

## EPSO STATE OF AFFAIRS – JUNE 2022



European Partnership for  
Supervisory Organisations  
in Health Services and Social Care

Dear EPSO Partner,

03-06-2022 The Hague, The Netherlands

It is about a year since we sent you the EPSO State of Affairs 2021. That was August last year. At that point, we had already changed the character of our 30<sup>th</sup> EPSO conference several times: from completely in-person in Riga, to hybrid from Riga and finally fully online from the EPSO Joint Office in The Hague. Nevertheless it was a successful and full event of 2 conference days and one working group day. Many of our regular partners and EPSO friends have contributed to making this online event a success, despite the circumstances.

During 2021 Covid-19 was around us all the time. Therefore, we wrote in August 2021 the following to you:

*“We really hope for a live conference soon, but we are not yet sure about the planned conferences. The Covid situation for September is not looking good yet. Our Riga conference is therefore likely to be replaced by some other form of live event later this year or next year.*

And indeed, we had to cancel the 31<sup>st</sup> EPSO Conference in Riga. It will be replaced by a purely in-person (non virtual) 2-day event on Effectiveness of Inspection and Regulation in Riga (October 2022).

In August 2021 we were eagerly looking forward to our Spring Conference in Singapore, which was originally planned in March/ April 2022. However, as you know, we had to postpone the Singapore Spring Conference to June 2022 and now, in June 2022, we are still struggling with a lot of hurdles because of travel restrictions and other issues with distant foreign travel and visiting in-person events.

This history of constantly shifting and adjusting is precisely why we are so excited about our upcoming Conference in Singapore (22<sup>nd</sup> -24<sup>th</sup> of June) where we will finally be able to present outstanding speakers, in-person and virtually, on important topics for the future of Regulation, Inspection and Supervision.

We think this conference more than lives up to its title: 'Health Regulation and Supervision for the Digital Frontier and Changing Climate'! As you will know each EPSO partner and invited economy may send up to a total of two in-person participants and two virtual participants to the conference. We hope you will not forget to register your delegates before the 13<sup>th</sup> of June 2022.

This 2022 EPSO update would not be complete if we were not mentioning our monthly Taskforce meetings and our 3 monthly TAC working group meetings.

On the initiative of our English colleagues (Care Quality Commission, CQC) we started from the first of April 2020 with our weekly EPSO Covid-19 Taskforce sessions. During the first 16 weeks this group has provided each other with practical tips, experiences and help during the Covid-19 outbreak and more long-term answers to questions about future developments.

After this dynamic start, the network has continued as a monthly Taskforce meeting where topics of interest to inspectorates and other EPSO partners are discussed, and the latest information is shared. Topics are introduced for no longer than 10 minutes. This way of working offers room for discussion and possible bilateral follow-up. Meetings are scheduled on the first Wednesday of the month and last no longer than an hour.

This initiative has provided supervisory, monitoring, and regulatory bodies with a support platform in these difficult times and with some guidance for complex problems and decisions. Beside advice and examples of how to carry on regulatory tasks during the crisis, the network has provided also valued lessons for the future such as lessons regarding telemedicine and telehealth as well as shared experiences with using e-inspection and remote inspection tools. As a follow up to this a new EPSO Working group on Telemedicine, and E-health, Artificial intelligence, and Cybersecurity (TAC group) has started in the Autumn of 2021. The working group meets regularly every three months on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month. The upcoming meeting is planned for the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June virtual and in-person in Singapore.

The Taskforce meeting network has steadily expanded, not only with the supervisory partners from our upcoming Asia Pacific network, but also with other partners from various backgrounds. In addition to input from partners with a supervisory background, the group has also been working with partners with a scientific, management related or other more on specific fields or areas targeted orientation. Active participation came from a broader scope of countries and regions all over the world.

The support and co-ordination of these activities has been provided by the EPSO Joint Office. External assistance for reporting and organising was hired from Sira Consulting. For ICT and Technical support WCCS and nTERRA were contracted. For WEB and social network activities Sociallane was our steady force in the background. This all was financially possible because of your contributions. However, the EPSO budget is far from unlimited and therefore we need your support again.

To be able to continue working with you and to strengthen our EPSO network we ask you, in all modesty, to pay your annual EPSO contribution for 2022. Building a useful and efficient knowledge exchange network remains our number one priority in these still difficult times.

We hope for your support again in 2022. Thank you in advance.

Looking forward to seeing you in-person or virtual in Singapore or online again at our next EPSO Covid-19 Taskforce meeting Wednesday the 7<sup>th</sup> of September 2022 as usual at 9-10 CET.

Jooske Vos



Chair of the EPSO Board.

