

Press Release – JA-CHRODIS partners

EU collaboration on chronic diseases: One year on

(Location, Date)

Policy makers and experts from across the EU meet in Brussels on 19 February 2015 to discuss progress made since the launch of the *Joint Action on Chronic Diseases and Promoting Healthy Ageing across the Life Cycle* (JA-CHRODIS) a year ago. The Joint Action provides EU Member States with a unique opportunity to learn from each other and strengthen their capacities to prevent, manage and treat chronic disease.

On 19 February, 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 will come together in their first General Assembly. At this event, entitled “*Towards good practices in prevention and care of chronic diseases, for a healthier tomorrow*”, the consortium will discuss their achievements to date and upcoming work. External parties that are interested in learning about the content of JA-CHRODIS and how they can contribute are invited to join the Stakeholder Forum that will take place 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.

The European Commission (DG SANTE) and associated European governments are collectively investing almost 10 million Euro in JA-CHRODIS, which aims to identify and share the best approaches to reduce the burden of chronic disease in the EU. The focus of JA-CHRODIS is on promoting health by addressing the underlying risk factors that can lead to chronic disease, and on identifying comprehensive and effective care paths for people with diabetes or that are suffering from more than one chronic condition. Joint Action outcomes can therefore contribute to supporting integrated, whole-of-health-systems approaches to reducing the burden of chronic diseases in Europe.

The JA-CHRODIS General Assembly and Stakeholder Forum will be preceded by an Advisory Board and a Governing Board meeting on 18 February. The Advisory Board is made up of 10 external experts from across Europe who were identified and selected through JA-CHRODIS. Their task is to advise the Joint Action on content and methodology to ensure optimal overall outcomes. The Governing Board consists of representatives of 25 Ministries of Health. They will discuss strategic progress and technical work to date and ensure synergies between JA-CHRODIS and their national as well as international work in the field of chronic diseases.

Juan Riese, co-ordinator of JA-CHRODIS, states: *“The JA-CHRODIS events are important milestones to set the course of the Joint Action and the contribution it makes to reducing chronic diseases in the EU and the toll they take on the lives of individuals and on health and social systems.”*

The fact that this is the largest Joint Action that has been financed under the EU Public Health Programme to date reflects the importance of this topic to the EC and participating countries.

Notes to editors:

- (1) Joint Actions are one funding instrument under the third EU Health Programme 2014-2020. They have a clear EU added value and are co-financed either by competent authorities that are responsible for health in the Member States or in the third countries participating in the Programme, or by public sector bodies and non-governmental bodies mandated by those competent authorities. These actions should provide a genuine European dimension to address the priorities at hand. Depending on the scope of the action Joint Actions involve on average 25 partners.
 - (2) 38 government departments, institutes and other organisations from 13 EU Member States as well as Norway and Iceland and 5 EU-level organisations are taking part in JA-CHRODIS as associated partners, which means that they are financially implicated in the Joint Action. 29 government departments and other organisations from 11 more EU Member States are involved as collaborating partners.
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For more information:

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Download the agendas of the 1st JA-CHRODIS General Assembly and Stakeholder Meetings at: <http://www.chrodis.eu/events/>

** This press release arises from the Joint Action addressing chronic diseases and promoting healthy ageing across the life cycle (JA-CHRODIS), which has received funding from the European Union, under the framework of the Health Programme (2008-2013).*