

9.C. Skills building seminar: TO-REACH - an international research program on transferring good models of care in Europe and beyond

Organised by: Istituto Superiore di Sanità (ISS), Italy, NIVEL, European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, EUPHA section on Health services research

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Many countries explore similar solutions on how to organise health care in an equitable and efficient manner, thus contributing to the sustainability of the health system as a whole. It involves among others strengthening community and primary care, redesigning hospital care and de-institutionalising long term care with care provided closer to home, also providing more emphasis on patient involvement and self-management. Given these similarities it is crucial to learn under what conditions good practices, e.g. on prevention, integrated care or end-of-life care, can be transferred from one setting, region or country to the other. To help answer these questions a unique consortium of 29 governmental and research funding bodies plus research institutes, has expressed the ambition to systematically learn from the organisation of care in other settings: TO-REACH, Transfer of Organisational innovations for Resilient, Effective, equitable, Accessible, sustainable and Comprehensive Health Services and Systems. The consortium consists of partner bodies from across Europe (Austria, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain,

Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom) as well as non-European funding bodies (Canada, Israel and United States) plus European level organisations including EUPHA. Overall objective is to prepare for a joint research programme that can provide insight into the transferability in the organisation of care between organisations, regions and countries. While such a research programme will not start before 2019 or 2020, the current preparatory phase is directed towards providing a common platform for governmental and research funding bodies to allow for networking, coordinating, and synchronising priorities and activities, also involving the research community in various ways.

The format of the workshop is as follows. First, the chairs clarify the objectives of the workshop as well as the added value for the EUPHA community and Europe as a whole. Next, the first presentation will clarify more about what TO-REACH is, what it aims to achieve and what influence the health (research) community can have on it. The second presentation will provide more information about its analytical framework, aimed to provide a knowledge synthesis on the identification, transferability and scaling up of good models of care. In between and after these presentations there will be sufficient time for discussions with the audience.

Aims of the workshop are:

1. To raise awareness among both policy/funding bodies as well as the research community about this new initiative and to discuss ways to provide support or get involved.

- To receive critical reflection on the overall framework of the initiative, including an identification of main topic areas to address, e.g. specific innovations in the organisation of care in one country worth transferring to the other.

Key messages:

- TO-REACH prepares for a research programme that will fund future research that raises intelligence about the transferability of solutions from one context to the other
- There is opportunity to engage with this activity, thus influencing future research agendas nationally and in Horizon 2020 and (for researchers) to prepare for future funding opportunities

TO-REACH: what does it aim to achieve and what influence can the health (research) community have?

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The TO-REACH consortium has a history which runs back to earlier EPH Conferences, among others with an exploratory preconference at the EP Conference 2014. In this presentation we will briefly sketch this history but will mostly focus on clarifying the short and long term goals of this initiative. A main longer term goal is to establish a future research programme, a so-called ERA-NET, which may then run as of 2019 or 2020. The ERA-NET instrument is part of Horizon 2020 and tops up funding from transnational calls for research, provided there is sufficient critical mass and the topic at hand has sufficient added value at European Union level. Actions in this preparatory stage should lead to this, among others by developing a Strategic Research Agenda and identify in which areas of care provision countries have most to learn from each other. As the ambition is also to align activities with other European level initiatives, such as Joint Programming Initiatives or Joint Actions, the added value also lies in fostering European research alignment and inspiring future research activities in the broad domain of health services and systems research, including regarding topics in regular calls of

Horizon 2020 or its successor, adding to its relevance for research groups outside partner countries. Based on these clarifications of what TO-REACH aims, we will also address the ways in which the research community can prepare for or get involved in the development of such a research programme.

Framework and knowledge synthesis on identifying, transferring and scaling up good models of care

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With its diversity, Europe is an ideal test bed for innovations designed to strengthen the sustainability and resilience of health care services and systems. To tap into this pool of innovation and experience TO-REACH will address four meta-questions that can guide future research within an ERA-NET: a) criteria for identifying good or innovative organisational practices, b) the conditions to transfer these to other sectors, regions or countries and the absorptive capacity needed in those recipient organisations and countries, c) the conditions to scale up pilot projects and initiatives to a national level, and d) the conditions under which such transferred or up-scaled practices contribute to performance enhancement of services, organisations and the system as a whole. In the presentation we will clarify how the conceptual framework will allow for evaluating if research in one country can be applied in another. In addition, by applying it to a number of case examples we will reveal the factors underlying their successful diffusion and implementation. The intelligence and recommendations generated from these activities will also provide added value to countries looking to change and improve service delivery, regardless of whether they are involved in this initiative. As stepping stone to the discussions we will also solicit critical reflection on the overall framework, including an identification of main topic areas to address, e.g. specific innovations in the organisation of care in one country worth transferring to the other.