



## **EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP FOR ACTION AGAINST CANCER KICK-OFF MEETING**

**(Dublin, 1 - 2 March 2011)**

### **Summary Report**

The EPAAC Kick-off Meeting was held in Dublin, Ireland from 1 to 2 March 2011 and was hosted by the Department of Health and Children of the Republic of Ireland. There were four meetings held: the Joint Action Advisory Committee, Joint Action meeting, meeting of the Working Group on National Cancer Plans and the Steering Committee of the European Partnership for Action Against Cancer.

As regards the status of the grant agreement, the Executive Agency for Health and Consumers granted retroactivity to the EPAAC Joint Action, therefore the **EPAAC Joint Action officially began on 10 February 2011 and will last for three years, until 10 February 2014.**

Virtual Partnership: The EPAAC Joint Action will be using the project collaboration tool "Project Place" for internal collaboration, the HEIDI portal (<http://ec.europa.eu/health/heidi>) as a document repository and the website [www.epaac.eu](http://www.epaac.eu) as dissemination tool for external publics. The National Institute of Public Health Slovenia has taken over Work Package 2, Dissemination and the Work Package Leader is Matic Meglič (matic.meglic@ivz-rs.si).

#### **Joint Action Advisory Committee**

The Joint Action Advisory Committee, consisting of Work Package leaders and the Management Team, discussed the operational tasks of all of the Work Packages.

#### **Joint Action Meeting**

The Joint Action meeting consists of representatives of all associated partners, the Advisory Committee and the Management Team. The financial and administrative responsibilities were presented to the partners and the Work Package leaders made presentations on the goals and progress of their Work Packages.

#### **Working Group on National Cancer Plans**

The Working Group on National Cancer Plans consists of representatives of EU Member States, Iceland and Norway, EUREGHA, WHO, the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies. It is co-chaired by Slovenia and the European Commission.

The Leader of Work Package 10, Tit Albrecht, gave a presentation on the National Cancer Plan questionnaires and the manner in which it should be completed, and the Working Group had a productive discussion regarding the questionnaires and the methods by which the process could be improved.

Next steps: By the beginning of May, the process of initial analysis will be completed and a report presented at the 1<sup>st</sup> Open Forum in Madrid. By summer 2011, the process of the cross-sectional survey will have begun. The next steps for action are an exploration of available and efficient indicators, potential guidelines for the developments of National Cancer Plans, completion of the initial analysis and the presentation of the initial analysis at the Open Forum in Madrid.

### **Steering Committee of the European Partnership for Action Against Cancer**

The Steering Committee consists of representatives of EU Member States, Iceland and Norway, EUREGHA, Joint Action Advisory Committee members, the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, WHO, IARC, a representative of patients and of industry associations. It is co-chaired by Slovenia and the European Commission.

Several operational open issues were discussed, including the upcoming 1<sup>st</sup> Open Forum and the dissemination plans for the Joint Action.

Some notable events that will occur this year are the re-launch of the European Week Against Cancer (EWAC) as a part of Work Package 5, with the event to mark it to be held in Brussels on 25 May 2011, the theme of the Week being Healthy Lifestyles (messages 1 to 6 of the European Code Against Cancer). The first EPAAC Open Forum will be in Madrid on 14 and 15 June 2011 and will focus on Research and Healthcare. Various other internal Work Package meetings will occur throughout the year.

Next meetings: The next Joint Action meeting will be held on 15 June in Madrid, following the Open Forum. The next Advisory Committee, Steering Committee meeting and meeting of the Working Group on National Cancer Plans will take place on 29-30 September in Ljubljana.