



# Directorate-General for Health & Consumers



**Funding through the EU Health  
Programme**

Unit C2 – Health information



# Health Programme

- The EU's strategy for protecting and improving human health is chiefly implemented through EU health programmes
- The current EU Health Programme will fund projects and actions from 2008 to 2013. The first such programme (2003-08) financed 352 projects.



# Health programme

- Actions should have a special European dimension, involving partners from different European countries in the project plan.
- Projects should generally contribute to achieving at least one of the 3 main objectives of the Health Programme (2008-2013):
  - **to improve citizens' health security;**
  - **to promote health, including the reduction of health inequalities;**
  - **to generate and disseminate health information and knowledge.**



# Health Programme

- Priority areas and criteria for funding actions under the programme are set out each year in a work plan, followed by calls for proposals for **projects, operating grants, conferences and joint actions**
- The 2012 work plan should be adopted by the Commission later this year, with the publication of calls to follow soon after



# Health programme

- The Executive Agency for Health and Consumers (EAHC) is entrusted by the European Commission to implement the Health Programme.
- Information on how to apply for funding under the Health Programme can be found at the EAHC website:

<http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/health/index.html>



Example of a project funded under the EU Health Programme:

## **EU Guidelines for quality assurance in Colorectal Cancer Screening and Diagnosis, 2011.**

*Little bestseller and number 1 most downloaded SANCO publication from the EU-Bookshop between February and June 2011!*



## EU added-value of screening Guidelines:

- The potential for EU added-value in cancer screening was recognised in 2003 by the Council Recommendation on breast, cervical and colorectal cancer when EU health ministers agreed to a common approach
- The added value of having an EU Council Recommendation has since been demonstrated by the trend-setting experience it has triggered, namely identifying and sharing European best practice in the area of cancer screening using a partnership approach.



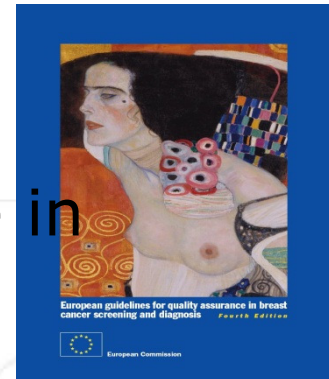
## **The new EU Guidelines are an example of effective EU policy making in health...**

- By implementing the Guidelines Member States have the potential to organise their health systems more effectively
- They provide a benchmark for best practice in colorectal cancer screening. High quality screening gives patients a chance of receiving timely and often life-saving treatment, through early diagnosis.



# Guidelines

- European guidelines for quality assurance in **breast cancer** screening and diagnosis, 4th edition (2006)
- European guidelines for quality assurance in **cervical cancer** screening, 2nd edition (2008)
- European guidelines for quality assurance in **colorectal cancer** screening and diagnosis, 1st edition (February 2011)





## Other cancer projects co-financed by the EU health programme:

- Fighting Against Cancer Today (FACT)
- Joint Action - European Partnership for Action Against Cancer



## Fighting Against Cancer Today (FACT)

- Aim: To ensure that best practice is shared across the EU in order to close the gap that exists in cancer prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care, and research between and within Member State.
- Outcome: A book/guide "Responding to the challenge of cancer in Europe".



# European Partnership for Action Against Cancer (EPAAC)

- Adopted in 2009
- Overall aim: to support Member States and other stakeholders in their efforts to tackle cancer more efficiently.
- New approach: brings together a wide range of actors at EU level - Member States, experts, health care professionals, NGOs, patient groups, civil society reps and industry





## European Partnership for Action Against Cancer (EPAAC) - 2

- Should enable sharing of best practice
- Helps avoid duplication of efforts, enabling better use of limited resources available.
- End of Partnership objective: all Member States to have integrated cancer plans.
- Long-term aim: reduce cancer incidence by 15% by 2020.



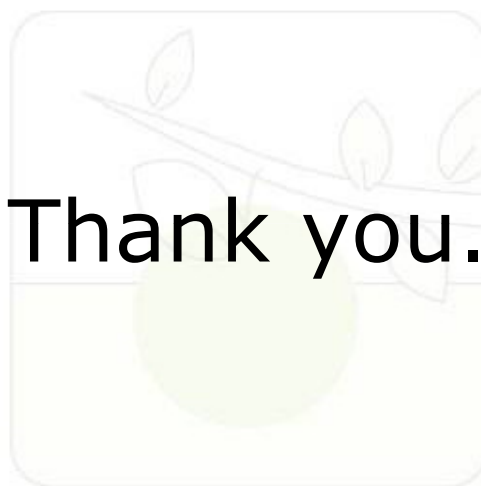


## European Partnership for Action Against Cancer (EPAAC) - 3

- Activities and latest news of the Partnership can be followed online through the Virtual Partnership at the following site:

[https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/sanco/heidi/index.php/Heidi/Cancer\\_partnership](https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/sanco/heidi/index.php/Heidi/Cancer_partnership)





Thank you.

