



HEALTH4EUkids

Your Kids' Health, Our Priority

Best Practices in action: how to transfer, implement, and sustain effective health promotion interventions for children (0-12)

Module 3

Smart Family: a Best Practice to support and empower families in promoting well-being and healthy lifestyle



Best Practices in action: how to transfer, implement, and sustain effective health promotion interventions for children (0-12)

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Unit 3.4.1

Post-implementation phase of Smart Family

“Policy dialogue with stakeholders to support further implementation in Slovenia”

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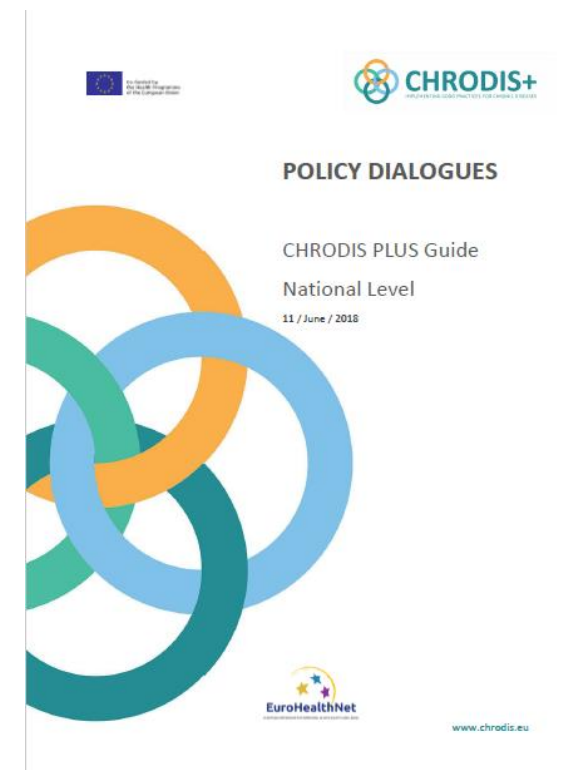
National Institute of Public Health, Slovenia



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What is a Policy Dialogue?

- A structured, participatory **discussion** used to inform, develop, or implement policy change.
- Involves key **stakeholders** – policymakers, experts, and practitioners – in **evidence-based dialogue**.
- Not a dissemination event; encourages active engagement and **joint problem-solving**.
- Can be used **at any stage** of the policy process – from framing problems to planning implementation.



The objectives of the policy dialogue

- Support policy development and implementation at national, regional, or local levels
- Initiate or strengthen ongoing policy processes
- Promote cross-sectoral cooperation (e.g., health, education, finance)
- Identify barriers and define actionable steps to address them
- Build stakeholder ownership and accountability
- Foster mutual understanding and trust for long-term collaboration





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Applying Policy Dialogue in Slovenia: The Smart Family Case

Pilot Implementation

- Training sessions for **community nurses**, who are continuously visiting families during pregnancy and early childhood (0–3 years).
- Supportive materials for **parents**: practical tools and articles developed and published on the national parenting website for easy access by professionals and parents.

Goals of the Policy Dialogue

- Explore post-project integration into routine community nursing.
- Plan expansion to other child and adolescent preventive programs.
- Consider scaling to kindergartens and schools for broader reach.





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Key Elements of Effective Policy Dialogue

Elements	Description of the element
Clear objectives and expected outcomes	Clear objectives help keep participants focused, aligned on shared goals, and ensure the dialogue leads to tangible results.
Stakeholder and context analysis	Select the right people who can influence policy and practice. Keep the group small (8–12 participants) for active, solution-focused engagement.
Evidence-based preparation	Use solid evidence to build credibility, foster shared understanding, and support informed decision-making.
Skilled facilitation	The moderator steers the discussion, ensures inclusive participation, and keeps the dialogue on track.
Concrete follow-up actions	Follow-up involves defining next steps, assigning responsibilities, and maintaining stakeholder engagement to turn dialogue into action.



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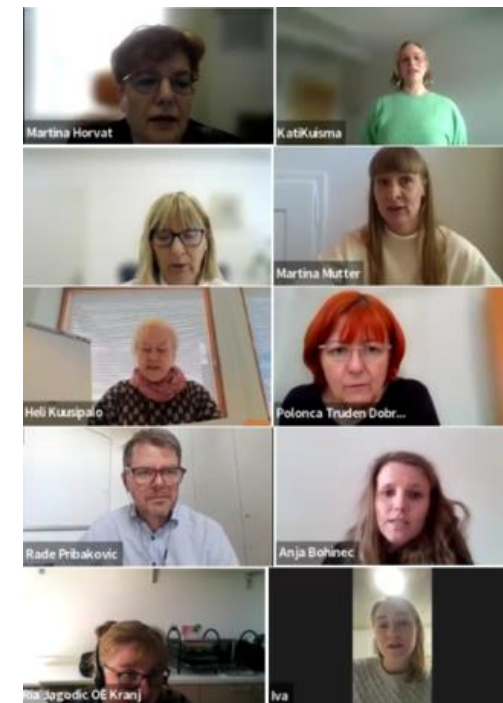
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Dialogue Structure and Content

CHRODIS + recommendations: short, focused, evidence-based discussion, with concrete follow-up commitments

The dialogue was held on April 9, 2025, on-line, lasted 2.5 hours and included:

- Introductory remarks
- Presentation of the Smart Family approach and its Finnish origins,
- Presentation of the Slovenian pilot evaluation findings,
- Discussion on opportunities, barriers, and priorities,
- Identification of actions to ensure sustainability and scaling-up.





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Outcomes of the Policy Dialogue: CHRODIS+ Framework



Triggering **decisions or commitments** on pre-identified topics.



Achieving **consensus** among stakeholders on next steps.



Identifying **financing options** and implementation pathways.



Facilitating conditions that **support implementation** of identified actions.



Defining **mechanisms to track progress** and measure success.



Building **ownership and long-term engagement** through mutual understanding and trust.



Strengthening **transparency, accountability** and stakeholder alignment.



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Outcomes of the Policy Dialogue: CHRODIS+ Framework

✈ Strategic Agreements

- Smart Family approach strengthens existing health promotion efforts
- Priority to embed the model within the healthcare system
- Scale up from pilot to routine nurse visits for children aged 2–3

⚠ Identified Challenges

- Nurse workload
- Time constraints
- Staff turnover
- Difficulty reaching vulnerable families

✈ Next Steps & Follow-up Actions

- Development of a post-project roadmap (steps, timeline)
- Identification of funding sources
- Activities to support sustainability and transferability



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Lessons Learned

- ✓ Policy dialogue **reinforces what works** — even without new policies.
- ✓ **Early stakeholder engagement** builds trust and ownership.
- ✓ A **clear structure** and focused themes keep discussions productive.
- ✓ Mixing **policy and practice** bridges strategy and implementation.
- ✓ **Local data** builds credibility; **international input** adds insight.
- ✓ **Acknowledging challenges** leads to realistic planning.
- ✓ **Follow-up matters** — action plans and monitoring turn ideas into change.

***Policy dialogue
drives
momentum,
alignment, and
sustainable
progress.***

Thank you all for your participation!



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