



## EuSANH Newsletter MAY 2011

### CONTENT

- **Welcome**
- **Progress within EuSANH**
- **Progress within EuSANH-ISA**
- **What's new on Sinapse**
- **Upcoming events**
- **Invitation to get involved**
- **Feedback**



### WELCOME

(Carlos Segovia, ES)

Dear EuSANH partners,

It was our pleasure to host the annual EuSANH meeting at our Institute ISCIII in Madrid last March. We expect to have provided the appropriate location and environment for fruitful work at this stage of development of EuSANH.

EuSANH-ISA is currently on its third and final year. It is a crucial moment for EuSANH because we have to decide, better before the end of this year, whether we commit ourselves and our institutions to a lasting sustainable common endeavour. We have the opportunity to provide science advice on health across Europe sharing our capabilities and collaborating. I am convinced that this meeting attended by all EuSANH members has further clarified our positions and helps taking decisions by the end of the year.

Thanks for participating and I hope you enjoyed your stay in Madrid.

Warm regards,

Carlos Segovia

### PROGRESS WITHIN EuSANH

[Back](#)

(Dorine Coenen, NL)

#### [Coordinating members' work programmes 2011](#)

Traditionally, for the annual EuSANH meeting, the secretariat makes an inventory of common topics in members' work programmes. Also at the Madrid meeting last March overlapping topics such as autism, mental health and child abuse were discussed in working groups and ideas on collaboration were exchanged. An overview of members' work programmes as well as detailed information on overlapping topics can be found in our e-community.

## [EuSANH response to the Green paper of DG Research and Innovation](#)

EuSANH prepared a response to the consultation on the Green paper: '*From Challenges to Opportunities: Towards a Common Strategic Framework for EU Research and Innovation Funding*'. The response focuses on including the crucial step of science advice to translate investments in research into better policy, in the innovation model proposed in the Green Paper. It also includes the role that science advisory bodies and EuSANH could have in building a sound infrastructure for Science Advice in Europe. The response is available at [http://ec.europa.eu/research/csfr/index\\_en.cfm?pg=responses](http://ec.europa.eu/research/csfr/index_en.cfm?pg=responses); European organisations and on our e-community.

## [New EuSANH organisation to be launched in Bucharest](#)

The European organization of Science Advisory bodies (EuSANH) will be launched, now formally in Bucharest on 13-14 October 2011. The current EuSANH participants will be invited to attend as 'Founding Members' who will convene in the first meeting of the Governing Council to agree on the constitution and on the membership. If you know any other organisation that could be considered for the EuSANH membership, please let us know (d.coenen@gr.nl).

## **PROGRESS WITHIN EuSANH-ISA**

[Back](#)

### **Work Package 1 – Project management**

(Dorine Coenen, NL)

The last year of the EuSANH-ISA project has started: We are on schedule and expect to finalise the main deliverables as the methodological framework, the policy makers and SAB staff survey, the first EuSANH science advice and the sustainable structure in time.

### **Work Package 2 – Policy and thematic analysis (Monika Skiba PL & Marius Ciutan, RO)**

The members of the External Advisory Committee provided constructive comments on the working papers on the policy and thematic analysis. The comments have been taken into account in preparing the final papers which may be considered for publication later on. For the coming period, our work will focus on providing support to the others WPs, which will provide further input to the key messages of WP2 for dissemination purposes.

### **Work Package 3 – Methodological Framework**

(Carlos Segovia, ES)

### **Policy makers and science advisory body (SAB) staff survey**

ISCIII has been analyzing both the policy makers and SAB staff questionnaires. As policy makers, 19 responded the questionnaire (3 from Belgium, 1 from Czech Republic, 1 from Lithuania, 2 from the Netherlands, 2 from Poland, 1 from Romania, 5 from Spain, 3 from Sweden and 1 from United Kingdom) while we have 25 answers from SAB staff (1 from Belgium, 1 from Czech Republic, 1 from Italy, 1 from Lithuania, 4 from the Netherlands, 1 from Poland, 3 from Romania, 11 from Spain, and 2 from Sweden). Both groups have a long experience, more than an average of 15 years, in the public health and science advice field. Factors that are seen as barriers for the relationship between both groups are the differences in timing and interest, and the difficulties to translate policy problems into research questions. Communication between them was rated as regular by policy makers, as occasionally by SAB. Both considered that the usefulness of science advice could be improved with more clarity, brevity, simplicity and succinct and concise reporting. Transparency (clear, open and accessible information), independency, procedures to adequately deal with conflict of interest, rigor and systematization of knowledge are factors that all ranked with highest value. The final results will be presented at our workshop at the European Public Health Conference in Copenhagen.

### Methodological framework

In producing a science advisory report common steps in the process can be identified and certain principles need to be addressed at each step. The methodological framework includes these principles and provides guidelines for streamlining processes according to the principles involved. This methodological framework was presented at our annual meeting in Madrid and agreed upon by the EuSANH members. In the coming months the various guidelines will be prepared

### Work Package 4 – Communication and cooperation structure (André Pauwels, BE)

#### Sustainable structure report

During the second annual meeting in Madrid, last month, the Superior Health Council of Belgium (SHC) submitted a second draft of a future sustainable structure for the new EuSANH organisation after the end of the EuSANH-ISA project. Based on the first draft, the comments received in Warsaw and discussions with the Health Council of the Netherlands (GR), a new draft was submitted. This new version contains a vision in which EuSANH develops gradually in 3 steps (with an evaluation after phase I and II); a definition of a EuSANH Science Advisory Report (SAR); a chapter on advantages of cooperation and one on the practical modalities of cooperation with some critical success factors. In the management structure a Governing Council was added on top of the Executive Board and a fixed secretariat was proposed; a proposal for an annual fee was also put on the table. Most of the ideas were accepted, amongst others that each EuSANH advice is looked at by all members before publication. Clarification was asked for the fee (distinction between basic costs and costs when participating in a common advice). A decision on the voting structure (one vote per country or per SAB, linked to the fee) as well as on the future legal status of EuSANH still have to be taken.

#### WP5 contribution

Secondly during this period, we have participated to the review process of the WP5 deliverable on critical factors to European implementation of cancer screening programs. Belgian experts in the field of cancer screening, sociology, epidemiology, psychology have been contacted by e-mail to review this first EuSANH advice produced by a European expert group in an international context and lead by Sweden and the Netherlands.

#### EuSANH future collaboration

Finally, the SHC has taken the decision to increase his collaboration with other SABs of the EuSANH network in 2011. The first proposal is to work with The Netherlands, France and Sweden in the field of mental health. The diagnosis, treatment, innovating intervention, future research needs and ethical consideration will be reviewed for child and adolescent suffering of autism. Based on an already published advice (2009) of the GR on diagnosis and treatment of autism and an new question of research needs, we hope to actively collaborate with the Haute Autorité de Santé (HAS) and the Swedish Council on Health and Technology Assessment (SBU) and to continue the work of science advice in this field in our respective countries. Other topics are possible in the domain of mental health. Secondly in 2011, we would like to increase our collaboration with the GR in the field of vaccination; first contacts have been made. The joint project on environmental factors and leukaemia will be finished at the end of the year and we are very happy to have participated in this work. Thank you very much to the project management, all EuSANH members and advisory committee members for their input and friendly collaboration.

## Work Package 5 – EuSANH advice: determinants of a successful implementation of population based cancer screening (Monica Hultcrantz and Susanne V. Allander, SE)

The WP5 workshop held in Stockholm in February 2011 has yielded two scientific manuscripts that are currently submitted. The WP5 report has been reviewed by external reviewers and will be revised and finalized for submission to the Commission in September. The results have yielded interest from many European countries and we are looking forward to see how the manuscripts are received. The results will be presented at Swedish and international conferences during the fall.

## Work Package 6 – Dissemination

(Dorine Coenen, NL)

### Bucharest meeting

The next EuSANH meeting will be organised by our Romanian partner and take place in Bucharest on 13-14 October. It will be the final meeting of the EuSANH-ISA project and the start of the formal EuSANH organisation.

The programme will include:

- Thursday 13 October (by day) for EuSANH-ISA project partners only – finalizing all deliverables and evaluating the project.
- Thursday evening 13 October – festive presidents' dinner for which all presidents of the future EuSANH member organizations will be invited as well as all EuSANH members' representatives. All presidents will be personally contacted before summer.
- Friday 14 October - Official festive launch of the new EuSANH organisation.

It is important to discuss the EuSANH membership with all current participants in EuSANH and with potential new members. Those participating from October 2011 onwards will be known as "Founding Members" of the formal EuSANH network. We hope you will convince your presidents to block these data in their diary, as we would really like to have your presidents in Bucharest to become visible 'Founding Members' of the new EuSANH structure.

### EuSANH workshop at EUPHA 2011

The final EuSANH-ISA dissemination activity will be a EuSANH workshop at the European Public Health Conference on 10-12 November in Copenhagen. The workshop aims to exchange experience and approaches in providing science advice for health policy throughout Europe. Then, results of the methodological framework as well as from two case studies using this framework will be presented. Finally, in a panel discussion feedback from the audience will be harvested and the launch of the new EuSANH organisation will be announced. We kindly invite you all to join our workshop and take part in the discussion.

## WHAT'S NEW ON THE EUSANH E-COMMUNITY ON SINAPSE?

[Back](#)

- All presentations of the Madrid Conference ([www.eusanh.eu](http://www.eusanh.eu); click on: public library; annual meetings; 2011). Direct link: <http://europa.eu/sinapse/directaccess/EUSANH/Public-Library/>
- Members' work programmes 2011 and overview overlapping topics ([www.eusanh.eu](http://www.eusanh.eu); click on: members page; work programmes 2011).
- Last minutes steering committee ([www.eusanh.eu](http://www.eusanh.eu); click on: members' page).
- EuSANH response to Green paper DG Research and Innovation ([www.eusanh.eu](http://www.eusanh.eu); click on: public library).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

[Back](#)

- **13-14 October 2011** - Final EuSANH-ISA meeting and launch formal EUSANH network, Bucharest.
- **10-12 November 2011** - EuSANH workshop at EUPHA in Copenhagen.

## INVITATION TO GET INVOLVED

[Back](#)

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](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 web page: <http://www.eusanh.eu>.

## FEEDBACK

[Back](#)

Please send your comments and suggestions on this newsletter to [fabrice.peters@health.fgov.be](mailto:fabrice.peters@health.fgov.be)



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