functioning of the network by developing a pilot case study for a European science advisory report.

A common methodology with improved transnational cooperation promotes open governance, as more evidence-based policy making in Europe will be more transparent to the public. The recently established European Science Advisory Network for Health coordinates activities among science advisory bodies within the EU, and is eminently suited to provide the infrastructure for these tasks. As improvement of science advice is a long-term goal, the Coordinating Action will also aim at strengthening the network beyond the time frame of the proposal.

Participants

Participant no.	Participant organisation name	Country
P1(Coordinator)	Health Council of the Netherlands (GR)	The Netherlands
P2	Instituto de Salud Carlos III (ISCIII)	Spain
P3	Superior Health Council (SHC)	Belgium
P4	The Swedish Council on Technology Assessment in Health Care (SBU)	Sweden
P5	National Institute of Public Health - National Institute of Hygiene - (NIPH-NIH)	Poland
P6	Scoala Nationala de Sanatate Publica si Management Sanitar (SNSPMS)	Romania

External Advisory Committee

The external advisory committee consists of (mostly European) organisations in the field of health EFSA, ECDC, and WHO Europe, academies FEAM and EASAC, the Institute of Medicine (IOM, USA), LSHTM and the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies. The European Network for Health Technology Assessment (EUnetHTA), will also participate. In addition, other EuSANH members not taking part in the project consortium but supporting this proposal are represented in the Advisory Committee:

European Science Advisory Network for Health

the Czech Republic, National Institute of Public Health; Finland, National Public Health Institute; France, Haute Autorité de Santé; Germany, Institute for Quality and Efficiency in Health Care; Portugal, National Health Institute (advisory body in establishment) and the United Kingdom, National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence.

Project management and interdependencies of WPs

