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Green Paper: ‘Promoting healthy diets and physical activity: a European dimension for the prevention of overweight, obesity and chronic diseases‘

Comments from the European Hospital and Healthcare Federation

The European Hospital and Healthcare Federation (HOPE) is international non-profit association. HOPE aims at promoting improvements in the health of citizens throughout the countries of the European Union, and a uniformly high standard of hospital care. HOPE fosters efficiency, effectiveness and humanity in the organisation and operation of hospital services and of the health systems within which they function.

HOPE, member of the European Nutrition for Health Alliance supports of course its position, but take this opportunity to emphasize on three key messages.

Older people are often neglected in health promotion campaigns for nutrition while at the same time malnutrition is highly prevalent in older populations. This is particularly true in hospitals, while at the same time the share of older people is increasing in hospital settings.

Malnutrition is poorly recognised. Under-detected and under-treated it needs research with respect to the target risk groups for different forms of poor nutrition as well as the effectiveness of specific interventions applied to those groups. At the same time this issue is a good opportunity to create bridges between all actors social and health actors, clinical and non clinical.

Public health programmes have not been very successful until now at ensuring that health promotion messages surrounding nutrition reach those most at risk. Public health promotion and activities in this field must be translated and adapted to local cultures and norms. Solutions must be setting as well as target group specific. Partnerships between EU and national/local stakeholders are essential.

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