New video and reportage following the Conference of Partners

Following the Conference of Partners, a new video has just been released. Through a series of interviews featuring representatives of action groups and of the European Commission, it presents how, two years after the launch of the Partnership, our 6 Action Groups are gaining speed and are achieving their first results, while our Reference Sites on their side are deploying great efforts to share, with other regions and cities, what they have discovered on their expedition to Excellent innovation for ageing.

The video is available on the EIP Youtube channel and on Twitter. You may also want to read our "Reportage" featuring the most significative facts and quotes of the EIP on AHA Conference of Partners and have an overview of what has been said by the speakers.

Feel free to share the video and the leaflet through your networks!

Ambient Assisted Living Joint Programme delivers on research commercialisation says high level expert group

The Ambient Assisted Living Joint Programme (AAL JP) was launched in 2008 with the aim of supporting industry, and in particular SMEs, in bringing digital innovative products and services for ageing well to the market. Some 150 projects have been launched since. The five-year programme, for which half of the funding came from the 7th Research Framework Programme, and the other half from participating Member States' contributions, is now coming to a successful completion. Its key achievements are
highlighted in a report issued by a high level expert group. These include:

- the high participation rate of SMEs (over 40 % of project partners are SMEs);
- the launch of a number of commercial products and services originating directly from the first projects; and
- the shaping of a new innovation 'ecosystem' as demonstrated in the five AAL Forums which have been organised on an annual basis since 2009.

In its Communication adopted this week the European Commission welcomes the final evaluation report and commits to addressing its recommendations. The Commission had already made use of the preliminary findings of the evaluation in its proposal of last July for a follow-up to the Programme to be launched under Horizon 2020 as part of the growth package.

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**Spotlight on EIP-AHA Action Groups**

This column focuses on EIP-AHA Action Groups’ insights. Each month, we put the spotlight on an Action Group and its members. This month, the co-ordinators of the Action Group B3 on Integrated Care tell us about their respective action areas and about their group’s aims, objectives and key achievements to date.

**Donna HENDERSON, NHS 24, Scotland | Co-ordinator, B3 Action Group**

The B3 Action Group on Integrated Care is a collaborative made up of over 126 regions and organizations from across Europe represented by almost 400 people in the Group. The Action Group has maintained an open membership application process during 2013, to encourage stakeholder representation from new regions and organizations that can add value to the Group and assist with the achievement of its overall objective which is to: "Reduce avoidable/unnecessary hospitalisation of older people with chronic conditions, through the effective implementation of integrated care programmes and chronic disease management models that should ultimately contribute to the improved efficiency of health systems."

The B3 Action Plan is made up of 9 Action Areas, each concentrating on a key aspect of health and care integration – Organisational Models, Change Management, Workforce Development, Risk Stratification, Integrated Care Pathways, Patient Empowerment, ICT/Teleservices, Finance/Funding and Communication/Dissemination. The Action Group has a Co-ordination Group, with a lead Co-ordinator for each Action Area, which meets "virtually" at least once a month to drive the work of the Group forward.

B3 Action Group members have actively contributed to the Group’s main deliverable for 2013 – a mapping of current integrated care in Europe – by providing local examples of
integrated care practice and evidence.

During 2014/15, the Group will focus on the development of a practical toolkit with resources and information to support the implementation and scale up of integrated health and care across Europe, which will sit on the new EIP on AHA repository.

Below is a snapshot of B3 activities from some of our B3 Action Areas.

**Cristina BESCOS, Philips Healthcare | Co-ordinator, Action Area 2, Change Management**

Action Area 2 (AA2) looks at Change Management as the discipline that takes responsibility for the human side of structural and organizational changes. The transformation of health and social care systems towards integrated care is a complex programme of change. AA2 investigates the method, processes, tools and techniques for reducing and managing resistance to change when adjusting healthcare organisations to realize coordinated care.

In 2013 we have organized several face to face and online workshops to create a Maturity Map and identified the challenges towards large scale implementation of integrated care. We have collected responses from 20 healthcare systems managers via an online survey. In early 2014 we will launch a new opportunity for B3 members outside our Action Area to contribute with their expertise. The questionnaire is available on-line and addressed to Healthcare delivery organisations and/or regional health care systems managers.

The next step will be to analyse regional practices for tools and transferable elements that can contribute to the change management toolkit and address the most important challenges identified. In 2014, we will organize dedicated sessions to understand the transformation process of selected regions and promote the interactive dialogue among stakeholders around experiences.

**Professor Jean BOUSQUET, Région Languedoc Roussillon | Co-ordinator, Action Area 5, Integrated Care Pathways**

Action Area 5 (AA5) focuses on the identification, implementation and scale up of validated integrated care pathways. AA5 members have concentrated their efforts on Integrated care pathways for airway diseases (AIRWAY-ICPs) during 2013.

The general objective of AIRWAY-ICPs is to launch a collaboration to develop multi-sectorial care pathways for chronic respiratory diseases in European countries and regions.

AIRWAY-ICPs has a strategic relevance for the European Union Health Strategy as it will bring added value to the existing public health knowledge to (i) propose a common framework care pathways for chronic respiratory diseases in the EU which will allow comparability and trans-national initiatives, (ii) inform cost-effective policy development,
strengthening those on smoking and environment exposure to promote prevention strategies, (iii) help risk stratification in chronic disease patients, (iv) have a significant impact on the health of citizens in the short term (reduction of morbidity, improvement of education in children and of work in adults) and in the long-term (healthy ageing) and (vi) propose a common simulation tool to assist professionals in the stratification of patients and choice of pathways. The main objective is to promote improved healthy life years and reduce burden (emergency visits, avoidable hospitalisations, disability and costs while improving quality of life) worldwide, and in the longer term, reduce disease incidence through innovative prevention strategies.

**Francesca AVOLIO & Cecilia VERA | Co-ordinators, Action Area 6, Patient/User Empowerment**

Action Area 6 (AA6) on Patient/User Empowerment aims to define a universal theoretical framework that offers standardized processes and guidelines of patient/user empowerment across Europe. This framework will be based on evidence/guidelines from different European Regions and will include tools for its implementation based on context, local situation, and cultural aspects.

Action Area 6 currently has 93 members who have contributed to the following core activities during 2013:

- Collection of Good Practices of activities and definitions adopted for empowerment, health education processes, evaluation of patients and integrated approach.
- Analysis of the Good Practices and identification of common elements such as: methodology and organizational models, empowerment definition, regulation, tools, evaluation of patients, integrated processes, etc.
- Analysis of Good Practices to identify the elements that are scalable / transferable in Europe.

Finally, within the context of the 2nd Conference of Partners held in Brussels the 25th-26th November, specifically taking part to the Action Group Synergies session on day 2, AA6 has established contact with other EIP on AHA Action Groups and identified synergies and potential areas of collaboration for 2014.

**Andrea PAVLICKOVA, NHS 24, Scotland | Co-ordinator, Action Area 7, ICT and Teleservices**

Action Area 7 (AA7) on ICT and Teleservices aims to highlight the potential of ICT & Teleservices to underpin the delivery of integrated care and to realise service efficiencies and cost effectiveness. In particular, the Action Area seeks to improve the effectiveness of health and social care ICT systems and data sharing by identifying solutions which improve interoperability between record systems and data sharing.

AA7 has currently 95 very active B3 members from all over Europe who have contributed
to achieve the following objectives through the exchange and dissemination of their evidence, knowledge and expertise. During 2013, AA7 has focused on three core activities:

- Developing an ICT matrix for integrated care which includes the classification of core direct and indirect services necessary for horizontal and vertical integration
- Mapping and collecting evidence on existing European projects which are relevant to AA7’s objectives and deliverables
- Collecting and analysing the good practice examples on the potential of ICT & Teleservices with an ultimate objective to identify the elements that are scalable and transferrable in Europe.

The interim outcomes of AA7 demonstrate the added value of working in the EIP on AHA. Looking forward to 2014, the B3 Action Group will continue to work with the other Action Groups to identify common activities that can be taken forward collaboratively. We will also work hard to ensure that B3 Action Group activities are clearly linked to key strategic agendas (at European, regional and organisational levels) and that we maximise the deliverables of existing funded European projects to promote the scale up of integrated care across Europe.

Reference Site Collaborative Network

Following on from the Awards ceremony for EIP – Active and Healthy Ageing Reference Sites in July many acknowledged that this was the beginning, rather than the end, of a process. Reference Sites have acknowledged there is much that can be learned from each other’s areas of good practice and indeed other mainstreamed service delivery models and projects.

Commissioners Neelie Kroes and Tonio Borg have both articulated the benefits of Reference Sites collaboration, not just with each other but also with other regions across Europe, in delivering workable solutions to meet the Commission’s EIP – Active and Healthy Ageing objectives.

The EIP process has already brought regions together in delivering on the various commitments under the 3 EIP Pillars and the EIP – AHA Action Plans. Recognising there is a greater opportunity to strengthen relationships through improved collaboration across Reference Sites, the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety in Northern Ireland has brought together a number of Reference Sites into a Collaborative Network.

Initially, 13 Reference Sites have become participants in the Reference Site Collaborative Network. Each of these Reference Sites has already established strong bi-lateral
relationships with others in the Group and many have Connected Health Eco-Systems or other alliances which bring together the health, academia and industry sectors working together to develop solutions for improving the delivery of health and social care to patients and citizens.

The initial members of the Reference Site Collaborative Network are:
Andalucia, Spain
Basque Country, Spain
Catalunya, Spain
Galicia, Spain
Cork, Ireland
Northern Ireland
Oulu, Finland
Cooperative Slimmer Leven 2020 - Brainport Region, The Netherlands
Region Languedoc-Roussillon, France
Scotland, UK
South Denmark
Wales, UK
Yorkshire and the Humber, UK

The Reference Site Collaborative Network held its inaugural meeting in Brussels on 25 November 2013, following the Conference of Partners. Participants agreed the Reference Site Collaborative Network:

- would not replicate work being taken forward by the EIP Action Groups;
- would help member Sites work horizontally across the strands of work being progressed by Action Groups to identify overlaps and consider how different elements of the EIP columns could be incorporated to provide a holistic picture.
- through its work, would be a forum for providing feedback to the Commission in a transparent way.
- Members would continue to develop existing and new collaborations with others in the Reference Site Collaborative Network where there were shared objectives and common areas of interest in order to identify suitable projects where solution development was required;
- would share experiences with each other and other Reference Sites.
- through its knowledge and expertise the Collaborative Network is open to work with Regions which are not Reference Sites.
- members would form partnerships in calls for EU funding and as appropriate include other Reference Sites or Regions outside the Collaborative Network.
- would provide a forum to enable the sharing of information, work programmes and experiences across the connected health eco-systems or other alliances, so that the benefits of collaboration could be shared widely in each reference site’s network.

There are a number of generic areas of common interest shared by the Collaborative
Network participants. Indeed some or all of these may be of interest to other Reference Sites:

- ICT based health solutions
- Integrated Care Pathways
- Self Management Assessment
- Independent Living Technology
- Medicines Management / Adherence

The Collaborative Network is now considering these areas in more detail with a view to identifying individual areas of work being undertaken, which will help inform the strategic areas to be taken forward by the group and facilitate the identification of opportunities for future collaboration on projects. It is planned to identify a tangible project in the coming months that could be presented during the eHealth Forum in Athens from 12 to 14 May 2014.

To facilitate the sharing of best practice the development of a repository of information on projects and activity undertaken by each Reference Site as well as current and proposed projects will be considered by the Collaborative Network. This could in fact be part of the overall EIP Repository that was discussed in a meeting of EIP-AHA members on 26th November 2013. The repository would also include evidence bases on completed projects; internal Reference Site strategies for health management, care pathways, and technology which would enable regions to more effectively align with each other.

As this initiative develops and grows there will be opportunities for other Reference Sites to become a formal part of the Collaborative Network. In the interim the Collaborative Network proposes to engage with all Reference Sites and ensure all plans and activity are communicated to them. In addition, participants in the Collaborative Network have also undertaken to ensure Reference Sites not in the group along with other regions across Europe will be included in the formation of partnerships in response to EU funding calls under Horizon 2020 or other Structural Funds.

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A Selection of News from the Marketplace

MIHealth Innovation Awards: call for presentation capsules open!
The MIHealth Innovation Awards rewards the most innovative projects in the health care sector; it aims at increasing their notoriety and give recognition to the spirit of transformation of professionals. The next edition will take place in May 2014, during the closing ceremony of the MIHealth Management and Clinical Innovation Forum. The call for capsules is now open, inviting interested stakeholders to introduce their innovation projects in the healthcare sector. 30 capsules will be selected from the three different categories - Knowledge, Technology and Organisation -, and will be included in the Forum's program. The finalists will participate in the Awards: 3 projects will be nominated, one for each category.
The projects that may be presented must have been started within the last 5 years, be an innovative solution in the health care sector, creating better or more effective products, processes, services, technologies or ideas, and have proven results of their positive impact. Selection criteria include originality, technical quality of the proposal, degree of validation of the proposal and potential for positive impact on the health partner system. Deadline for submission is March 13, 2014.

New EU research project to develop new service model to address frailty in the elderly
A new EU research project, called PERSSILAA (PERsonalised ICT Supported Service for Independent Living and Active Ageing) has been launched and will run for the next three years. PERSSILAA aims at the development and validation of a new service model that addresses frailty in community dwelling for older adults. The validation will be done in two regions: the Enschede region in the Netherlands and the Campania region in Italy. PERSSILAA builds on activities within the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Aging and on the results of earlier European projects.

Horizon 2020 published - most calls already open!
The new calls for projects under Horizon 2020 have been presented on December 10 by the European Commission. Worth more than €15 billion over the first two years, the funding is intended to help boost Europe's knowledge-driven economy, and tackle issues that will make a difference in people's lives. For the first time, the Commission has indicated funding priorities over two years, providing researchers and businesses with more certainty than ever before on the direction of EU research policy. Most calls from the 2014 budget are already open for submissions, with more to follow over the course of the year. Calls in the 2014 budget alone are worth around €7.8 billion, with funding focused on the three key pillars of Horizon 2020:

- Societal challenges: €2.8 billion for innovative projects addressing Horizon 2020's seven societal challenges, broadly: health; agriculture, maritime and bio-
economy; energy; transport; climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials; reflective societies; and security.

- Excellent Science: Around €3 billion, including €1.7 billion for grants from the European Research Council for top scientists and €800 million for Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellowships for younger researchers
- Industrial Leadership: €1.8 billion to support Europe's industrial leadership in areas like ICT, nanotechnologies, advanced manufacturing, robotics, biotechnologies and space.

Factsheets and presentation materials on Horizon 2020 are available. In the participants' portal you may also find relevant detailed information on the calls. Find out more

A Public consultation on patient safety and quality of care
A Public consultation on patient safety and quality of care The European Commission has launched a public consultation in view of seeking civil society opinion on patient safety and quality of care. More particularly, the consultation aims at gathering opinion on:

- whether patient safety measures included in the Recommendation 2009 are implemented and contribute to improving patient safety in the EU;
- which areas of patient safety are not covered by the Recommendation and should be;
- what should be done at EU level on patient safety beyond the Recommendation and whether quality of healthcare should be given more importance in the future EU activities.

The consultation is open until 14 February 2014. More information

Upcoming events

January
14
Horizon 2020 - Luxembourg national launching event
The Ministry for Higher Education and Research and Innovation, the National Agency for Innovation and Research
Luxembourg

14-17
Horizon 2020 - Swiss national launching event
Swiss Confederation, federal Department of economic affairs, Education and Research (EAER), State Secretariat for Education, research and Innovation (SERI), Bern, Switzerland

16
**ICT support for Active and Healthy Ageing: Enablers for Success (E4S)**
universAAL project
Barcelona, Spain

31
**Horizon 2020 - Estonian national launching event**
The Estonian Research Council
Tallinn, Estonia

**February**
6
**Engaged Satellite Event**
Engaged Community for Active and Healthy Ageing
Kiruna, Finland

19-20
**Interoperability Days: Managing AAL Complexity through Support for Interoperability (MACSI)**
AAL JP, ENGAGED, ReAAL, universAAL (all from the C2 Action Group)
Brussels

**More events on the Marketplace**