DG Health and Consumers: Research priorities

Tapani Piha
Head of Unit
for eHealth, Health Technology & Risk Assessment and Science
Health and Consumers DG

Making Europe’s citizens healthier, safer and more confident

Public Health

Food safety

Consumer Affairs
Basic Facts

- 900 staff
- Three sites
  - Brussels
  - Luxembourg
  - Grange, Ireland

5 EU Agencies

- European Medicines Agency
- European Centre for Disease Prevention & Control
- European Food Safety Authority
- Executive Agency for Health and Consumers
- Community Plant Variety Office
DG SANCO Management Plan 2012

We

- Empower consumers – protect citizens in consumer markets
- Improve human health – protect health
- Ensure that all food is safe
- Protect animals and plant health
- Promote the humane treatment of animals
The objective in research

to co-ordinate better research and innovation priorities with the policy agenda in the relevant areas over a sufficiently long period of time.
Key Interest in Societal Challenges

- Health, Demographic Change and Wellbeing
  - Optimising the efficiency and effectiveness of healthcare system
  - Improving surveillance and preparedness
- Inclusive, innovative and secure societies
- Food security, sustainable agriculture, marine and maritime research and the bio-economy
Optimising the efficiency and effectiveness of healthcare system

• Health Technology Assessment
  – Methodologies for assessing complex health technologies and phasing out obsolete technologies.

• E-Health
  – Development and implementation innovative technologies and approaches: homecare, personalised health devices and services, e-prescription, adherence to treatment, e-tools for health.

• Sustainability of the health systems
  – Analytical and economics tools to evaluate the sustainability of health systems.

Relevant link
- Cross Border Healthcare Directive (2011/34)
Improving surveillance and preparedness

- Prevention, control and preparedness for communicable diseases outbreaks
  - ... particularly new strategies for vaccination.
  - ... for preventing major disease outbreaks, pandemic and all society preparedness.

- Chronic diseases
  - risk factors and determinants for chronic diseases
  - validate good practice for prevention and management

Relevant link
- Decision on serious cross border threat to health
- Commission initiative on chronic diseases 2013 work plan
Consumer policy linked research

• Harnessing ICTs in support of consumers:
  – technologies giving consumers greater control over their personal data in the digital environment
  – consumer vulnerability in the digital markets;
  – innovation in digital content distribution; support to market surveillance authorities of e-retail markets.

• Sustainable consumption

Relevant link
- Digital Agenda, Internal Market, Innovation Union Flagship Initiative
- Consumer Agenda 2014-2020
Food safety related research

- Animal health, plant health, animal welfare and food safety
- Plant breeding
- Antimicrobial resistance
- Minimisation of food waste and packaging waste
- Biotechnology
- Chemical contaminants of food and feed
- Sustainability and Economics of the Food Chain
European Innovation Partnership for Active and Healthy Ageing

• Multiple links to many parts of H2020
• Innovative solutions and promoting science and technology around three pillars:
  – prevention,
  – care and cure
  – independent living.
• System or social innovation

Relevant link
- European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing
Horizontal issues of interest across several SANCO areas

• Safety of nanotechnologies in food and non-food consumer products
  • Links: EU legislation on Cosmetics, General Product Safety, Toys, Food, Food Packaging, Food Additive and Novel Food, Medical Devices

• Research into alternative methods to replace animal testing in safety assessments
  • Links: Animal testing provisions in the Cosmetics Regulation, also for pharmaceuticals, food, pesticides, biocides. Work at OECD level, international cooperation.
Horizontal issues of interest across several SANCO areas

- Tools and methods for the assessment of new scientific and technological developments and trends and their policy implications
  - E.g. vaccines, medicines, medical devices, gene therapies, genetic testing
  - Tools to support policy making and regulatory needs