

FEATURED ARTICLE

Towards good practices in prevention and care of chronic diseases



On 19 February 2015, the full JA-CHRODIS consortium, involving representatives of 63 organisations like national departments of health, regional health authorities and research bodies across the EU as well as EC representatives came together in their first General Assembly. At this event, partners discussed their achievements to date and upcoming work. In addition, synergies between the work packages in the areas of, for example, patient empowerment and care delivery models were debated.

External parties that are interested in learning about the content of JA-CHRODIS and how they can contribute were invited to join the Stakeholder Forum that took place in the afternoon, following the General Assembly. Stakeholder Fora take place regularly during the course of JA-CHRODIS to provide an opportunity for open debate with the leaders of the Joint Action.

More information on the [General Assembly](#) and the [Stakeholder Forum](#).

Governing Board and Advisory Board meet for the first time

The JA-CHRODIS General Assembly and Stakeholder Forum were preceded by an Advisory Board and a Governing Board meeting on the 18th February.

The **Governing Board**, led by the Spanish Ministry of Health, is comprised of nominated representatives of health ministries of EU Members States, EEA countries, representatives of the European

Commission and the European Region of the WHO. They discuss strategic progress and technical work to date and synergies between JA-CHRODIS and their national as well as international work in the field of chronic diseases.

The **Advisory Board** is made up of ten external specialists from across Europe who were identified and selected through the JA-CHRODIS Executive Board. Their task is to advise the Joint Action on content and methodology and give recommendations on specific objectives and outputs of the project.

> [More information about their meetings.](#)

14 European country reviews on health promotion and primary prevention available now

To establish the groundwork for JA-CHRODIS work in the area of **health promotion and primary prevention (work package 5)**, participating countries developed country reviews outlining the health promotion and primary prevention ‘landscape’ in their country, how they identify and promote good practice, as well as relevant forecasting and cost-effectiveness studies in this area. In the reports, the authors also identify what they feel are the gaps and needs in relation to health promotion and primary prevention of chronic disease in their countries. The reports provide a basis for JA-CHRODIS’s further work in this area.

> [The 14 JA-CHRODIS WP 5 country reviews are available here.](#)

“Time to face the challenge of multimorbidity”

This is the title of a recently published article in the European Journal for Internal Medicine. The partners of JA-CHRODIS work on **multimorbidity (work package 6)** summarised the first results of their work in this area, which focused on the identification of a population with multimorbidity with a high or very high care demand. Disease patterns, physical function, mental health, and socioeconomic status are identified as factors associated with adverse health outcomes and resource consumption among multimorbid patients. The results also underline the need for a comprehensive approach, targeting not only diseases, but also social, cognitive, and functional problems.

> [Read the article.](#)

On the inside...



... a message from the new JA-CHRODIS coordinator Teresa Chavarría

“During its first year, JA-CHRODIS has contributed to the knowledge in chronic diseases by developing important technical work and achieving progress in its deliverables and milestones. It has also built a strong community of cooperation among experts, stakeholders and other European initiatives such as the EIP-AHA. The ground is already set and the collective efforts are beginning to bear fruit. I assume the coordination with motivation and the strong commitment to bring JA-CHRODIS to the sights of as many Member States and countries as possible and to achieve our goals. I am convinced that by working together, it is possible to pave the way for progress in chronic diseases and promoting health and well-being of citizens in the EU.”

(During the General Assembly, Juan E. Riese, the former coordinator of JA-CHRODIS, announced a change in coordination. Ms Teresa Chavarría (ISCI) took the leadership of the Joint Action and shares her message with the readers here.)

Upcoming Events

- **Outcomes and conclusions from the Healthy Ageing Summit**
- 21st April: **Active, Healthy Ageing in the EU: Transforming Care, Growing the Silver Economy**, Brussels, Belgium
- 14th-16th May: **EuroPREvent**, Lisbon, Portugal
- 26th May: WP5 Meeting, Cologne, Germany
- June: Next Executive Board Meeting, TBD
- 3rd June: **Innovative Financing Opportunities in Active and Healthy Ageing**, Brussels, Belgium
- 2nd-3rd July: WP7 Meeting, Rome, Italy
- 26th July – 1st August: **European Observatory Summer School on Integrated Care**, Venice, Italy.
- 14th-17th October: **8th European Public Health Conference**, Milan, Italy

Publications

- WP6 in European Journal of Internal Medicine
> [Read more](#)
- WP5 Country Reports
> [Read more](#)
- “Health in all policies” – Training manual by WHO
> [Read more](#)
- “Assessing Chronic Disease Management in European Health Systems” – Study by European Observatory
> [Read more](#)
- “Using price policies to promote healthier diets” – WHO Europe
> [Read more](#)
- “The relationship between psychosocial risk factors and health outcomes of chronic diseases: A review of the evidence for cancer and cardiovascular diseases” – WHO Europe
> [Read more](#)

In Other News...



Why did the EC decide to invest in this Joint Action and what are their hopes for it? And can EU Member States really benefit from the transfer of good practices? In the video, Michael Hübel from the European Commission and Agis Tsouros from WHO Europe answer these questions.

> [Watch their responses!](#)

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