

WP5 Kick-Off

Speech by M. Van Hoegaerden – Programme Manager

First of all, I would like in the name of all the partners of the Joint Action to thank Italy for the organization of this kick-off meeting, but also, for the engagement towards leading this important work within the Joint Action programme.

The challenge that Italy will tackle, with the active support of all the partners attending today and of several people that unfortunately couldn't join, is fundamentally related to important value that our European project shares. Italy will bring together the existing methodologies for health workforce planning and help member states by sharing this knowledge, helping lots of countries to gain many years of development of their planning methodology, and of course preventing the spending of many millions of Euros.

Within the current period of savings, it is important to keep this in mind.

More, Italy will address the challenge of piloting implementation projects in both Italy & Portugal. I take this occasion to thank Portugal as well.

This implementation means a lot to the Joint Action. Indeed we don't want to be another study. We are committed to help Europe to spread good practices of planning all around, and enable the Member states to build policies on it. Showing how countries can catch up on the planning issues is a major point, as our final objective is to see all Member states enable to collect data, feed planning models, exchange data and prognosis, and talk together. We know that these pilots are an important step in moving towards this final objective.

But today, we first have to start this long run. So again, thank you for the organization of this kick-off. I'm pretty confident that this Work Package will deliver according to the plan and face all challenges with his high professionalism, as the Italian team has shown during the JA preparation and the organization of this kick-off.

Finally, let me thank once again the EU Commission and the EAHC for the financial & content support to this Joint Action.