



## Press Announcement

2 May 2007

### European-wide IMAGE diabetes prevention project starts today

**May 2, 2007:** The IMAGE project (Development and **I**mplementation of a European **G**uideline and Training Standards for Diabetes Prevention) is set to improve the management and reduce the impact of type 2 diabetes across Europe. Effective and immediate primary prevention is essential to lower the burden of type 2 diabetes within the European Union. The three-year IMAGE project will help to address this through the development of:

1. European practice-oriented guidelines for the primary prevention of type 2 diabetes
2. A European curriculum for the training of prevention managers
3. European standards for quality control in the assessment, monitoring and quality reporting of type 2 diabetes prevention
4. A European e-health training portal.

IMAGE, led by Dr Peter Schwarz, TU Dresden and Professor Jaakko Tuomilehto, Helsingin yliopisto, Helsinki, is one of the largest public health projects to be granted funding by the European Commission 2006 Call for Proposals.

Diabetes is set to increase by 21% in Europe from 53.2 million in 2007 to 64.1 million in 2025<sup>1</sup>. In particular, the dramatic rise in type 2 diabetes, now increasingly being seen in younger people, has developed into a critical EU public health concern.

**Dr Peter Schwarz** said: "It is well recognised that prevention programmes can significantly reduce the risk of type 2 diabetes. Although there are currently numerous prevention concepts within various European countries, EU-wide strategies are still lacking. IMAGE is the first project to develop pan-European standards for the consistent management of the primary prevention of type 2 diabetes".

Thirty-two partner organisations from 16 countries are involved in IMAGE, including International Diabetes Federation Europe (IDF-E), Federation of Europe Nurses in Diabetes (FEND), Primary Care Diabetes Europe (PCDE) and Glucoforum, building a consortium of expertise to achieve the project objectives. Participation from further partner organisations is being considered.

**Professor Jaakko Tuomilehto** commented: "When the results of IMAGE are delivered in 2010, this unique initiative will really make a difference in the ability of EU countries to reduce the burden related to the diabetes epidemic".

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*Reference:*

1 *Diabetes Atlas* third edition, International Diabetes Federation, 2006

For further information, please contact:

**Ulrike Gruhl**  
**IMAGE Project Management**  
 c/o NAFDM  
 Staffelseestrasse 6  
 D-81477 Munich  
 Germany  
 Tel. +49 / 89 / 579579-20  
 Fax +49 / 89 / 579579-19  
 Email: [ulrike.gruhl@nafdm.de](mailto:ulrike.gruhl@nafdm.de)

**Debra Lord**  
**RightAngle Learning**  
 334-336 King Street  
 London W6 0RR  
 United Kingdom  
 Tel: +44 (0)20 8846 3174  
 Fax: +44 (0)20 8846 3189  
 Email: [debra.lord@ralearning.com](mailto:debra.lord@ralearning.com)

IMAGE website is currently under development: [www.image-project.eu](http://www.image-project.eu)

### Editors note

Current partners in IMAGE:

Country	Partner Institutions
<b>Austria</b>	Karl Landsteiner Gesellschaft Vienna St. Johann Hospital Salzburg
<b>Belgium</b>	International Diabetes Federation - European Region * Vlaamse Diabetes Vereniging vzw Primary Care Diabetes Europe ivzw *
<b>Bulgaria</b>	Alexandrov University Hospital
<b>Finland</b>	Helsingin yliopisto - Helsinki University Kansanterveyslaitos - Public Health Institute Finnish Diabetes Association
<b>France</b>	Université Paris-Nord
<b>Germany</b>	TU Dresden (main partner) Deutsches Institut für Ernährungsforschung Forschungsinstitut Diabetes Akademie Mergentheim Herz- und Diabeteszentrum NRW Hochschule Niederrhein INSTRUCT AG LMU Munich Nationales Aktionsforum Diabetes mellitus TU Munich Vestische Kinder- und Jugendklinik Datteln
<b>Greece</b>	National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
<b>Israel</b>	Family Medicine Department Rappoport Medical School, Technion
<b>Latvia</b>	Doc International SIA
<b>Norway</b>	Universitetet i Oslo
<b>Poland</b>	Jagiellonian University Medical College
<b>Portugal</b>	Assiciacao Protectora dos Diabéticos de Portugal
<b>Serbia-Montenegro</b>	University of Belgrade
<b>Spain</b>	Fundación para la eSalud
<b>Ukraine</b>	V.P. Komisarenko Institute of Endocrinology and Metabolism
<b>United Kingdom</b>	Federation of European Nurses in Diabetes * London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine University of Exeter / Peninsula Medical School

\* pan-European organisations