10.F. Skills building seminar: Future research priorities for more innovative and accessible health services and systems (TO-REACH)

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European countries are facing progressively unsustainable health care costs and operational difficulties, and may be increasingly unable to provide quality health to all their citizens, because of social and demographic pressures, increased demand for health care, and effective but costly technological advances. Ageing related challenges and continuous financial pressures definitely call for innovative solutions on how to organize health care services in an equitable and efficient manner. However, decision makers have a tendency to focus on implementing strategies within existing services, while innovative care models may be needed that challenge established ways of organizing services. And while calls in current work programmes of Horizon 2020 address important issues, there is still a need to gather research evidence in areas overarchings specific diseases and conditions by further expanding the area of Health Services and Systems Research in a full European perspective. As health systems are becoming increasingly inter-dependent due to global trends, it is a domain of research in which voluntary European collaboration and information sharing are of added value. An important window of opportunity to strengthen health services and systems learning is the project TO-REACH, funded as Coordination and Support Action within H2020 (SCI-HCO-06-2016). It aims to develop a research programme that can help decision makers to more accurately predict if and how proposed care innovations may work in their own settings. The current preparatory phase is directed towards providing a common platform, in particular for governments, their arm’s length bodies, and major funding organisations. This will allow for networking, coordinating, and synchronising their priorities and activities.

Format of the workshop is as follows: first, we will present the TO-REACH initiative (what is it, what does it aim to achieve and what influence can the health (research) community have on this?), next, we will provide an overview of priority areas identified so far, and discuss with the audience whether they resonate with their own work, and last, we will provide an analytical framework on the identification of organizational innovations, based on the French context and its potential relevance for other countries, again followed by ample discussion with the audience.

Key messages:

- To provide insight into relevant types of health services innovations and an overview of our mapping of priority areas so far, with the ambition to enhance funding opportunities in these areas.
- To collect inputs from the European public health community on their own priority areas, valuable both for a dedicated research programme and Horizon 2020 and its follow-up programme.