

MATTONE NEWS

Welcome to n.21 of MATTONE NEWS, the newsletter proposed by the Project Mattone Internazionale, an information service on health topics and social-health project at European and International level.

UPCOMING EVENTS OF MATTONE INTERNAZIONALE

17 January 2012 Rome

Infoday "European Health Programme" - call 2013

Info:

progettomattoneinternazionale@ulss10.veneto.it

UPCOMING EVENTS funded by notice n.1 OF MATTONE INTERNAZIONALE

3-10-17 December 2012 Ancona

Workshop "Facilitate and promote the European exchange and benchmarking on the implementation of ICT solutions and for the use of the electronic health record"

12-13 December 2012 Turin

Training event: "We put the Network into the network: developing the Adolescent Psychology Network of the Piedmont Region in the perspective of EU health policy"

Highlight

PROJECT MATTONE INTERNAZIONALE: THE THIRD MODULE OF THE NATIONAL TRAINING PLAN STARTING IN 2013

The Project MI continues to implement training activities at national level aimed at promoting cultural uniformity among the Italian regions on topics related to health systems.

Thanks to the input provided by participants at the modules n.1 and n.2, the module n.3 will be implemented in 2013 (probably in February and March). The residential training will consist of two courses: a) Drafting a project proposal and budget and b) Project management.

The training courses will include plenary sessions on working tools, specific activities and working groups, supported by experts, as well as in-depth studies of new EU programming 2014-2020.

Both courses will be implemented. The number of events and the composition of the participants involved will be scheduled based on a geographical criteria in order to strengthen the cooperation among regions. They will be defined according to the suggestions of participants above mentioned and in agreement with the regional representatives of the Project MI.

INFODAY "EUROPEAN HEALTH PROGRAMME - CALL 2013"

On the 17th of December 2012 at the Ministry of Health in Rome there will be an Information Day on the 2013 Call for Proposals of the "Public Health" European Programme. The programme and the registration form of the event are available on the website of the Project Mattone Internazionale (www.progettomattoneinternazionale.it).

FURTHER EVENTS

15 January 2013 Brussels

Information day on Call 7 of the Competitiveness & Innovation Programme ICT Policy Support Programme (CIP ICT PSP)

Info: <http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/news-redirect/9332>

29-30 January 2013 Brussels

EFGCP Annual Conference 2012: Virtual future: what are the ethical dimensions of using emerging technologies in clinical trials and research?

Info: www.efgcp.eu/

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MATTONE INTERNAZIONALE PROJECT WEBSITE: NEW SECTION ON PROJECT MATTONE INTERNAZIONALE THEMES

It is finally on-line within the Project Mattone Internazionale website a new dedicated section on "PMI themes" specifically dedicated to the following themes: Ageing, Alcohol, New Directive on Patients' Rights in Cross-border Healthcare and the Italian Presidency of the EU Council. Through the above mentioned thematic sections the Project Mattone Internazionale aims at collecting and analysing information on social-health policies and activities that are currently being debated at European and international level.

For more information: www.progettomattoneinternazionale.it/servizi/Menu/dinamica.aspx?idArea=18758&idCat=18758&ID=18758&TipoElemento=area

OUTCOME OF THE EVENT “ROLE OF THE REGIONS IN THE FUTURE OF THE EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP ON ACTIVE AND HEALTHY AGEING”

On the 30th of November, the event entitled: “Role of the Regions in the future of the European Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing” was held at the Ministry of Health. The event was very important for sharing experiences among the Italian Regions.

Following a welcome speech held by dr. Ruocco from the Ministry of Health, dr. Stocco from the Local Health Unit n. 10 of the Veneto Region opened the morning session presenting Italian Regions’ project proposals on Ageing. Proposals were illustrated through the exhibition of project posters.

Later dr. Zagordo from the EC DG Sanco introduced future perspectives of the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing and dr. Margetidis from the EAHC presented Lessons from the evaluation of the 2012 Call for proposals for projects submitted under EIP-AHA priority.

Subsequently, Prof. Pecorelli illustrated the role of Italy in pilot and A1 initiatives and dr. Marjan Sedmak, President of the Age Platform presented initiatives and findings within the framework of the 2012 European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between generations.

European Networks Coral and Euregha then presented their commitments and role within the action groups organized by the Commission.

During the afternoon session, the first round table discussion was moderated by dr. Antoni Dedeu from Euregha. Activities and outcomes of the Italian action groups involved in the EIP-AHA were illustrated by Emilia Romagna Region, Friuli Venezia Giulia Region, Piedmont Region, Campania and Apulia Regions.

The event closed with a second round table among Reference Site nominated by the EU in the EIP-AHA involving the following Italian regions: Piedmont, Emilia Romagna, Campania, Autonomous Province of Trento and Liguria.

The need for the organization of further meetings on the issue emerged as a result of the event. Additional meetings will allow an in depth analysis and contribute to the sharing of experiences among the Italian Regions.

**PAST EVENTS funded by
notice n.1 OF MATTONE
INTERNAZIONALE**

**8/9/22/23/29 November 2012
Ancona**

Training course "Capacity building. New skills to become a good EU project planner for the regional health system"

22-23 November 2012 Gorizia

Workshop: "Alcoholism (Policy, projects and networks, methods and approaches, from idea to project)"

30 - 31 October 2012 Ancona

Workshop "Managing Chronic conditions by the point of view of community. Experiences, ideas, solutions to be compared at national and international level "

26 October 2012 Rome

Workshop "Organization and uncomfortable work environments: new tools to improve competitiveness and prevention at European level"

12 -13 September 2012 Florence

Workshop "Patient Safety and Prevention from the infections due to health care services provided by Hospitals: Acting against Sepsis"

8 June 2012 Palermo

Workshop "Global Health: the Challenges of the Millennium Goals (in collaboration with WHO)". The protection of health among new frontiers and backwardness "

OPEN CALL FOR PROPOSALS / TENDER

**LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAMME(LLP) – CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2013
EAC/S07/12**

Last August has been published the general call for proposals 2013 of Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP). Every year, the European Commission defines the priorities of LLP in a call for proposals; this year have been identified the following **general priorities**:

- *Develop strategies for lifelong learning and mobility.*

Objective: to encourage initiatives to develop mobility strategies and to remove obstacles to mobility. In this context, initiatives between regions from different Member States will be particularly encouraged. Mobility strategies, however, could also be developed at sectoral level (e.g. an industrial branch) or between educational institutions. The shift towards learning outcomes, effective lifelong guidance, the implementation of such tools as *European Qualifications Framework (EQF)* and *National Qualifications Frameworks (NQFs)*, *Europass*, *learning outcomes-based European Credit Transfer System (ECTS)* and *European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET)* that enhance lifelong learning and mobility, and promote the validation and recognition of non-formal and informal learning should also be further explored and developed.

- *Encourage cooperation between the worlds of education, training and work.*

Objective: to encourage cooperation between all sectors of education, training and the world of work.

- *Support initial and continuous training of teachers, trainers and education and training institutions' managers.*

Objective: to improve the quality of education and teachers and those who manage the education institutions.

- *Promote the acquisition of key competences throughout the education and training system.*

Objective: to develop projects focused on some key competences (foreign languages, mathematical competence and basic competences in science and technology, digital competence, social and civic competences, sense of initiative and entrepreneurship, cultural awareness and expression).

- *Promote social inclusion and gender equality in education and training, including the integration of migrants and Roma.*

Objective: reduction of early school leaving; promote social inclusion through education. Issues relating to the participation of migrants, groups with fewer opportunities, including Roma, and vulnerable social groups of people with special needs will be particularly important for schools, VET and adult education.

PAST EVENTS OF

MATTONE INTERNAZIONALE

8 November 2012 Turin

"The internationalization of health systems: best practice and experimental models compared"

Info:

progettomattoneinternazionale@ulss10.veneto.it

12 -14 September 2012 Venice

26 - 28 September 2012 Rome

03 - 05 October 2012 Bari

10 - 12 October 2012 Perugia

17 - 19 October 2012 Milan

"Course on the tools and strategies for designing and managing projects in the health context - MI Project"- second module

15-16 -17-18 May 2012 Milan (Italy)

29 - 30 - 31 May 2012

01 June 2012 Rome (Italy)

5 - 6 - 7- 8 June 2012

26 - 27 - 28 - 29 June 2012

Palermo (Italy)

Training course : Policies and European and international health relations in the framework of the Project Mattone Internazionale" first module

7 - 8 - 9 May 2012 Brussels

Study visit to European Institutions

13 April 2012 Milan (Italy)

18 April 2012 Trento (Italy)

19 April 2012 Rome (Italy)

Infoday: Europe and support to Health: opportunities and perspectives

Promoting access to learning opportunities (including e-learning opportunities) for people with disabilities is a strategic priority applying to the programme as a whole.

These overall **strategic priorities** are reflected in various ways under the different **subprogrammes** supported by the LLP. Where necessary, additional – more specific – priorities are also identified per sub-programme or key activity. Every year a general call for proposals is published concerning all sectors covered by LLP under the following **sub-programmes**:

a) *Comenius Programme – School education* focuses on the first phase of education, from pre-school and primary to secondary schools. It is relevant for all members of the education community: pupils, teachers, local authorities, parents' associations, non-government organisations, teacher training institutes, universities and all other educational staff;

b) *Erasmus Programme - Higher Education* is the EU's education and training programme for mobility and cooperation in higher education across Europe. Its different actions not only address students wishing to study and work abroad, but also higher education teachers and enterprise staff intending to teach abroad and to higher education staff seeking training abroad. In addition, Erasmus supports higher education institutions to work together through intensive programmes, networks and multilateral projects as well as to reach out to the world of business;

c) *Leonardo da Vinci Programme* links policy to practice in the field of vocational education and training (VET). Projects range from those giving individuals the chance to improve their competences, knowledge and skills through a period abroad, to Europe-wide co-operation between VET stakeholders in order to enhance the attractiveness, quality and performance of VET systems and practices;

d) *Grundtvig Programme* addresses the teaching and learning needs relating to all forms of adult learning which are not of a predominantly vocational nature, as well as the institutions and organisations providing or facilitating any form of such learning opportunities for adults – whether of a formal, non-formal or informal nature – including those involved in the initial and in-service training of staff;

e) *Transversal Programme* targeted on cross-sectoral areas (policy cooperation and innovation in lifelong learning, languages, development of innovative ICT, dissemination and exploitation of results);

f) *Jean Monnet action* stimulates teaching, research and reflection on European integration at higher education institutions throughout the world. With projects across the five continents, the programme reaches up to 250 000 students every year.

PAST EVENTS OF

MATTONE INTERNAZIONALE

19 - 20 March 2012 Geneva

Study visit to WHO

21 February 2012 Turin (Italy)

Infoday: Europe and support to Health: opportunities and perspectives

24 January 2012 Perugia (Italy)

Infoday "Europe and Health: opportunities and perspectives"

19 January 2012 Rome (Italy)

National Information Day 2012

European Health Programme (2008-2013) - "Together for health"

Eligible countries: the 27 EU Member States, the EEA/EFTA countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway), candidate countries (Croatia, Turkey), Switzerland, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. Multilateral projects and networks under Comenius, Erasmus, Leonardo da Vinci, Grundtvig and the key activities of the Transversal programme are also open to partners from *third countries* which do not already participate in the Lifelong Learning Programme.

Who can participate: pupils, students, trainees and adult learners, teachers and other staff involved in any aspect of lifelong learning (LLL), people in the labour market, institutions or organisations providing learning opportunities in any area of education or training, persons and bodies responsible for systems and policies concerning any specific aspect of LLL at local, regional and national level, Enterprises, social partners and their organisations at all levels, including trade organisations, professional organisations and chambers of commerce and industry, bodies providing guidance, counselling and information services relating to any aspect of LLL, Associations working in the field of LLL, research centres and bodies concerned with education and training issues, not-for-profit organisations, voluntary bodies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

With reference to the **health and social sector** could be interesting to consider in particular the subprogrammes *Leonardo da Vinci and Grundtvig*.

Deadline for the submission of application:

- Comenius, Grundtvig: in-service training; first deadline: **16 January 2013** (further deadlines: 30 April 2013, 17 September 2013);

- Comenius: Assistantships: **31 January 2013**;

- Comenius, Erasmus, Leonardo da Vinci, Grundtvig: Multilateral projects, networks and accompanying measures: **31 January 2013**;

- Leonardo da Vinci: Multilateral projects for the transfer of innovation: **31 January 2013**;

- Leonardo da Vinci: Mobility (including the Leonardo da Vinci mobility certificate); Erasmus: Intensive language courses (EILC): **1 February 2013**;

- Jean Monnet programme: **15 February 2013**;

- Comenius, Leonardo da Vinci, Grundtvig: Partnerships; Comenius: Comenius Regio partnerships; Grundtvig: Workshops; **21 February 2013**;

- Erasmus: Intensive programmes (IP), students mobility for studies and placements (including the Erasmus consortium placement certificate) and staff mobility (teaching assignments and staff training): **8 March 2013**;

- Grundtvig: Assistantships, senior volunteering projects: **28 March 2013**;

- Transversal programme: Key activity 1 — Study visits: first deadline: **28 March 2013** (second deadline: 15 October 2013);

- Transversal programme: all other activities: **28 February 2013**;

Budget tot.: 1,276 M €. (the level of grants awarded as well as the duration of projects vary depending on factors such as the type of project and the number of countries involved).

For more information: http://ec.europa.eu/education/lfp/official-documents-on-the-lfp_en.htm

SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH (FP7) 2007 – 2013

In the framework of 7FP 2007-2013 (specific programs: "*Cooperation, Ideas, People, Capacities and Euratom in 2012 and 2013*") **call for proposals** have been published with one or two-stage submission procedure.

A. *Cooperation Work Programme (theme "Information and Communication Technologies")*

- **FET-Open Xtrack Scheme- FP7-ICT-2013-X**

Deadline for submitting proposals: **29 January 2013** (il bando è sempre aperto: le proposte di progetto possono essere presentate in qualsiasi momento dal 12 settembre fino alla scadenza del 29 gennaio 2013).

Indicative budget : **15 M€**

FET "Future and Emerging Technologies"

The FET scheme continues to act as the pathfinder for mainstream ICT research. It will lay new foundations for future ICT by exploring **unconventional ideas** that can challenge our understanding of the scientific concepts behind ICT and that can impact future industrial ICT research agendas.

Hence, its priorities are influenced by new developments and emerging opportunities in a wide range of scientific areas (health sector included), as well as by the need to nurture the emergence of novel, often multidisciplinary, European research communities. FET will operate with a **Proactive and an Open scheme**, including activities to support new talents and high-tech SMEs.

Objective of the call

This objective supports the exploration of **new and alternative ideas** that, because of their risky or non-conventional nature, would not be supported elsewhere in the ICT. It seeks:

- foundational breakthroughs as crucial steps towards radically new forms and uses of information and information technologies within a clear long-term vision that is far beyond the state of the art;
- demonstration activities, designed to prove the viability of new technologies that offer a potential economic advantage, but which cannot be commercialised directly (e.g. *testing of product-like prototypes*);

- ambitious *proof-of-concept* and its supporting scientific foundation, where novelty comes from new, high-risk ideas rather than from the refinement of current ICT approaches;
- new inter-disciplinary collaborations, possibly with prominent and internationally recognized non-EU research teams where these can provide a significant added value.

Funding scheme:

- *Collaborative Projects CP (only Small and medium-scale focused research projects **STREP**).*

Small and medium-scale focused research projects (STREP) are objective-driven research projects, which aim at generating new knowledge, including new technology, or common resources for research in order to improve European competitiveness, or to address major societal needs. They have clearly defined scientific and technological objectives directed at obtaining specific results, which could be applicable in terms of development or improvement of products, processes, services or policy.

Partnership: at least **3 independent legal entities**, each of which is established in a EU Member State (MS) or Associated Country (AC);

Duration: from 18 months up to 3 years (however, there is no formal minimum or maximum duration).

Who can participate: research institutes, private and public bodies, universities, Industries (including SMEs), International organizations, legal entities, potential end-users.

For more information: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/cooperation?callIdentifier=FP7-ICT-2013-X>

- **FP7-ICT-2013-10 _ ICT call 10**

One-stage procedure; deadline for submitting proposals: **15 January 2013**

Total Budget: 705,5 M€

Challenge 5: ICT for Health, Ageing Well, Inclusion and Governance

The focus of Challenge 5 will be on development of solutions that empower the individual, in a social context, to improve and manage personal life as a citizen, elderly, patient, consumer, civil servant or worker.

Funding schemes:

- Small or medium-scale focused research projects (STREP)
 - Partnership: at least three legal entities established in different EU Member States or Associated countries;
 - Duration: STREPs are expected to last typically eighteen months to three years. However, there is no formal minimum or maximum duration.

- Large-scale integrating projects (IP)
 - Partnership: at least three legal entities established in different EU Member States or Associated countries;
 - Duration: IPs are expected to last typically three to five years. However, there is no formal minimum or maximum duration.
- Coordination and Support Action (coordinating action CAs)
 - Partnership: at least three legal entities established in different EU Member States or Associated countries;
 - Duration: CAs are expected to last typically eighteen months to three years. However, there is no formal minimum or maximum duration.

“Target audience”: Research institutes, Universities, Industries (including SMEs), International organizations, legal entities, potential end-users.

For more information: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/cooperation?callIdentifier=FP7-ICT-2013-10>

B) People Work Programma 2013

- **Marie Curie International Research Staff Exchange Scheme (IRSES) FP7-PEOPLE-2013-IRSES**

Deadline for submitting proposals: **17 January 2013**

Indicative budget: **30 M€** The *Marie Curie International Research Staff Exchange Scheme* is an action that aims to strengthen research partnerships through **staff exchanges and networking** activities between European research organisations and research organisations from countries with which the European Union has an S&T agreement or is in the process of negotiating one, and countries covered by the European Neighbourhood policy.

This action will provide support to research organisations to establish or reinforce long-term research cooperation through a coordinated joint programme of exchange of researchers for short periods.

Funding scheme: *Support for training and career development of researchers.*

Financial support will be provided for a period of 24 to 48 months, to joint programmes aiming at trans-national mobility of researchers, technical and management staff. For organisations in Member States and associated countries, the mobility shall be towards the other third country partners, and vice-versa.

Duration of exchanges: **maximum 12 months**

Partnership: at least two independent research organisations established in at least two different Member States or associated countries, and one or more research organisations either located in countries with which the European Union has or is in the process of negotiating an S&T agreement, or in countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy.

For more information: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/people?callIdentifier=FP7-PEOPLE-2013-IRSES>

- **FP7-PEOPLE-2013-CIG _MARIE CURIE ACTION: CAREER INTEGRATION GRANTS (CIG)**

Deadline for submitting proposals: **7 March** and **18 September 2013**

Indicative total budget: **40 M€**

Objective: to strengthen the *European Research Area (ERA)* by encouraging researchers to establish themselves in a Member State or in an associated country, thereby attracting and retaining the best talents in Europe. The action is designed to support researchers in the first steps of their European research career and to attain lasting professional integration in the ERA. This action should also allow the transfer of knowledge that the researchers have acquired prior to the Career Integration Grant, as well as to the development of lasting co-operation with the scientific and/or industrial environment of the country from which they have moved.

Who may apply?: this action addresses researchers of any nationality who, at the relevant deadline for submission of proposals, correspond to the definition of *experienced researchers*, and who comply with the mobility rule. A researcher who has benefited or is benefiting from a reintegration or career integration grant (including IRG and ERG grants under both FP6 and FP7) is ineligible for funding under this call. The application is made jointly by a researcher and a host organization located in a Member State or an associated country.

Funding scheme: *Support for training and career development of researchers.*

The grant can cover a period of up to **4 years** (It corresponds to a flat rate contribution of 25 000 € per researcher and per year for the benefit of the recruited researcher, to contribute to his/her research costs at the career integration host).

For more information: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/people?callIdentifier=FP7-PEOPLE-2013-CIG#>

PROGRAMME PROGRESS 2007 – 2013

Call for proposals

- ***Call for proposals for Social Policy Experimentations (VP/2012/007)***

Deadline: **15 February 2013.**

This call for proposals on *social policy experimentations* intends to improve the quality and effectiveness of social policies and to facilitate their adaptation to new social needs and societal challenges. Through this call, PROGRESS countries embarking on welfare reforms are offered financial support to experiment envisaged policy changes and reforms before implementing them, if successful, on a wider scale. Selected projects have to contribute to developing and testing socially innovative approaches to policy priorities in the context of the Europe

2020 Strategy and the Open Method of Coordination on social protection and social inclusion. Projects should focus on a relevant issue within the context of employment and social policies. The Commission invites potential applicants to consider in particular the following themes:

- Promotion of youth activation measures *to tackle and prevent youth unemployment and exclusion*, in particular for young people facing multiple barriers to labour market entry (e.g. those living in rural, deprived urban, remote and peripheral areas);
- provision of quality childcare services;
- promotion of **active and healthy ageing**, which is underpinned by cross-sectoral actions aiming, among others, at improving the health status and the quality of life, supporting the sustainability and efficiency of health care and social services systems, ensuring decent working conditions and prolonging working lives, as well as at promoting social inclusion and independent living for all citizens, with a particular focus on older people.

This call offers to applicants the possibility to develop social policy experiments according to the following two dimensions:

- Design of a potentially relevant policy intervention (with the description of the target group, of the social needs addressed and of the set of actions envisaged);
- design of the evaluation method (the evaluation protocol should be set up from the start of the project, in order to arrive at shared conclusions about the up-scaling potential of the tested policies, based on their measured impact).

As this call focuses on public policy interventions, it is addressed to **public authorities** acting as policy-makers, at national, regional or local level or to bodies governed by public law established in one of the PROGRESS participating countries. The participation to the call is also open to other stakeholders as: NGOs, social partners, social service providers and civil society organisations.

Partnership: at least 3 partners of 3 Progress participating countries (1 applicant + 2 partners).

The overall indicative amount made available for this call is 4 200 000 €. The grant requested should be 700 000 € minimum and 1 000 000 € maximum (1 000 000 € will be allocated to projects focusing on youth activation measures). The EU grant will not exceed 80% of the total eligible costs of the action.

Duration: between 24 months and 36 months.

For more information: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=630&langId=en&callId=367&furtherCalls=yes>

Tender

- **Support services for social policy experimentation in the EU (VT/2012/081)**

Deadline: 15 January 2013

Subject of the contract: to provide **support services** to the Commission for the development of social policy experimentation in the European Union, as a tool to test social and employment policy innovations and reforms before implementing them. Support services on social policy experimentation will help the European Commission to accompany Member States' efforts to innovate and modernise social policy, by providing the *best European expertise* in terms of the methods to design, implement and evaluate social policy experimentation. It will contribute to awareness raising and capacity building of organisations and administrations involved in the design, implementation and evaluation of social and employment policies, mainly through the organisation of *trainings, information sessions and the production of communication tools*. Furthermore, *tailor-made advice* will allow policy-makers willing to experiment to access the adequate support.

The contractor will be in charge of the development of the following activities:

- Creation of a community of stakeholders, supported by dedicated web content;
- production of communication and training tools for the community;
- provision of tailor-made advice on social policy experimentation, at the request of the Commission.

Budget: the maximum contract price, possible renewals included, is **€ 1.350.000** with a maximum annual budget of € 450.000. It may be renewed 2 times.

For more information: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=625&langId=en&callId=369&furtherCalls=yes>

TWINNING PROJECTS _ Programme ENPI (European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument)

- *Strengthening the Transplant Agency of the Republic of Moldova and support in legal approximation in the area of quality and safety of substances of human origin (MD10/ENP-PCA/HE/11)*

Deadline: 25 January 2013

Objective: to contribute to a **better quality and safety** of transplants of human organs, tissues, and cells in the Republic of Moldova. Specifically, the objectives are to develop the transplant system in the Republic of Moldova and to strengthen the Transplant Agency by:

1. Improving the institutional and legal framework and the quality standards;
2. increasing knowledge, skills and practice, and ethics of the human resource.

The Italian applicants must submit their proposals in electronic format to the following email: twinnings@esteri.it (National Contact Point_Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs).

The selection meetings will probably take place on 15 of February 2013.

Budget: 1 200 000 € (EU contribution 100%)

Duration of the execution period: 24 months

Twinning is an instrument for the cooperation between Public Administrations of EU Member States (MS) and of candidate countries and potential candidates to EU membership, as well as countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy. More specifically, in the IPA region, Twinning aims to provide support for the transposition, implementation and enforcement of the EU legislation (*the acquis*). Twinning aims at ensuring the development of modern and efficient administrations of beneficiary countries through a close cooperation between their public authorities and one or more MS (secondment of officials of MS at the public administration of the beneficiary country).

Two Project Leaders PL (one on behalf of the MS leading the project, the other of the beneficiary administration) and a Resident Twinning Adviser (RTA) are the backbone of Twinning projects. The RTA coordinates the project and is seconded from the lead MS to the beneficiary administration for a minimum of 12 months. The work plan of a Twinning project usually foresees expert missions, training events and awareness raising visits.

The authority / organization that intends to submit a twinning proposal shall notify its interest to the **National Contact Point (NCP)** within 10 days before the deadline. Each MS may submit only one proposal for each project.

For more information: www.esteri.it/MAE/IT/Ministero/Servizi/Italiani/Opportunita/Nella_Ue/Gemellaggi/ENPI/Enpi.htm

EUROPEAN COMMISSION, DG SANCO

Tender

- *Call for tender SANCO/2012/02/011 concerning a multiple Framework Contract with reopened competition for the provision of evaluation, impact assessment and related services to the European Commission in the areas of public health, consumer protection and food chain*

Closing date for submission: **08 February 2013**

Duration of the framework agreement: **4 years**

Short description of the contract: the framework contract intends to provide a facility through which DG SANCO, other Commission services, the Executive Agency for Health and Consumers and the following decentralised agencies: the Community Plant Variety Office, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, the European Food Safety Authority and the European Medicines Agency can obtain evaluation, impact assessment and other related services by a swift and simple procedure.

This call for tender comprises 3 separate lots:

- lot 1: public health;
- lot 2: consumer policy;
- lot 3: food chain.

For more information: http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_consumer/funding/evaluation_tender_2012_en.htm

EXECUTIVE AGENCY FOR HEALTH AND CONSUMERS (EAHC) – CONSUMERS AND FOOD SAFETY UNIT

Tender

- *Organization and implementation of training activities on specific EU quality schemes mainly for EU Member States under the 'Better training for safer food' initiative — EAHC/2012/BTSF/07*

Deadline: **7 February 2013**

The contractor will organize and implement **n.20 3-day training courses** in 3 or more appropriate EU locations to be selected by the contractor. The training courses will refer to the following fields:

- organic farming;
- protected designation schemes.

Estimated value (excluding VAT): **2 400 000 EUR**

Duration: **4 years**

For more information: <http://ted.europa.eu/udl?uri=TED:NOTICE:391097-2012:TEXT:EN:HTML&tabId=0>

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT (DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR INTERNAL POLICIES)

- *Call for tender for a multiple framework service contract in 9 lots for provision of external expertise in the areas of science and technology options assessment (STOA) — IP/G/STOA/FWC/2013-1*

Estimated value (excluding VAT): **2 990 000 €**

Short description of the contract: the planned “*Multiple framework service contract*” (and the particular studies, briefings, impact assessments and communication services to be provided under this contract) is intended to be used as the **main source of external expertise** to enable European Parliament to fulfil the mission and objectives of STOA. Please refer to www.stoa.europarl.europa.eu for more information about the role of STOA within the European Parliament. In order to facilitate the best possible expertise on all topics of relevance, the multiple framework service contract is tendered in 9 lots: lot 1: energy; lot 2: transport; lot 3: environment (including climate change); lot 4: ICT and information society; lot 5: nanoscale science and technology (including industrial applications); lot 6: life sciences for human well-

being; lot 7: agriculture, food and biotechnology; lot 8: science, technology and innovation policy; lot 9: safety and security technologies. Through the multiple framework service contract, expertise shall be provided in the form of **briefings and studies**, but also the **organisation of events and the delivery of other services** upon ad hoc request and within a limited and defined time-frame.

With reference to the health sector:

- **Lot n.4: : Information and communication technologies (ICT).** Among the topics to be addressed there is a policy priority related to the *use of ICT in the health sector*;
- **Lot n.5: Nanoscale science and technology.** Among the topics to be addressed there are the following: ethical, regulatory, social and economic environment of nanomedicine and nanobiotechnology; risk assessment of engineered nanoparticles on health and the environment; health, safety and environmental impacts;
- **Lot n.: 6 Life sciences for human well-being.** The proposed third programme of EU action in the field of health (2014–2020) “*Health for growth*”, emphasises the links between economic growth and a healthy population to a greater extent than the previous programmes. It focuses on 4 specific objectives with a strong potential for economic growth through better health: 1) to contribute to innovative and sustainable health systems; 2) to increase access to better and safer health care for EU citizens; 3) to prevent diseases and promote good health; and 4) to protect citizens from cross-border health threats. Expertise should cover topics within the competences entrusted to the European institutions by the European Treaties in force in the broad and interdisciplinary area of public health. **Possible topics are:** cancer; coronary heart diseases and stroke: drug and alcohol use and misuse; diabetes: smoking; blood & tissues; communicable diseases; climate change and health; genetic science and applications; health services; physical activities and life style: injury prevention and surveillance; chronic diseases; mental health and mental health promotion; nutrition; pharmaceuticals; rare diseases; pandemics; tackling inequalities in health; health and working conditions; sexually transmitted infections;
- **Lot n.: 7 Agriculture, food and biotechnology.** Expertise in the themes should be of interdisciplinary character. It should consider the socio-economic impact and other consequences of the TA in question. Moreover, other requirements would be the inclusion of the following aspects: European and international character (including impact of trade), sustainability, respect for environment, climate change, and health impact. Issues that are relevant to the TA in this area encompass numerous issues dealing with: food; green biotechnology; genetically modified microorganisms (GMOs); animal welfare, biodiversity, rural development, etc... Among the priorities the contractor will be expected to have knowledge of *food issues and human health* (incl. allergy causes, anti-nutrition, food production and processing).

Deadline: 8 March 2013

Duration of the contract: 4 years

For more information: <http://ted.europa.eu/udl?uri=TED:NOTICE:391086-2012:TEXT:EN:HTML&tabId=0>

EUROPEAID

Tender

GT-Guatemala City: DCI — specialist training on quality and application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures in Central America (EuropeAid/133406/D/SER/Multi)

Deadline: 25 January 2013

Contract description: this activity is part of the “Programme to support the creation of a regional quality system and the application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures in Central America”, which intends to promote a **regional system for quality and application of sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS)** measures that ensure compliance with international market requirements within the framework of technical barriers to trade (TBT) and SPS agreements signed by Central American countries. It involves carrying out **training activities** in areas required by public or private national entities, bodies and institutions in the countries covered by the programme, and which are needed to carry out the main activities in each component of the programme; this involves in particular:

- a. improving knowledge related to the implementation of quality standards and the application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures by organisations involved in national quality systems, the private sector and academia;
- b. creating groups of trainers for the implementation of quality standards and the application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures as a multiplier effect of training, as well as ensuring sustainability;
- c. informing and training the private sector to train their partners in the quality and application of SPS measures.

Budget tot.: **3 450 000 €**

For more information: <http://ted.europa.eu/udl?uri=TED:NOTICE:390722-2012:TEXT:EN:HTML&tabId=0>

EUROPEAN COMMISSION_DG JUSTICE

- *Programme DAPHNE III (2007-2013) - Call for proposals for specific 116 000 hotline for missing children action grants JUST/2013/DAP/SAG/116*

Deadline: **6 February 2013**

Budget tot.: **4,5 M€** (max EU co-financing for each project: 300.000 €, 80% of the total eligible costs of the action)

Objective: this call for proposals for action grants, under the Programme DAPHNE III, aims to co-fund projects to set up or run *116 000 hotlines for missing children* that are presented by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) or other entities, which are mandated by the national authorities in setting up and/or running such 116 000 hotlines.

Duration of the project: max 24 months

Eligible areas: EU Member States, EFTA States that are parties to the EEA Agreement (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway), Croatia (if effectively join the European Union by July 2013).

Who may apply: national authorities, associations, public bodies, NGOs, ONLUS, not-for-profit organizations.

For more information: http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/grants/call_2013_dap_sag_116_en.htm

INNOVATIVE MEDICINES INITIATIVE (IMI)_VIII CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2012

On 17 December 2012 has been published the 8th call for proposals IMI 2012. The **topics** are:

Theme **“*Combating Antimicrobial Resistance: NewDrugs4BadBugs (ND4BB)*”**:

- Topic 1C: Innovative Trial Design & Clinical Drug Development
- Subtopic 1C (as part of ND4BB Topic 1 launched in 6th Call3): Conduct of clinical trials supporting the development of MEDI4893, a monoclonal antibody targeting Staphylococcus aureus alpha toxin;
- Topic 3: Discovery and development of new drugs combatting Gram-negative infections (divided in Subtopic 3A and Subtopic 3B).

Theme **“*Developing an aetiology-based taxonomy for human diseases*”**:

- Topic A: Approaches to develop a new classification for Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) and related connective tissue disorders and Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA);
- Topic B: Approaches to develop a new classification for neurodegenerative disorders with a focus on Alzheimer’s disease (AD) and Parkinson’s disease (PD);
- European induced pluripotent stem cell bank.

ND4BB (“New Drugs for Bad Bugs”) represents a core element of the Action plan against the rising threats from Antimicrobial Resistance adopted by the European Commission as an answer to the Council Conclusions and the European Parliament resolution to establish an EU-wide plan to combat antimicrobial resistance.

Deadline: **19 March 2013**

Budget tot. IMI JU: **max. 143.300.000 €**

EFPIA contribution (European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations): 99.400.000 €.

Duration of the projects: **5 – 6 years**

For more information: www.imi.europa.eu/content/8th-call-2012

EUROPEAN COMMISSION_ HEALTH PROGRAMME

On 20 December 2012 has been published by the Executive Agency for Health and Consumers (EAHC) the **call for proposals** in the framework of the *Health Programme* with the following financing schemes: a) project grants, b) grants for joint actions, c) conference grants, d) operating grants.

Deadline for submitting proposals: **22 March 2013**

Resources allocated to the different financing schemes (*see 2013 Annual Work Plan*):

- a. *Project grants*: budget tot. 12 330 900 € (maximum rate for EU co-financing is 60 %. However, this may go up to 80 % if a proposal meets the criteria for exceptional utility);

Specific topics:

- Call n1**: Improve access to early diagnosis of HIV/AIDS and timely treatment and care of most vulnerable groups and in priority regions (**Budget: 1,5 M€**);
- Call n2**: Addressing chronic diseases and promoting healthy ageing across the life cycle (**Budget: 1 M€**);
- Call n3**: Supporting the priorities of the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing (**Budget: 6 M€**);
- Call n4 e n.5**: Pilot networks of cooperation under Directive 2011/24/EU (**Budget: 3 M€**);
- Call n6**: Support to an information network on lung mesothelioma (**Budget: 830.900 €**).

Duration of the projects: **max 36 months**.

- b. *Grants for joint actions JA*: budget tot. 13 800 000 € (maximum rate of EU co-financing is 50 %. However, this may go up to 70 % in cases of exceptional utility such as: “*Facilitating collaboration among the Member States for the effective operation of the pharmacovigilance system in the EU*”);

Specific topics:

- **JA n1:** Good practices on donation, collection, testing, processing, storage and distribution of gametes for assisted reproductive technologies and haematopoietic stem cells for transplantation (**Budget: 1 M€**);
- **JA n2:** Facilitating collaboration among the Member States for the effective operation of the pharmacovigilance system in the EU (**Budget: 3,3 M€**);
- **JA n.3:** Addressing chronic diseases and promoting healthy ageing across the life cycle (**Budget: 5M€**);
- **JA n.4:** Joint action to support Member States to take forward work on common priorities in line with the EU alcohol strategy (**Budget: 1,5 M€**);
- **JA n.5:** Development of a European guide on quality improvement in comprehensive cancer control (**Budget: 3 M€**).

Duration of JA: **max 36 month**

c. *Conference grants:* budget tot. 600 000 € (200 000 € for n.2 Presidency conferences and 400 000 € for other conferences _ maximum rate of EU co-financing is 50 % of eligible costs incurred);

d. *Operating grants:* budget tot. 5 000 000 € (maximum rate for EU co-financing is 60 %. However, this may go up to 80 % if a proposal meets the criteria for exceptional utility. New operating grants may be awarded to non-governmental bodies and specialised networks active in areas corresponding to the three objectives of the health programme).

Who may apply: non-governmental organisations, public sector bodies, public administrations, universities, higher education establishments, public and private research institutions.

Please check the annual **Work Plan 2013** for details about the priorities of the calls Health Programme: http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/health/calls_for_health_programme.html

According to the Work Plan of the *Second Programme of Community action in the field of health* (2008-2013), adopted on 28 November 2012, the **priorities** for 2013 will be the following.

- Active and healthy ageing – focus on chronic diseases;
- Effective ways to invest in health – also health workforce;
- Patients' rights and safety;
- Advice and data, particularly on sustainable health systems.

The work plan also specifies area which will support the implementation of legislation in the following areas:

- Safety and quality of tissues, cells and blood;
- Cross-border healthcare;
- Pharmaceuticals and medical devices.

The work plan 2013 supports action that seeks to help build **modern, responsive, inclusive and cost-effective health systems that are sustainable**. Effective ways to invest in health will be researched in order to provide Member States with advice and information in support of their efforts to arrive at and maintain efficient and sustainable health care systems. This work plan supports action that contributes to reaching the aims of the **Pilot Innovation Partnership on active and healthy ageing**.

Specific emphasis is placed on: 1) multi- morbidity; 2) adherence to treatment and 3) prevention of falls. The work plan also addresses the rising burden of chronic conditions and diseases by supporting action to improve best practice exchange, learning from a case study on diabetes and focusing on the complex area of multimorbidity. Given growing concerns about shortages of skilled health professionals and with demographic change increasing service demand, EU Member States have to find ways **to ensure the sustainability of their health workforce**. This work plan will support action to find effective ways of doing so. This work plan takes forward cooperation **to improve responsiveness and preparedness in regard to cross- border health threats** and to prepare and implement legislation on the safety and quality of organs and substances of human origin, blood and blood derivatives; pharmaceuticals and medical devices. Implementing legislation in the area of cross-border health care will also be supported. Action related to inequalities supports the target of the European platform against poverty and social exclusion to reduce poverty and social exclusion by at least 20 million by 2020. The work plan supports actions aimed at **improving the access of vulnerable populations to health care and supporting their social inclusion**. Finally, a number of activities will be supported to **“generate and disseminate health information and knowledge”**. A series of activities are envisaged to collect data and information, to produce scientific evidence and to provide citizens, stakeholders and policy-makers with information helping them to take decisions on a range of issues affecting individual and collective health. The health programme aims at promoting synergies with other EU programmes active in the field of health, notably the 7th Research Framework programme under its health theme. Whilst avoiding any duplication, actions funded from this work plan should capitalise on on-going research and innovation projects or on those funded in the past, foster their implementation in clinical practice and make use of their results and outcomes.

For more information: http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/health/calls_for_health_programme.html

FORTHCOMING OPEN CALL FOR PROPOSALS / TENDER

TWINNING PROJECTS _ PROGRAMME ENPI (EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD AND PARTNERSHIP INSTRUMENT)

- *Support to the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Azerbaijan for the Development of a System for Medico-Social Rehabilitation of People with Disabilities*

Objective: to assist the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population in the development of a system of medico-social rehabilitation of people with disabilities, including capacity building, promotion of social inclusion and introduction of an innovative social service framework based on best practice of EU Member States.

Expected date of publication of the notice : **January 2013**

For more information: http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/neighbourhood/overview/twinning_en.htm

AMBIENT ASSISTED LIVING JOINT PROGRAMME_ AAL JP (PRE-ANNOUNCEMENT CALL 6)

The topics of call 6 of the AAL JP: *“ICT based solutions for Supporting Occupation in Life of Older Adults ”* have been discussed on 26 September 2012 during the AAL Forum 2012 in Eindhoven.

In many cases, the active older adult is still confronted with a *“deficit model of age”* that – often unsubstantiated - assumes that occupational efficiency and general learning ability decline with age and implies that older people are less innovative, less productive and less able to work under pressure than their younger colleagues. Empirical evidence suggests that the biggest challenges for older workers are indeed physical strain, mental stress and smaller age-related limitations. This is accompanied by increased skills and competence based on work experience and changing values and attitudes towards work and career. *Developments in technical and organisational means* to retain the knowledge, expertise and abilities of older workers in the workforce – on a paid or voluntary basis – will help to lessen any potentially detrimental effects of demographic ageing on economic development.

Call 6 of the AAL JP aims at funding the **development of ICT-based solutions** which enable older adults to continue managing their occupation – at work in an office or a factory (or any working environment), in a first or subsequent new second or third careers, in paid or voluntary occupation – while preserving health and motivation to remain active. The call shall target the preservation of cognitive and physical capabilities of older persons when performing their paid or unpaid activity.

It is anticipated that the call will be launched **end of January 2013**, with a proposal submission deadline end April 2013.

The AAL Association will organize an INFO DAY in Bruxelles on Wednesday, 6 February 2013 to inform the European community about the next call topic of the AAL Joint Programme: *“ICT solutions for supporting occupation in life of older adults.”* The topic of this sixth call will be explained as well as the procedures for applying and for searching a partner.

For more information: www.aal-europe.eu/pre-announcement-call-6-topic/

PROGRAMME ALPINE SPACE 2007 - 2013

The Alpine Space Programme will open a **fifth call** for targeted project proposal in spring 2013. Since 2007, 47 projects have been funded by the Alpine Space Programme and the limited amount of remaining funds will be used for a targeted call. It shall support project that bring added value to reached achievements and add elements to the programme that bridge to the next programming period.

Priority 1 Competitiveness and Attractiveness

Objectives:

- strengthening innovation capabilities of SMEs, creating appropriate environments for their development and fostering stable cooperation between R&TD centers and SMEs;

- enhancing development options based on traditional sectors and cultural heritage, as well as on emerging sectors at transnational level;
- strengthening the role of urban areas as engines for sustainable development;
- strengthening rural-urban relations and the development of peripheral areas.

Priority 2 Accessibility and Connectivity

Objectives:

- securing a fair access to public services, transport, information, communication and knowledge infrastructure within the programme area;
- promoting and improving access and use of existing infrastructures in order to optimize the economical and social benefits, and to reduce environmental consequences;
- enhancing connectivity for the reinforcement of polycentric territorial patterns and for laying the basis for a knowledge-driven and information society;
- promoting sustainable and innovative mobility models with specific regard to environmental, human health and equality related issues;
- mitigating the negative consequences of traffic flows crossing the Alps.

Priority 3 Environment and Risk Prevention

Objectives:

- enhancing cooperation in environmental protection issues;
- stimulating integrated approaches to conservation, planning and management of natural resources and cultural landscape;
- stimulating the development of resource efficiency with respect to water, energy, land use, raw materials and other natural resources;
- coping with the effects of climate change;
- forecasting, predicting, mitigating and managing the impacts of natural and technological hazards

Priority 4: Technical Assistance

PRIORITIES IN THE SOCIAL AND HEALTH SECTOR. Some opportunities related to the social and health sector may fall under Priority 1 (addressing the effects of demographic change, the challenges of economic restructuring, active aging, etc..). Also under Priority 2 as regards the access to ICT services (and their use) not only for families and businesses, but also for public bodies providing different services in peripheral areas.

For more information: www.alpine-space.eu/information-center/news/detail/article/targeted-call-for-projects-proposals-to-open-in-spring-2013/?tx_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=62&cHash=4a3ff08438

PROGRAMME LIFE + (2007 – 2013)

The call for proposals of the *Life + Programme*. will be launched on **14 February 2013**.

Deadline for submitting proposals: 25 June 2013.

For more information: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/lifeplus.htm>

In Italy

OUTCOME OF THE TRAINING COURSE “CAPACITY BUILDING: NEW SKILLS FOR REGIONAL HEALTH SYSTEMS TO PLAN IN EUROPE “

The Marche Region has recently hosted a training course specifically focussed on improving competences of local health system personnel in project management. The course was held in Ancona on five days in November 2011, and has been jointly organised by the Marche Region, the Regional Health Agency and the Italian National Institute of Science on Health and Aging (INRCA) in the framework of action 2A of the Mattone Internazionale project.

The reasons to host the training course came on the one hand by the need, for the local health systems to face the fact that social and macro-economic changes have occurred all over Europe.

On the other hand, research and innovation in the health sector will be likely to be increasingly depend on European funds, since public national expenditure is being cut as a consequence of the recent financial crisis: the most urgent priority for professional engaged in the health system is to attract these resources and invest them in improving services to citizens.

Different topics have been discussed during the five days, all of them mainly about how to write and manage European projects, policies concerning research and innovation, techniques of project management, networking and creation of the consortium, and economical and financial aspects.

In this sense, the course provided methodological tools and contents for increasing participants' competences in project management, to be potentially applied in different contexts, especially within the main Programmes considered as priorities in the Mattone Internazionale project (Horizon 2020, European Programme for Research, National Plan for Prevention etc.).

Training was structured through the alternation of two complementary approaches. The first one – which emphasised theoretical and methodological aspects – included both presentations and discussions on above mentioned themes, as well as the explanation of good practices, by organisers and each one of the 13 external experts involved. The second approach – which stressed practical aspects – was dedicated to specific project works: the 25 participants have been grouped in work teams which wrote a draft proposal for a real call, with the support of experts and tutors.

The course has been realized tank to the participation of professionals from different fields: private for- (consultants and expert in European projects) and no-profit sector (publicly-owned companies), Local Health Authorities, the IRCCS-INRCA and the regional universities. The participation of highly qualified speakers from foreign institutions, such as Juliet Craig (Università Sheffield) and Alice Sinigaglia (representative of the pan-european association, AGE PLATFORM) ensured a wider international breath to the event.

OUTCOME OF WORKSHOP “EU-WIDW STRATEGIES FOR ALCOHOL PREVENTION”.

Alcohol is one of the world’s top three priority of public health. On 13 and 14 December was held in Venice, at the offices of Veneto Region, the workshop: *“EU-wide strategies for alcohol prevention”*.

The event, organized in the framework of the activities implemented by the project Mattone Internazionale, was aimed at sharing information for the identification and dissemination of best practices and most effective strategies for the prevention, treatment and reduction of the social and health impact of alcohol abuse among young people and the elderly. *Mr. Paolo Stocco*, Gen. Dir. LHA n.10 Veneto Orientale, opened the meeting, while the two-days sessions were coordinated by three experts from Spain who are working on issues related to alcohol and addictions: *Mr. Amador Calafat* (Psychiatrist and Psychologist, European Institute for the Study of Prevention IREFREA), *Mr. Elisardo Becoña* (Prof. of Clinical Psychology, University of Santiago de Compostela) and *Mr. Joan Ramon Villalbi* (Deputy Gen. Dir Agencia de Salut Pública de Barcelona).

During the event there have been important speeches by *Mr. Francesco Zambon* (WHO Regional Office for Europe, Venice), who outlined the priorities of the *European Action Plan to reduce the harmful use of alcohol 2012-2020*, *Mr. Georgios Margetidis* (Executive Agency for Health and Consumers EAHC), who gave the point of view of the EU Commission on strategies to reduce alcohol-related harm in Europe, *Mr. Mauro Cibir* (Dir. Public Service for drug and alcohol addiction, LHA n.13 Mirano) who emphasized the role of alcohol as a common element of poly-abuse and addictive behaviors and, finally, *Ms. Michela Frezza* (Veneto Region) who described the *“Project Addictions 2012/2014”*.

At the end of the second day have been organized working group sessions with the active involvement of the participants.

In Europe

NEW INVITATION FOR COMMITMENT ON ACTIVE AND HEALTHY AGEING

Within the end of December 2012 the European Commission will launch the second "Invitation for Commitment" on Active and Healthy Ageing. The deadline for commitments presentation is foreseen by the end of January 2013.

The application procedure will be similar to the one used in the past. The Commission will make a first selection and will consult the action groups in order to assign new commitments to existing action groups or to create new actions. Beneficiaries will be health operators, local, national and regional authorities, NGOs, universities etc...

For more information: http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/index_en.cfm?section=active-healthy-ageing&pg=commitment.

Health Policies

A DIGITAL FUTURE FOR HEALTHCARE: THE NEW EHEALTH ACTION PLAN

The European Commission has unveiled an Action Plan to address barriers to the full use of digital solutions in Europe's healthcare systems. The European Commission's eHealth Action Plan 2012 – 2020 provides a roadmap to empower patients and healthcare workers, link up devices and technologies, and invest in research towards the personalised medicine of the future. This means providing smarter, safer and patient-centred health services.

The four pillars and objectives of the eHealth Action Plan are the following (1) Achieve wider interoperability in eHealth services (2) Support research and innovation and competitiveness in eHealth (3) Facilitate deployment and adoption of eHealth and (4) Promote international cooperation on eHealth at global level. The ultimate goal is to improve healthcare for the benefit of patients, give patients more control of their care and bring down costs. While patients and health professionals are enthusiastically using telehealth solutions and millions of Europeans have downloaded smartphone apps to keep track of their health and wellbeing, digital healthcare has yet to reap its great potential to improve healthcare and generate efficiency savings. Given the fast growing uptake of smartphones and tablets, the action plan also includes a specific focus on mobile health (mHealth). In specific, the Action Plan will attempt to increase the pace of change and improvement in healthcare by enhancing user confidence in digital tools and apps, while at the same time ensuring that the market conditions encourage continued innovation. As a result, healthcare workers will have the opportunity to develop and enhance their digital skills thus, increasing their confidence in working with digital health tools, doctors will have more meaningful time with their patients and less unnecessary appointments, while patients will spend less time, effort and money on unnecessary hospital or GP visits.

This action plan builds on a series of pioneering initiatives that are now beginning to bear fruit such as the epSOS pilot where 23 countries are working together to achieve cross-border interoperability between electronic health record systems in Europe. Thanks to epSOS, tourists, business travellers, commuters or exchange students will be able to enjoy seamless access to high quality and safe healthcare abroad.

Renewing Health has allowed nine leading regions to pool their efforts to revolutionise the management of chronic diseases. Diabetics and heart patients, among others, can manage their own diseases from the comfort of their own homes and take an active role in improving their conditions while achieving better health outcomes. Health-e-Child is another example of a collaborative platform. This growing network allows paediatricians across Europe to pull together essential clinical information relating to heart diseases, inflammatory diseases, and brain tumours meaning that in the future, more children suffering from these diseases will be able to benefit from early diagnosis, screening, individualised disease prevention and therapy.

Both Neelie Kroes, Commission Vice President for the Digital Agenda and Tonio Borg, Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy have publically supported and welcomed the new ehealth Action Plan. During a recent speech Neelie Kroes said *"Europe's healthcare systems aren't yet broken, but the cracks are beginning to show. It's time to give this 20th Century model a health check. The new European eHealth Action Plan sets out how we can bring digital benefits to healthcare, and lift the barriers to smarter, safer, patient-centred health services."*

The paper clarifies the issues a healthcare practitioner faces in delivering cross-border telemedicine. In this regards, members of the new eHealth Network, established by the Cross-border Healthcare Directive will help implement the Action Plan and provide a direct link to the national healthcare authorities and government departments.

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wishes you

a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



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