

1ST JA-CHRODIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

19 February 2015,
Brussels, Belgium

Speech of Gonzalo Arévalo, Director of EU & International Projects Office at the National Institute of Health Carlos III (ISCIII):

Dear President of EUROHEALTHNET, dear Associated Partners, dear collaborative partners, dear members of the Executive Board (EB), Advisory Board (AB) and Governing Board (GB).

As you may notice, I am not Alfonso Beltrán, but Gonzalo Arevalo Responsible of the EU & International Projects Office from the Institute of Health Carlos III (ISCIII). I want to apologise on behalf of Dr. Alfonso Beltran, ISCIII's Deputy Director for International programmes and institutional relations, present yesterday at the GB and AB meetings, and that was engaged to be here. Unfortunately a last minute commitment has requested his presence today in Madrid. I also wish to thank all of you, for attending this important meeting adding value with your presence, particularly those partners that are to intervene along this intensive day, and those that have heavily worked the previous days at the Executive Board, AB, GB and finally in this General Assembly (GA) with an open session for Stakeholders.

One year has passed since we launched this Joint action in Madrid. As you, until know this is the largest Joint Action in size and budget launched by the EC. Although Dr. Riese will elaborate afterwards on the work done so far, please note that we should feel satisfied for being able to launch this JA with the four thematic WPs and the three horizontal ones. This was done, by putting to work together of you, with the handicap that due to the nature of this JA, there was not a previous set of partners used to work together in this particular field. Thus, many efforts of this first year were addressed to better understand the aim of the JA, and of course of each-other. None of these would have been possible without the complicity and support of our WP leaders, as key players to catalyse these joint efforts into the deployment of the engaged deliverables and outputs.

Although we are very satisfied by this, it was just the beginning. Probably one of the most difficult tasks has been the exercise of understanding, taking acknowledgement of partners' developments and achieving a common vision for the project. Now is time to show and communicate our first results to the stakeholders' community. New challenges arise for Chrodis in 2015 and I'm very sure that together we will be able to achieve them. Afterward, It will be shown s by Dr. Chavarria to the Stakeholder Forum the main activities for the next future, that you will see it is indeed more challenging.

Before ending, I would like to thank of course DG Sante and our Ministers of Health, for the opportunity given to our consortia, to be in the first line of fire in the assistance for the development of possible EU common policies in the field of Chronical Diseases and also to CHAFEA for their guidance in the technical and administrative running of this JA.

Lastly, I shall express my gratitude to the JA Coordination team, for their efforts done to make this GA a possible, and of course express that we are at your disposal for any issue or suggestion you may have or need.

From my side, I just want to wish you a very fruitful meeting, thank you again for attending and for the work done so far, and of course again encourage you to continue doing your best for the next 12 months, for the success of our institutions and of this key JA.

Many thanks.

Gonzalo Arévalo
Director EU & International Projects Office
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