



# European Institute of Women's Health

Newsletter  
January/February 2016

## Greeting from the EIWH Wishing You A Happy and Healthy New Year!

Making the health of women and their families a priority across  
the European Union

As we start the New Year, we are very pleased to share some highlights from our work in 2015 and to provide you with an overview of some of our activities and projects in 2016. We will continue our work to improve the health of women and their families and campaign to reduce inequalities across the lifespan. Further information on our activities and recent news can be found on our website <http://eurohealth.ie>.

Europe is undergoing significant demographic, social and economic changes. The impact of these changes on society at large and women, in particular, has not yet been fully understood. The poor, the socially excluded and minorities are particularly disadvantaged. If Europe wants to guarantee a high level of health protection for all, health policy must anticipate and keep pace with these changes.

We wish to thank you for your continued interest in and support of our work. Please let us know which areas you are most interested in and how we can further support your work in 2016. We are currently remodeling our website, which will be utilised to provide updates on our work as well as the work of our Members.

# Key Priorities for 2016



## *Advocating for an equitable, gender-sensitive approach in health policy, research, treatment and care*

1. Active and healthy ageing across the lifespan, including increasing healthy life years
2. Prevention of chronic diseases
3. Health promotion with focus on combating smoking, drinking and obesity among women
4. Maternal and infant health
5. Integrating sex and gender into healthcare professional education
6. Including sex and gender in medicines regulation
7. Vaccination across the lifespan
8. Social determinants of health
9. Migrant and refugee health
10. EIWH communications and membership expansion
11. Continue our interaction on safe medicines use with the European Medicines Agency on the Patient and Consumer Working Party and with the ECDC on European Antibiotic Resistance Day and European Immunisation Week
12. Celebrating 20 years of the European Institute of Women's Health



# Key Projects

## **European Gender Medicine: EUGenMed Project**

The EIWH partnered with Charite Universitaetsklinik and Maastricht University in this two-year FP7 Research Project to produce a Roadmap for Implementation of Sex & Gender (S&G) into biomedical and health research and to create an open Gender Health Network. The interaction of S&G related mechanisms leads to different manifestation of frequent diseases such as infarction, heart failure, diabetes and rheumatic disease in women and in men. Research in this area will lead to novel, better targeted and therefore more effective and efficient treatment strategies.

The EIWH was responsible for two workshops on Medical Education and Medicines Regulations. Based on the scientific evidence collected by the project, the resulting roadmap with its recommendations will be communicated to the leading European bodies, biomedical research organisations, and a multi stakeholder audience consisting of patient and health professional groups.

For more information, please visit: <http://eugenmed.eu>.

## **Implementation of the EU Clinical Trials Regulation**

The EIWH will continue its advocacy work on including women in biomedical research and clinical trials to ensure medicines are evidence based for women during the implementation of the new Clinical Trials Regulation. Recent position papers have been written on Horizon 2020–Agenda for Women's Health and the Clinical Trials Regulation, another position paper on Safe Medicines Use during Pregnancy will be released in 2016.

For more information, please visit: <http://eurohealth.ie/position-papers/>.

# Key Projects



## **EU Vaccination Strategy and Communication**

Despite past successes in elimination major infectious disease, the benefit of vaccination has become a neglected public health measure. Following the Italian Presidency conclusion of 2014, the EIWH highlighted the benefit of vaccination across the life-course and continues to advocate for the Commission and EU member states to develop a comprehensive life-course coordinated, vaccination strategy that is supported by robust, coherent and evidence-based communication programmes to restore public trust in vaccination.

For more information, please visit: <http://eurohealth.ie/2014/12/03/women-and-vaccination-in-the-eu/>.

## **ASSET Project (FP7)**

The ASSET project (Action Plan on Science in Society in Epidemics and Total Pandemics) is a 48-month research project with the aim to address scientific and societal challenges raised by the occurrence of pandemics and epidemics. The main objectives of ASSET are to (i) establish baseline knowledge about influenza epidemics and pandemics and their wider societal implications (ii) the extent of research and innovation into epidemics and pandemics (iii) the existing operational and regulatory environments across Europe.

The EIWH is leading several tasks including a literature review on sex/gender and vaccination, the setting up of a gender platform to create awareness among women and policy makers of the need for vaccination to prevent infectious diseases and to work with schools to develop communication tools to disseminate information on vaccination.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.asset-scienceinsociety.eu>.



# Key Projects

## Healthy Pregnancy

The EIWH has identified the safe use of medication during pregnancy as an unmet medical need. Europe lacks a robust and comprehensive regulatory and information system about safe medicines use during pregnancy and lactation. It is estimated that over 80% of pregnant women take medication. However, there is little information available to determine the risk to both mother and child about the use of medicines during pregnancy. In order to improve maternal health, and subsequently the health of the future generation, reliable and up to date information must be made available to women who are planning pregnancy or are already pregnant in an easily accessible manner.

We will work with the European Board and College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (EBCOG) and other key stakeholders to bring this gap in public health to the attention of the policy makers and the European Medicines Agency. We will highlight important issues, such as the recommendations from the EUROMediCAT Project for a comprehensive pharmacovigilance system on the safe use of medicines in pregnancy through our policy briefs, newsletters and meetings. We will also continue our series on maternal health with a policy briefing on gestational diabetes, including its impact on the future generation.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.euromedicat.eu>.

## Joint Action on Chronic Diseases (DG SANTE Project)

Chronic diseases are increasingly affecting citizens throughout the EU, especially older populations. Over 17% of the population is 65 or older, and this proportion is expected to increase to 20% by 2020 then to 23% by 2030. Currently, more than 80% of people over the age of 65 suffer from at least one chronic condition and have elevated risk of multi-morbidity with age.

The EIWH is an associate partner in the CHRODIS Joint Action, which works to address the increasingly burden chronic diseases and to promote healthy ageing across the life cycle throughout the EU. The project is co-financed by the EU Health Programme. The CHRODIS Joint Action, involving 38 organisations from 22 Member States, Norway and Iceland; it will run until the end of March 2017.

The aim of CHRODIS-JA is to support Member States to collaborate in the exchange of information on models of good practice in dealing with chronic diseases, with a specific emphasis on the promotion of healthy lifestyles and the prevention of disease and a particular focus on diabetes, cardiovascular disease and stroke. The focus is on health promotion and primary prevention as well as the management of diabetes and multi-morbid chronic conditions. The EIWH is contributing to all the WPS, including the workshops on prevention and multi-morbidity.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.chrodis.eu/>.

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