



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 2025¹. 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

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IMAGE website is currently under development: www.image-project.eu

Editors note

Current partners in IMAGE:

Country	Partner Institutions
Austria	Karl Landsteiner Gesellschaft Vienna St. Johann Hospital Salzburg
Belgium	International Diabetes Federation - European Region * Vlaamse Diabetes Vereniging vzw Primary Care Diabetes Europe ivzw *
Bulgaria	Alexandrov University Hospital
Finland	Helsingin yliopisto - Helsinki University Kansanterveyslaitos - Public Health Institute Finnish Diabetes Association
France	Université Paris-Nord
Germany	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
Greece	National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
Israel	Family Medicine Department Rappoport Medical School, Technion
Latvia	Doc International SIA
Norway	Universitetet i Oslo
Poland	Jagiellonian University Medical College
Portugal	Assiciacao Protectora dos Diabéticos de Portugal
Serbia-Montenegro	University of Belgrade
Spain	Fundación para la eSalud
Ukraine	V.P. Komisarenko Institute of Endocrinology and Metabolism
United Kingdom	Federation of European Nurses in Diabetes * London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine University of Exeter / Peninsula Medical School

* pan-European organisations