

EHFF in Vilnius at the JA-CHRODIS WP5 conference Nov. 24-25th

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The JA-CHRODIS WP5 covers good practices in health promotion related to chronic diseases. Set in the beautiful city of Vilnius this meeting was a solid demonstration of the benefit of European cooperation in the future of health - both in terms of tools, networks, and results.

A nice turnout and solid cases made for a lively debate and good insights into many productive and creative interventions, as well as the building of a strong, open and searchable database to support dissemination of evaluated, peer-reviewed interventions for inspiration and improvement of the overall quality of health initiatives. The overall point was that good evaluation measures has been sorely needed - and still need to be more integrated into future health interventions to allow others to learn and possibly reproduce good elements or indeed entire initiatives or campaigns.

The conference had a series of good sessions to provide overview - covering e.g. present state of health promotion in EU - where Martin Huebel of the DG Sante reminded us all that patience is also key - the ground work of the present state in cancer prevention in an EU-context were started in 1985, so while we feel the need for change and action now or perhaps tomorrow at the latest, having the patience to perhaps measure our own progress in terms of decades rather than years might be worth considering.

Though not covering all the member states, the JA-CHRODIS project already has an impressive gathering of tools and knowledge on health interventions that aims at primary prevention or to improving the quality of life for citizens and patients with chronic diseases - roughly covering a 1.000 of such projects. And also a solid network of experts in the field working at all levels - from policy making to practical implementation - but all centred on the need and desire to improve health initiatives throughout Europe by sharing good ideas in a systematic manner.

As a representative for the EHFF I, Lars Munter of the Danish Committee for Health Education, attended the conference along with EHFF community member Bo Bergman (his presentation *here*) - and can warmly recommend that other EHFF-members follow the work in the JA-CHRODIS or indeed attend upcoming conferences - the tools and knowledge produced there can certainly be used in other European or national projects.

Further work in the JA-CHRODIS will also entail study visits to learn more about specific good initiatives bases on the assessment tools and the joint interest of the JA-CHRODIS members. This would possibly also be worth keeping an eye out for - there is much to learn outside our offices.