Dear Reader,

This is a special edition of the CHRODIS PLUS Newsletter dedicated to helping you prepare for the CHRODIS PLUS Budapest Conference on 14-15 May. Please take your time while reading this Newsletter, which highlights how the organisers have prepared to make the most of our time together, as well as what they expect the event to achieve. Please share the press release included with this newsletter.

**Final Conference Agenda**

Please visit our conference travel guide to find useful information on how to reach the hotel hosting the conference. Registration opens already at 8:30 on Tuesday the morning in the hotel lobby.

We are excited to see you during this unique gathering to share and exchange ideas that can have a significant impact on how chronic diseases will be treated in Europe in the future, and look forward to seeing you soon!
Press Release - please share!

14-15 May 2019 - Budapest

The CHRODIS PLUS Joint Action of the European Union (2017-2020), has brought together over 50 project partner institutions, representing 21 European countries, to collaborate on and implement 21 pilot projects, to test public health models and tools, and to organise 15 national and 2 EU level policy dialogues. The aim is to generate practical and policy level lessons to support Member States in tackling the burden of chronic diseases. During its 36 months of operation, this project will contribute to the reduction of this burden by promoting the implementation of policies and practices that have been successfully demonstrated. The further refinement and cross-border sharing of these tested policies and good practices across EU countries is the core idea behind this action.

The CHRODIS PLUS Budapest Conference on 14-15 May is one of the key events in this project where over 180 chronic disease experts arriving from 26 countries will participate to discuss and provide feedback on the real-life experiences project partners have gained during the initiative's first 20 months. This conference intends to demonstrate the impact that CHRODIS PLUS has on public health systems across EU Member States with a special emphasis on proving that the good practices, models and tools that the project implements can be tailored to various national and local settings across Europe. The conference's presentations and roundtable discussions are structured around the project's key focus areas: Health Promotion & Primary Prevention, an Integrated Multimorbidity Care Model, Fostering Quality Care for People with Chronic Diseases, ICT-based Patient Empowerment, and Employment & Chronic Diseases.

More information about our work is available at the Chrodis PLUS website.

For more information on the entire project, please visit: chrodis.eu

Coordinator: Institute of Health Carlos III, Spain

Scientific coordinator: Vilnius University Hospital Santaros Klinikos, Lithuania

Joint Action time frame: September 2017 - August 2020
Leading up to the Conference

The conference will be opened by the following key speakers, listed below according to the order of their speeches:

**Antonio Sarría Santamera**
- MD PhD, Coordinator of the Joint Action, physician, with extensive experience in health services research, and a special focus on chronic conditions. Director of the National School of Health IMIENS-UNED in Spain, Senior Scientist at the Institute of Health Carlos III, Spain, and Adjunct Professor of Preventive Medicine and Public Health at the University of Alcalá, Faculty of Medicine.
- Member of the Spanish Network of Health Services Research on Chronic Diseases (REDISSEC).

**Miklós Szócska**
- Medical doctor, academic and politician
- Former Hungarian Minister of State for Health
- Director of the Health Services Management Training Centre of Semmelweis University
- And a nominated candidate by the Hungarian Government for the General-Director position of the WHO in 2016

**Ildikó Horváth**
- Hungarian Minister of State for Health
- Professor of Pulmonology
- Formerly medical director of Budapest’s Korányi Institute for Pulmonology and Head of the Institute of Public Health at Semmelweis University.

**Wojciech Kalamarz**
- Head of Unit for Health Determinants and International Relations in the Directorate for Public Health, Country Knowledge, Crisis Management of the Health and Food Safety Directorate General (DG SANTE) of the European Commission in Luxembourg. Kalamarz is in charge of health promotion, e.g. related to nutrition and physical activity as well as fighting obesity.
- Kalamarz also represents DG SANTE in international forums such as the World Health Organisation, G7 and G20 and in cooperation with neighbouring and enlargement countries.

**Rokas Navickas**
- Scientific Coordinator of the Joint Action, Consultant Cardiologist and researcher at Vilnius University Hospital Santaros Klinikos. A highly accomplished Physician and Organisation Leader with international training and global experience that reflects achievements across healthcare, the wellness sector, research and education of cardiology initiatives. Navickas is currently improving his knowledge at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) earning an Executive Master of Science – EMSc, Health Economics, Outcomes and Management in Cardiovascular Diseases.
Interviews with Project Leaders

We have asked the Joint Action’s project leaders to highlight what they expect to achieve from the conference and what they will present at the plenary opening session. The following is a list of their responses:

What do you expect from the conference?

“"I really like the interactive nature of the conference, as there will be short presentations and lots of opportunities around the posters and roundtable discussion to share our ideas. Conference participants will have opportunities to share what they do, so it is not just the project leaders who can contribute, but everyone.”

Graziano Onder
leader of the Work Package on Multimorbidity

“"For the CHRODIS PLUS community participating in the General Assembly, this is an opportunity to increase their knowledge of the project’s different lines of activities and to facilitate their interconnection, thereby increasing the sense of belonging to such a successful initiative. For external participants attending the conference, not only will this be a magnificent opportunity to obtain a global perspective of the project, but they will also have the chance to contribute their vision in regards to the activities that are being carried out.”

Antonio Sarriá Santamera
Coordinator of the Joint Action

“I expect to be busy but very happy. We have such a diverse work package I hope that we can do our implementers and good practice owners justice. They do a lot of tremendous work and it is important that we share their work and all of the learning from CHRODIS PLUS. I think that the conference will be a great place to inspire others to implement good practices and improve health for all.”

Andrew Barnfield
leader of the Work Package on Health Promotion and Prevention

“I expect to discuss the impact that chronic diseases (CDs) have both on individuals, in terms of negative employment outcomes, and on employers, that have to deal with absence from work, presenteeism issues connected to employability, costs of retaining or replacing workers, and internal company policies, aspects which are crucial for hiring as well as re-integrating persons with CD. This topic is a major challenge that European governments have to face because, to date, the increased life expectancy, the onset of chronic diseases and lengthening of retirement age are issues increasingly prioritised in every European country.”

Matilde Leonardi
leader of the Work Package on Employment and Chronic Diseases

“This conference will increase the knowledge about the activities in the CHRODIS PLUS project among partners as well as among the wider public, providing tools for cooperation and the exchange of information to people working on the prevention and management of chronic diseases. I hope to raise awareness about the need for evaluation and how it can support project activities and guarantee the impact and usefulness of results among the scientific community and policy makers in Europe.”

Elisa Poses-Ferrer
leader of the Evaluation Work Package

“The Budapest Conference is a great opportunity to share with partners and stakeholders the current status of our work which is projecting and planning post-2020 scenarios for joint and innovative work to tackle non-communicable diseases in Europe. There will be a roundtable in the morning of May 15th when we can discuss how to present Chrodis+ recommendations to the world.”

Iñaki Imaz
leader of the Work Package on Integration into National Policies and Sustainability
What will you speak about at the plenary session of the Conference on Tuesday, and why did you pick this particular topic?

“I chose the topic “Wide scale implementation of the Multimorbidity Care Model: What? How? Why?” because in addition to the principles, the model shows the ways to implement this model. My presentation will explain how these principles can be brought into practice. In fact, it is a significant result of our Joint Action that it shows how theory can be turned into practice, or how a theoretical model can be converted into the realities of everyday life in healthcare with a direct benefit for patients.”

Graziano Onder
leader of the Work Package on Multimorbidity

“Our topic will be healthy children because we have three out of five projects that aim to improve the health of young people. We want to share the three different projects and shed a light onto helping young people have a good, healthy start to life.”

Andrew Barnfield
leader of the Work Package on Health Promotion and Prevention

““The key topic will be ’Rolling out CHRODIS PLUS results on national scale - The experience in Slovenia’. Based on the needs of the Ministry of Health Slovenia to support the implementation of the National Resolution on Health 2016-2025, General Hospital Novo Mesto and Primary Health Centre Novo Mesto are developing a model for the horizontal and vertical integration of care for people with complex needs. They are involving representatives from all healthcare professions involved in the care as well as patients’ representatives, but also with partners from outside the healthcare system, such as the municipality and social care organisations. The final model will be discussed as a Policy Dialogue (supported by JA CHRODIS PLUS), together with the analysis of the National Resolution on Health with respect to the Multimorbidity Care Model (also supported by JA CHRODIS PLUS work) to pave the way to the sustainability and scalability of the results in the Slovenian national health system.”

Marina Maggini
Jelka Zaletel
leaders of the Work Package on Fostering the Quality of Care

“Our key topic at the plenary will focus on “Employment and Chronic Diseases”, a topic that raised particular interest at the European level during the last decade since chronic diseases are considerably affecting people of working age. We will address the following issues in Budapest: 1) The social and economic occupational implications of the integration, reintegration and inclusion of people in the workforce suffering from chronic diseases. 2) The difficulties associated with the implementation of prevention and training measures in the workplace, which can help employers, institutes and political organisations to understand the benefits of promotion and prevention activities for populations at high risk for chronic diseases. It also concerns the implementation of training activities for managers on maintenance and return of work for those affected by CD.”

Matilde Leonardi
leader of the Work Package on Employment and Chronic Diseases

“Iñaki Imaz
leader of the Work Package on Integration into National Policies and Sustainability

“During the General Assembly before the Conference we will present Policy Dialogues as a key tool to influence national decision makers to facilitate the development and adoption of new national, regional and/or local policies with relevant impact. We selected one of the 15 National Policy Dialogues to be presented in depth, the Portuguese one, which was focused on “Advertising on Food and Beverages to Children.”

“We expect our partners to feel part of a large and supportive European community. Moreover, we hope, on one hand, that local teams become even more aware about conducting activities that are important at the European level, and on the other that European stakeholders become aware of the concrete opportunities to improve the quality of care for people with chronic diseases.”

Marina Maggini
Jelka Zaletel
leaders of the Work Package on Fostering the Quality of Care
Brief Interview with Ingrid Keller, Programme Coordinator at the European Commission, DG Santé

You are going to give a plenary presentation and also chair a roundtable discussion on the Best Practice Portal of the DG Health & Food Safety of the European Commission.

What is the DG SANTE best practice portal?
The portal brings together good and best practices collected in previous actions co-funded by the Health Programme e.g. CHRODIS and the joint action on nutrition and physical activity (JANPA) and the EU Compass on Mental Health. We are expanding it with best practices from stakeholders, i.e. practices not necessarily collected in the frame of pan-EU projects.

What can the visitor do in the best practice portal?
The visitor can search for a good/best practice in many health fields. Currently the portal hosts good/best practices on health promotion and prevention and management of non-communicable diseases. We are planning to expand the portal to include communicable diseases. Visitors can also submit their own practice for evaluation via an online questionnaire. All practices assessed as “best”, will receive a certificate.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION TOPICS

On the second day of the conference, Wednesday, 15 May, there will be opportunities to participate in two roundtable discussions, each 45 minutes long. You can sign up for these discussions upon arrival to the conference at the reception table. You will be able to join roundtables focusing on the following topics:

- Integration of good practices into national policies and sustainability
- Innovative Financing for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
- Comprehensive approach to promote health and well-being of children: Implementing selected elements of the Dutch JOGG good practice to strengthen the Health Promoting Community programme in Iceland
- Health promotion and prevention: Adults at work
- Multimodal Health Promotion - An Approach to Successful Ageing
- Identifying relevant outcomes that determine the success of the Multimorbidity Integrated Care Model implementation
- Identifying patients suitable to receive integrated care
- The Integrated Multimorbidity Care Model adjusted to the local healthcare setting: what could be implemented in your country?
- How to achieve meaningful patient involvement
- Prevention of chronic diseases among vulnerable and hard-to-reach population
- Using the Joint Action CHRODIS Quality Criteria Tool to make the change happen
- Stay at work and return to work after cancer
- How to disseminate and implement the Training Tool and Toolkit in your country?
- Employment, Chronic Diseases and Workability / Issues and Policy
- The DG Santé Best Practices Portal: what can it do for me? What can I find there and how can I participate?
- What research is necessary on non-communicable diseases?
- Innovative technologies in non-communicable diseases
Social event on Tuesday evening, 14 May

Since over 120 conference participants registered for the social event, an evening boat ride on the Danube on Tuesday, 14 May, we were able to negotiate a better price, and the cost will be €20 or 6,500 Hungarian Forints (thus the €30 price we communicated earlier has been reduced).

Hotel Benczur - an excellent location for the CHRODIS PLUS Conference

Budapest provides a great venue for conferences given its central location in the heart of Europe and its reasonable prices. In addition to the excellent road and railway network that connects Hungary to the rest of Europe, over 25 airlines offer direct flights to Budapest, enabling visitors to arrive hassle free. Hotel Benczur, where the CHRODIS PLUS Conference will be hosted, is located in a prestigious district in Budapest a mere 5 minute walk from the UNESCO World Heritage Site that includes Heroes’ Square and Andrássy Avenue.

The address of the pre-Conference events and the Conference is:
Budapest 1068, Benczúr u. 35, Hungary

Have a safe journey and see you soon!

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