CHRODIS PLUS is a high level response by the EU to support Member States by stepping up together and sharing Best Practices to alleviate the burden of chronic diseases. This three-year initiative (2017-2020) under the Third Health Programme (2014-2020) is funded by the European Commission and the participating partner organisations.





March 2018

WELCOME TO THE 1ST NEWSLETTER OF THE CHRODIS PLUS JOINT ACTION

1st CHRODIS PLUS Newsletter

There is a wealth of knowledge within EU Member States on effective and efficient ways to prevent and manage chronic diseases, and there is great potential to reduce the burden of chronic diseases by making better use of this knowledge.

The CHRODIS PLUS Joint Action actively contributes to this exchange of models and policies on chronic diseases. To keep you involved and updated on project developments, we will send you six newsletters during the project period, or one newsletter every six months. This first newsletter provides an overall introduction to CHRODIS PLUS.

The upcoming newsletters will introduce the main results of the core activities of the Joint Action. The final newsletter, issued in the first half of 2020, will summarise all of the CHRODIS PLUS results.

In this issue:

- You will be introduced to our working group (work package) leaders
- Find out how we kicked-off CHRODIS PLUS in Vilnius in September 2017
- Learn more about how CHRODIS projects implement tested public health models

www.chrodis.eu











Facing the impact of chronic diseases together

Europe pays a heavy price for chronic diseases. According to the OECD publication *Health at a Glance:* Europe 2016, chronic diseases cost EU countries € 115 billion or 0.8% of GDP annually. This figure does not include the additional loss of the lower employment rates and productivity of people living with chronic health problems.

In this Joint Action, our goal is to support Member States through cross-national initiatives in order to reduce the burden of chronic diseases, while assuring the sustainability and responsiveness health systems. To achieve this, a total of 42 partners representing 21 European countries will collaborate to implement pilot projects and generate practical lessons.

Please enjoy reading our first newsletter and learn more about what's going on and what has been done so far.

Kick-off meeting & video of European Commissioner Andriukaitis

On 18–20 September 2017, the Lithuanian Vilnius
University Hospital hosted the kick-off meeting of
the CHRODIS PLUS Joint Action. High-profile
speakers addressed the representatives of 42 partner
organisations from 21 European countries:

- Vytenis Andriukaitis European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety
- Aurelijus Veryga Lithuanian Minister of Health
- Gauden Galea Director of
 Non-communicable Diseases of WHO Europe
- Miklos Szocska former Hungarian Minister of State for Health

The event was a successful with extensive media coverage at the national and European level. Elec-



Commissioner Andriukaitis gave a <u>video</u> <u>interview</u> on the importance of CHRODIS PLUS.

The event brought all of the partners together to discuss the specific work to be undertaken throughout the project's duration.





Who is who in CHRODIS PLUS?



Meet our working group leaders. This is how they envision their mission in the project:



Antonio Sarria Santamera

ANTONIO SARRIA SANTAMERA leads the COORDINATION work package.

Organisation: INSTITUTE OF HEALTH CARLOS III, SPAIN

"Chronic conditions are complex problems, therefore they need a complex response. CHRODIS PLUS is committed to providing useful lessons for European countries to confront the challenge posed by chronic conditions. As the Coordinators of this project, we see our success through the effective integration of the work of our partners, enabling and encouraging their participation, and engaging external stakeholders effectively to develop cooperative relationships across boundaries."



Rokas Navickas

ROKAS NAVICKAS is responsible for SCIENTIFIC COORDINATION Organisation: VILNIUS UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL, LITHUANIA

"With rising life expectancy, but without quality life years gained despite ever increasing healthcare related costs, the global community faces a challenge. CHRODIS PLUS is a European response to this challenge. This response is to assemble European expertise in order to combat the situation, which seems to be the new norm across the different European healthcare systems. CHRODIS PLUS has an important role with valuable results, which will affect the health of the European community. As the scientific coordinator, I trust that the team of CHRODIS PLUS partners, people and organisations can deliver. I believe CHRODIS PLUS can bring the change that is required to tackle chronic diseases by successfully implementing best practices, that are created and proven successful within Europe."



Iñaki Imaz

IÑAKI IMAZ leads the work package on INTEGRATION IN NATIONAL POLICIES AND SUSTAINABILITY

Organisation: INSTITUTE OF HEALTH CARLOS III, SPAIN

"CHRODIS PLUS is an extensive and wide-ranging project requiring a significant effort to ensure that its research takes into account the actual situation of Member States so that it is able to propose sustainable and suitable actions. We are very committed to this work, keeping in mind the importance that an increased implementation of good practices in the prevention and management of chronic diseases has for Europe. It is an honour to be a member of this team that boosts innovation in a multifaceted and crucial field for the health of our population."





CLAUDIA MARINETTI and **ANNE LOUNAMAA** lead the HEALTH PROMOTION AND DISEASE PREVENTION work package

Organisations: **EuroHealthNet** (Claudia Marinetti) and **NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, FINLAND** (Anne Lounamaa)



Anne Lounamaa

Claudia Marinetti

"We are proud to lead the health promotion and disease prevention section of CHRODIS PLUS, which will not only contribute to a healthier Europe, but to a fairer one too. Our work will aid the much needed shift towards prevention and promotion. We will address health inequalities and chronic diseases together. This will be of benefit to all; it will make health systems more sustainable, support the sustainable development goals, and most importantly, help citizens to obtain their right to the highest attainable standard of health, regardless of their social and economic status."



GRAZIANO ONDER and ROKAS NAVICKAS lead the work package on PILOT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTEGRATED CARE MODEL FOR MULTIMORBIDITY

Organisations: CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF THE SACRED HEART, ITALY (Graziano Onder) and VILNIUS UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL (Rokas Navickas)



Rokas Navickas

Graziano Onder

"CHRODIS PLUS is an opportunity where a joint European effort for identifying and redefining best practices is converted into actual practice across different healthcare settings with real results for communities. The work package on the implementation of the multimorbidity care model is like a bridge where multimorbidity related best practices are identified, checked and adjusted so that they can be implemented across a wide range of EU countries. We are excited and ready to steer our partners towards a commonly agreed upon goal."



MARINA MAGGINI and JELKA ZALETEL lead the work package on FOSTERING THE QUALITY OF CARE FOR PEOPLE WITH CHRONIC DISEASES

Organisations: NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH, ITALY (Marina Maggini) and NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH, SLOVENIA (Jelka Zaletel)



Jelka Zaletel

Marina Maggini

"We were very happy to see, how the "CHRODIS family" was assembled during the last joint action. Now that the network of enthusiastic colleagues is getting stronger and bigger, we are able to produce breakthrough ideas, successfully manage the process in line with the results and still keep our minds open to the ideas of others. CHRODIS PLUS Joint Action has the opportunity to open many doors that may lead to better health in the EU, and we believe that "chrodisians" have the knowledge, experience, energy and wisdom to make it happen. From producing results at the personal patient level to working with policy makers from Member States, and doing all of that with passion, is how we personally see the CHRODIS PLUS family."





Matilde Leonardi

MATILDE LEONARDI and JAANA LINDSTROM lead the work package on EMPLOYMENT AND CHRONIC DISEASES: HEALTH IN ALL SECTORS

Organisations: FOUNDATION OF CARLO BESTA
NEUROLOGICAL INSTITUTE, ITALY (Matilde Leonardi)
and NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE,
FINLAND (Jaana Lindstrom)



Jaana Lindstrom

"One in five people of working age have a chronic illness. Therefore, the topic of chronic diseases in the work setting cannot be overlooked. To combat discrimination against them, workplaces need to adapt to accommodate the needs of workers with chronic diseases.

Our mission is to improve

- work access and the participation of people with chronic diseases,
- to support employers in implementing health promotion and chronic disease prevention activities in the workplace, and
- to reinforce decisionmakers' abilities to create policies that improve the access, reintegration, maintenance and retention of people with chronic diseases."



Zoltan Aszalos

ZOLTAN ASZALOS and **ZUZANA MATLONOVA** lead the work package on COMMUNICATION

Organisations: SEMMELWEIS UNIVERSITY IN BUDAPEST (Zoltan Aszalos) and MINISTRY OF HEALTH OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC (Zuzana Matlonova)



Zuzana Matlonova

"We believe that CHRODIS PLUS is a project that offers tested public health models of outstanding value to health organisations across Europe and beyond. As the leaders of the communications function of this project, we are excited to contribute to and learn from this multinational knowledge transfer. We also feel privileged to be part of the network of "chrodisians", the talented and dedicated health professionals working for the project".



EMMANUEL GIMENEZ GARCIA and **MIREIA ESPALLARGUES CARRERAS** lead the work package on EVALUATION

Organisation: AGENCY FOR HEALTH QUALITY AND ASSESSMENT OF CATALONIA, SPAIN



Mireia Espallargues Carreras

Emmanuel Gimenez Garcia

Emmanuel: "My personal mission is to credibly evaluate the success and quality of the Joint Action implementation, and contribute to highlighting the impact produced within and beyond the Joint Action."

Mireia: "My personal mission is to give advice for several project tasks such as providing feedback on reports, helping in defining the working plans, supporting the surveys' design and conducting interviews with experts, among others."



Learn more about the content of our work packages

In this section we introduce the work performed by the project's work packages. Each of the eight work packages has a special objective within the Joint Action.

This Joint Action primarily focuses on the implementation of policies and practices in the field of chronic diseases. In the following part of this newsletter, we will present the content of our Implementation work packages to you.

Integration in National Policies and Sustainability chrodis.eu/04-integration/

Aim: to support European Union Member States with the implementation of new or innovative policies and practices for health promotion as well as the prevention and management of chronic diseases and multimorbidity.



This work package will, among other things, foster 17 policy dialogues in Europe:

- 2 policy dialogues at the European level
- 15 policy dialogues at the national level

To learn more about policy dialogues, please click here.
EU level policy dialogues focus on:

- 1. Employment and chronic diseases
- 2. Innovative financing of health promotion to help ensure the sustainability of health systems

Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

chrodis.eu/05-health-promotion/

Aim: to improve the knowledge and practice around health promotion and disease prevention across Europe.



In recent years, health promotion and disease prevention have proven to be cost-effective and efficient in reducing the burden of chronic diseases.

Building on the results and knowledge from the previous Joint Action CHRODIS, this work package, with 22 partners from 14 countries, focuses primarily on

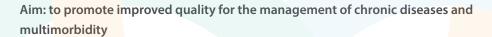
- 1. analysing and assessing countries' health promotion and disease prevention landscapes;
- 2. implementing good practices through the implementation projects targeting children, the working population and older people; and
- 3. better integrating health promotion and disease prevention in the healthcare and wider social care systems.



Who will benefit most from this activity? The primary beneficiaires will be practitioners, policymakers and other stakeholders, who can learn from publications such as country reports, recommendations for the implementation and transfer of health promotion and disease prevention practices, and through intra- and inter-sectoral collaboration. Ultimately, however, it will be European societies and citizens who will profit the most from healthier lives.

Pilot Implementation of the Integrated Care Model for Multimorbidity

chrodis.eu/06-multimorbidity/





The Multimorbidity Care Model was developed in Joint Action CHRODIS (2014-2017). In this project this model will be assessed in practice, thereby proving its applicability and its use will be validated across different European healthcare settings.

The main focus is on field-testing the new Integrated Multimorbidity Care Model for people with multiple morbidities in primary and tertiary care hospitals in Lithuania, Italy and Spain at five pilot sites. As a result, CHRODIS-integrated care models that are country-specific will be developed.

Who will benefit the most from this activity? Patients for the most part as well as resources in healthcare.

Fostering the quality of care for people with chronic diseases

chrodis.eu/07-fostering-quality-of-care/



Aim: to foster high quality care for people with chronic diseases through the implementation of a set of quality criteria and recommendations (QCR tool)

The Quality Criteria and Recommendations tool will be applied in a series of pilot actions conducted by eight project partners in different settings, domains, and healthcare organisations. The Quality Criteria and Recommendations tool constitutes a valuable and practical analytical framework that can be used by decision-makers, healthcare personnel, and patients to support the implementation of good practices and to improve, monitor, and evaluate the quality of chronic disease prevention and care.

The adoption of an agreed upon core set of quality criteria will also help to reduce inequalities in access to health services, and it will contribute to the cultural shift needed to redesign the care systems with and around the needs of people with chronic diseases.



Employment and Chronic Diseases: health in all sectors

chrodis.eu/08-employment/

Aim: to improve work access and the participation of people with chronic diseases, to support employers in implementing health promotion and chronic disease prevention activities in the workplace, and to reinforce decision-makers' ability to create policies that improve the access, reintegration, maintenance and retention of people with chronic diseases.

Three documents will be issued concerning employment and chronic diseases:

- The CHRODIS PLUS Training Tool will help employers understand the operational benefits of the inclusion, integration and reintegration of people suffering from chronic diseases.
- The CHRODIS PLUS Toolkit for Adaptation of the Workplace will be an evidence based, practice-oriented guide for employers to adapt their work environments to support healthy lifestyles and prevent and manage chronic diseases in work settings.
- 3. The CHRODIS PLUS policy recommendations will target policy makers so that European and national legislative frameworks consider all issues on employment and chronic diseases from the perspective of "Health in all Sectors".

Coordination, communication and evaluation of project work

In addition to the content-producing work packages (introduced above), three work packages ensure the coordination, communication and evaluation of our project.

- Coordination work package: ensures that all project results are delivered on time and in high
 quality, they also ensure communication with the European Commission and communication
 with CHAFEA (Consumer, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency).
- 2. Communication work package: ensures that the project results are widely disseminated to all kinds of networks. This work package communicates on the latest results, news, events and overall progress of the project.
- 3. Evaluation work package: ensures that all documents, reports and results are completed as planned and evaluated, so that they can be brought to you in the highest quality. Over a dozen surveys will review of our partners' satisfaction with the project during the upcoming three years as well as monitor the impact of CHRODIS PLUS.



Implementation projects

CHRODIS PLUS focuses on the implementation of policies and practices and the fostering of policy dialogues. We are pleased to introduce our implementation projects in this newsletter while policy dialogues will be presented in the next newsletter.

The 25 national-level implementation projects are based on the collection of policies, strategies and interventions that began in Joint Action CHRODIS (2014-2017). Its outputs are but (not are not limited to) national plans for health promotion and disease prevention, integrated multimorbidity care models, recommendations for diabetes quality criteria, as well as chronic diseases and employment.

Projects are implemented in four major areas:

- 1. Health promotion and disease prevention: 5 models implemented by 8 organisations
- 2. Multimorbidity Care Model: 1 model implemented by 5 organisations
- 3. Quality Criteria Recommendations: 1 tool implemented by 8 organisations
- 4. Employment and Chronic Diseases: 1 tool implemented by 4 organisations

Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

These projects will be implemented by 8 organisations in Europe and aim to improve national approaches to promoting health and preventing diseases.

- Irish JA-CHRODIS Good Practice "Active School Flag". This project aims to increase the physical activity of school children by
 developing a physically active and educated school community. Elements of the Active School Flag will be implemented by the
 Piedmont Regional Health Promotion Documentation Centre in Italy and by the Institute of Hygiene in Lithuania. The description of
 the model project is available here.
- 2. The Dutch JA-CHRODIS Good Practice "JOGG" addresses children and adolescent obesity and encourages all people in a town or neighbourhood to make healthy food and exercise an easy and attractive lifestyle option for young people. Elements of JOGG will be implemented by the Directorate of Health in Iceland. The description of the model project is available here.
- 3. The Greek JA-CHRODIS Good Practice "ToyBox" is a multicomponent, kindergarten-based, family-involved intervention and focuses on the promotion of water consumption, healthy snacking, physical activity and the reduction of sedentary time in preschool children and their families. Elements of the "ToyBox" intervention will be implemented by the Directorate of Health and Disease Prevention in Malta. The description of the model project is available here.
- 4. The Italian JA-CHRODIS Good Practice "Lombardy Workplace Health Promotion Network" is a public-private partnership and promotes a healthy lifestyle through different actions and information that target healthy eating, smoking cessation, increased physical activity, alcohol reduction and safe walking/biking to work. The Workplace Health Promotion Network will be implemented by the Andalusian Regional Ministry of Equality, Health and Social Policies in Spain. The description of the model project is available here.
- 5. The Icelandic JA-CHRODIS intervention "Multimodal Training Intervention in Communities An Approach to Successful Ageing" is multicomponent training, including physical activity, nutrition and health guiding to prevent health risks among older people (71-90). It will be implemented by the Institute of Hygiene in Lithuania, by the Institute of Health Carlos III in Spain and by the Directorate of Health in Iceland. The description of the model project is available here.



Integrated Care Model for Multimorbidity

These projects will be implemented by 5 organisations and aim to test and assess the usability of the Multimorbidity Care Model in different settings.

This model was developed by JA-CHRODIS and will be implemented, tested and assessed in CHRODIS PLUS pilot projects. Sixteen components of the model were identified and classified under five domains: Delivery of Care; Decision Support; Self Management Support; Information Systems and Technology; and Social and Community Resources. These implementation projects will prove the applicability of the model across different European healthcare settings.

The description of the Multimorbidity Care Model is available here.

The model will be implemented at the following pilot locations:

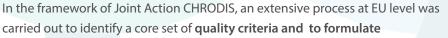
- Agostino Gemelli University Polyclinic will implement the care model in a tertiary care hospital. It has already
 developed and implemented personalized organisational and management models to deliver more effective healthcare services.
- 2. Vilnius University Hospital Santaros Klinikos will implement the care model in primary care. This pilot would test its applicability in a primary healthcare setting and will test the components of the care model.
- 3. Hospital of Lithuanian University of Health Sciences will implement the care model in the Family Medicine

 Department of a tertiary university clinic.
- 4. Aragonese Institute for Health Sciences will implement the care model in primary care in the Aragon region of Spain.

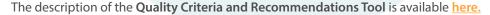
 They will choose multimorbid patients to carry out the implementation in a real context.
- 5. Health Council of the Regional Government of Andalusia will implement the model in primary care in the Andalusia region of Spain. This implementation will be linked with the Healthcare Strategy for Complex Chronic Patients.

Fostering the Quality of Care for People with Chronic Diseases

Quality Criteria and Recommendations will be implemented by eight institutions and aim to improve the quality of care for people with chronic diseases.







This tool will be implemented by the following partners:

- 1. General Hospital Novo Mesto and Primary Healthcare Centre Novo Mesto, Slovenia
- 2. Primary Care Units in close cooperation with the Institute of Public Health of Serbia and Ministry of Health Republic of Serbia. Serbia
- 3. Primary Healthcare Centers in collaboration with the Croatian Institute of Public Health, Croatia
- 4. National Institute for Health and Welfare, Finland
- 5. Specialised Care management and Integrated Care Call Centre, Greece.





Pilot actions on mobile IT tools will be conducted by three partners for self-empowering patients suffering from chronic diseases. These tools are also developed using the QCR Tool:

- 1. Cantabrian Health Service CSC in Spain
- 2. National Center of Public Health and Analyses NCPHA in Bulgaria
- 3. University Hospital Regensburg UHREG in Germany

Overall, all participating countries will explore the sustainability and scalability of the intended changes, learning from these pilot actions in order to foster high quality care for people with chronic diseases.

Employment and Chronic Diseases

The CHRODIS PLUS Toolkit for Adaptation of the Workplace will be an evidence-based, practice-oriented guide for employers to adapt their work environments to support healthy lifestyles and prevent and manage chronic diseases in work settings.

Context description: Chronic diseases have vast social and economic implications also in regards to the employment sector. The impact that chronic diseases have on individuals in terms of negative employment outcomes, such as reduced workforce participation and early retirement, result in a loss of income and an increase in the risk of poverty for the person as well as for his/her family. Chronic diseases also affect employers: absence from work, issues connected to employability, costs of retaining or replacing workers, and internal company policies are aspects which are crucial. Many of these issues can be tackled by adapting the work environment. Furthermore, many chronic diseases have their origin in lifestyles, which are to a large extend determined by the environments that we live in. Therefore, work environments matter. The Toolkit will provide employers support for understanding the importance of work environments, the benefits of health promotion and chronic disease prevention, and for implementing prevention activities targeted at all workers and identified high-risk groups.

The CHRODIS PLUS Toolkit for Adaptation of the Workplace will be tested through pilot projects, conducted by the following four organisations in selected workplaces:

- National Institute for Health and Welfare, Finland, together with the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, University
 of Eastern Finland, and Technical Research Centre of Finland
- The Foundation of the Carlo Besta Neurological Institute, Italy
- National Institute for Health and Environment, Netherlands
- Health Council of the Regional Government of Andalusia, Spain





Events

Promotion of future activities that the Joint Action offers to all interested health professionals.

Stay connected: workshops & webinars.

CONFERENCES: CHRODIS PLUS will organise two major professional events for those interested in the activities of this project:

Stakeholder Forum: Spring 2019Closing Conference: Summer 2020

Specific dates will be announced a year in advance. You are welcome to join both of these events which will be advertised through all CHRODIS PLUS communication channels.

WEBINARS: From February 2019 onward, webinars will be offered for those interested in the activities of the core work packages of the Joint Action. The leaders of each work package will provide an overview of the experiences they gained with their team during the project. The webinar sessions will be an interactive sharing of experiences. These events will be advertised three months in advance.

Past event in Treviso, Italy: On 13-14 February 2018 an implementation training event was held in Treviso, Italy. This workshop aimed to finalise the common methodology and processes for the cross-national implementation of pilot projects. The workshop supported project partners who are involved in the implementation projects and policy dialogues. To learn more about this event, click <a href="https://example.com/here-national-nati

Stay healthy and enjoy reading this newsletter

In each newsletter we would like to share some important facts and figures about chronic diseases. Here is the first set:-)

- 1. If the major risk factors for chronic diseases were eliminated, at least 80% of heart disease, stroke and type 2 diabetes cases would be prevented, along with 40% of cancer cases (WHO)
- 2. Obesity has reached epidemic proportions globally, with at least 2.8 million people dying each year as a result of being overweight or obese. Once associated with high-income countries, obesity is now also prevalent in low- and middle-income countries. (WHO)
- 3. Currently, there are more than 6 million new cases of cardiovascular diseases in the EU every year. With almost 49 million people living with the disease in the EU, the cost to EU economies is high at €210 billion a year. (European Society of Cardiology)
- 4. Tobacco use kills nearly 6 million people a year globally. By 2020, this number will increase to 7.5 million, accounting for 10% of all deaths. (WHO)
- 5. And finally good news on staying young and healthy: biological ageing is only loosely associated with a person's age in years. Some 80-year-olds have physical and mental capacities similar to many 20-year-olds. (WHO)





STAY CONNECTED

We would like to introduce the CHRODIS PLUS visual identity, website, social media and communications approach and encourage everyone to participate

We are committed to communicating the results of our work via multiple channels, to inform you in regards to everything that you need to know about the latest activities and events.

Please visit our website featuring tested models for fighting chronic diseases.

chrodis.eu

We are also happy to introduce our updated logo for the Joint Action, which represents our combined efforts towards better cooperation and collaborative joint work in the field of chronic diseases. We are confident that this essential component of our branding will add to the further work of the project and will complement our continued work on the project and will fuel of our work creativity.

The new website eaturing brand-new content and new visuals is already available, with more developments to appear during the coming months.

Want to know all of the news and activities regarding our project?

- Follow us on Twitter @EU_CHRODISplus
- Follow us on Facebook EU_CHRODISplus
- Visit our YouTube stream EU_CHRODISplus

Please promote us within your professional networks by suggesting to chronic disease experts that they subscribe to our upcoming CHRODIS PLUS Newsletters.

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