



EuSANH-ISA Newsletter JANUARY 2011

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WELCOME

Dear EuSANH partners,

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Fabrice Péters. In October 2010, I took over Ellen Van Hoof's task of managing the work package 4 (communication and cooperation structure) for the Superior Health Council of Belgium (SHC). With André Pauwels, the general coordinator of the SHC, and Katty Cauwerts, the scientific secretary for the "EuSANH WORKING GROUP ON CHILDHOOD LEUKAEMIA", I will, with great pleasure and enthusiasm, manage the responsibilities of Belgium in the EuSANH network project.

I was a veterinary anaesthetist for the equine clinic of the University of Liège for eight years before working for two years as a scientific coordinator for the Belgian National Cancer Plan and for the Federal Commission for medical and scientific research on human embryos of the Federal Public Service "Public Health". Since September 2010, I have had the pleasure of being in charge of coordinating the scientific activities of the Superior Health Council of Belgium.

I greatly look forward to meeting you at the next Annual Congress of the EuSANH network and to working closely together with many of you on this project in the coming years.

Meanwhile, let me wish you a very happy 2011.

Dr Fabrice Péters (fabrice.peters@health.fgov.be)

PROGRESS WITHIN EuSANH

Coordinating members' work programme 2011

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(Dorine Coenen, NL)

Also this year, the secretariat will make an inventory of common topics in members' (advisors) work programme 2011. For this we do need your input. Please send you work programme or topics regarding science advice activities on health with a short description (in English) to d.coenen@gr.nl as soon as possible. An overview of overlapping topics on which members could collaborate and exchange information will be presented at our next meeting in Madrid.

PROGRESS WITHIN EuSANH-ISA

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Work Package 1 – project management

(Dorine Coenen, NL)

Beneficiaries are requested to complete the 6-month financial and technical reporting by 14 February 2011.

BESTE WENSEN VOOR 2011 !

Work Package 2 – policy and thematic analysis

(PL & Marius Ciutan, RO)

The two working papers presented showed that the current performance of Science Advisory Bodies (SABs) throughout Europe in science advice is highly professionalized in the EU Member States. Most countries have specific bodies that perform science advice as their main function, while others have institutions that combine it with other tasks. Results indicate the opportunity of exchanging approaches and experiences between different SABs in Europe and paving the way to a joint development of the most efficient, effective and successful way of providing science advice at national and European level. Analysis of the working processes showed a large diversity in methods for producing, writing and disseminating science advisory reports (SARs). These differences are partly due to different positions and responsibility of SABs and the different topics addressed and available scientific information. The variety encountered could also offer opportunities. The different methodologies could enable members to learn from one another and use each other's work and expertise. In time, they could share initial work of synthesis of scientific evidence for SARs and cover more topics per SAB.

The thematic analysis is now in the phase of results' dissemination. The 2010 EUPHA Conference was the most recent dissemination activity and an adequate scientific space for public dissemination of our message. Scientific papers are written and will contribute to better spreading of our messages. In conclusion, it is high time for international collaboration in order to introduce a common methodological basis to review science and provide advice for evidence-based health policy. Comments on both working papers (www.eusanh.eu; click on public library) can still be provided.

SARBATORI FERICITE si UN AN NOU FERICIT !

Work Package 3 – Methodological Framework

(Carlos Segovia, ES)

At the moment, we have received 19 responses to the policy maker's questionnaire. The reception of questionnaires closes on January 31st and we have already started the data analysis. As for the SAB questionnaire that was sent to centres participating in EUSANH, we have received 24. We are also working in the preparation of the Annual EUSANH meeting, as this year the meeting will take place in Madrid, 22-24 March of 2011. As well as working on the programme in collaboration with the GR, we have been very busy with all the logistics (location, accommodations and social program). Before this meeting, a working meeting with some Project Coordinator's personnel (GR) was held the 17th of January at the Institute of Health Carlos III (ISCIII), in Madrid.

MIS MEJORES DESEOS PARA EL 2011 !

Work Package 4 – Communication and cooperation structure

(André Pauwels, BE)

During the annual meeting in Poland, last April, the Superior Health Council submitted a first draft of a future sustainable structure meant to function after the end of the EuSANH-ISA project. Several comments were made in an attempt to clarify some aspects of the proposal. In October, the Health Council of the Netherlands, the project leader, and the SHC came together to discuss these remarks and other ideas to make a better proposal. In comparison with the first draft it was decided to add a chapter on the benefits of collaboration, to insert a vision split up in 3 stages, to add a chapter on practical modalities around collaboration of SABs and finally to add, later on, an

annex with a "constitution". Since then, the SHC is working with these elements to present a new draft at the annual meeting in Spain. However, a number of questions remain where decisions on some principles have to be taken. To that end, a special teleconference will be organised in the/beginning of February between the 6 SABs involved in the project. These decisions will then be taken up in the proposal and be presented at the Madrid meeting in March. We hope to obtain an agreement on the principles laid down in the proposal so that afterwards only details have to be adapted.

NOS MEILLEURS VOEUX POUR 2011 !
BESTE WENSEN VOOR 2011 !
BESTE WÜNSCHE FÜR 2011 !

Work Package 5 – Determinants of a successful implementation of population based cancer screening (Monica Hultcrantz, SE)

In February 2011, a workshop on implementation of cancer screening will be held at SBU in Stockholm, and preparations are well under way. During months following the workshop, we will complete the report together with the experts involved as well as external reviewers. We look forward to interesting discussions, consensus writing and report finalization in 2011.

GOTT NYTT ÅR!

Work Package 6 – Dissemination (Dorine Coenen, NL)

Last November, EuSANH held a workshop at the 3rd European Public Health Conference in Amsterdam. The workshop 'Transfer science into policy' focused on the first results of the EuSANH-ISA project. Working papers on policy and thematic analysis were presented and discussed and next steps in the project towards a common methodological framework for science advice and a case study were outlined. The discussion with the audience focused on the current advisory 'patchwork' of the EC, the need for integration in this field and the lack of one single established science advisory body to call for health issues. Furthermore, the importance of the independence of science advice was highlighted as well as the need of a clear policy/advisory question. A representative of the Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPHER) showed interest in training on how to write such reports that brings synthesized evidence to policy makers. Another point of discussion focused on the local or European production of science advice. Should science advice always be produced locally or could a European produced sensitive science advice be used to base local decisions upon? The input of this discussion will be taken into account into the further project phase.

WHAT'S NEW ON SINAPSE?

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<http://europa.eu/sinapse/directaccess/EUSANH/Public-Library/>)

- Presentations and abstracts of workshop at EUPHA (www.eusanh.eu; public library)
- Working documents on policy and thematic analysis (www.eusanh.eu; public library)– comments by 10 February 2011
- Last minutes steering committee (www.eusanh.eu; members page)
- Members' Information on HPV screening and vaccination (www.eusanh.eu; members page/folder EuSANH)
- Members' science advisory reports (www.eusanh.eu; public library and members page/ folder EuSANH-ISA thematic analysis)

UPCOMING EVENTS

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- 7-9 February 2011, Workshop on a European science advice on determinants of successful implementation of cancer screening programmes (for invited experts only). Those interested to contribute via on-line discussions can send their name, e-mail and field of expertise to eusanh@gr.nl
- 23-24 March 2011, Annual EuSANH meeting Madrid for EuSANH members, advisors and invitees (Programme at www.eusanh.eu; public library/annual meetings)
- 7-8 December 2011 - Final EuSANH-ISA conference Bucharest

INVITATION TO GET INVOLVED

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Interested parties wishing to actively support these efforts towards more inclusive science advice processes or to express ideas and leave contact details are invited to follow this link: http://europa.eu/sinapse/directaccess/EUSANH/e-debates/eusanh-isa_project. Here you can also subscribe to our newsletter. You can also visit the EuSANH webpage: <http://www.eusanh.eu>.

FEEDBACK

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Please send your comments and suggestions on this newsletter to fabrice.peters@health.fgov.be



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