



## update n°1

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HOPE, the European Hospital and Healthcare Federation is honoured to present *HOPE update*, its new bulletin.

Like several organizations present in Brussels, HOPE has its own newsletter which brings to its members the latest and most relevant news and publications on European institutions and stakeholders in the hospital and healthcare field. The aim of *HOPE update* is on the opposite to bring to the attention of European institutions and stakeholders the HOPE approach and vision.

We strongly believe that working together at EU level is the best way to move things forward. With this new communication tool we want to get closer to you, introducing you the topics and projects we are working on, as well as sharing our views on issues high on the EU health agenda. Through this publication, we hope to contribute to the creation of new paths for cooperation on health, healthcare and hospital related matters.

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### Interview of Georg Baum

**Georg Baum is President of HOPE and Chief executive of the German Hospital Federation (*Deutsche KrankenhausGesellschaft*)**



*This year, HOPE is organising its HOPE Exchange Programme on the topic of ageing, of both the health workforce and the population. Every year since 1981, hundreds of healthcare professionals experience during four weeks a different healthcare system within the HOPE Exchange Programme. To conclude the Exchange, Berlin will host from 11 to 13 June 2012 an EU-wide conference "HOSPAGE", where participants will confront knowledge and experience.*

#### *Why did you decide for this topic?*

It comes at an appropriate time at European Union level. Within the scope of the European Innovation partnership on Active and healthy Ageing, Europe has clearly marked its understanding of the new challenges ahead. The financial and economic crisis has added to this need of facing reality. HOSPAGE has the specifics of bringing together two topics that are usually disconnected and of building around good practices identified in EU Member States rather than on problems. All professionals can benefit from the participation to this concrete exchange of views.

#### *What challenges healthcare systems face with the ageing of the population?*

The aging of our societies is a sustained process and is looming already major impacts on the provision of healthcare services on the horizon. More and more complex hospital services will be needed by elderly growing patients.

*How do events like HOSPAGE translate into actions to face changes in healthcare systems like the ageing of society?*

HOSPAGE wants to offer a platform to discuss on an adequate organization of hospital services in order to match the future needs. We warmly invite all stakeholders to engage actively in the creation of sustainable healthcare systems and as first step to participate in the conference. One can profit from a unique composition of participants on HOSPAGE: beside high ranking politicians, academics and decision makers of the healthcare sector, around 200 hospital and healthcare professionals with management experience from all 27 EU Member States will participate. As HOSPAGE is also the final event of their four-week HOPE Exchange Programme, those senior practitioners, who deeply discussed the topic in the hosting hospitals all over Europe during the exchange period, will provide their experience during the conference and will discuss them with participants!



## Ageing Well

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A new Thematic Network on healthy ageing was launched in Porto, Portugal, on 12 January 2012. This new Network, *AgeingWell*, aims at bringing together relevant stakeholders, expertise and facilities to support the uptake of ICT solutions for Ageing Well and, by doing so, improve the quality of life of older persons. HOPE is one of the 16 partners of this new Network, which gathers organizations from 11 countries throughout Europe.

Although there are many initiatives that promote Ageing Well at national and European level, they are still most often working in isolation. One of the key challenges of the Network is therefore to gather the key national or regional initiatives in the field of ICT for Ageing in order to jointly develop guidelines for the deployment of ICT & Ageing Well solutions, share good practices and disseminate information to all the stakeholders across Europe.

In order to reach this objective, the AgeingWell partners plan to build a practical guide that can be used by all kinds of organizations from the ICT & Ageing field, which can contribute to minimize market uptake risks by integrating the following components: Member States context, market barriers, as well as a mapping of public and private funds.

The Network will mainly focus on developing new policy implementation schemes through working groups, workshops and exchanges of good practices.

The Thematic Network hopes to have the following impacts:

- Increase the understanding of the challenges that ICT & Ageing are facing and will face in the future; this will be achieved, notably, by building an ICT for Ageing knowledge Centre with a view to share the results with the AgeingWell Community;
- Strengthen the dialogue with the investment community. The Network hopes to foster confidence in the financial-service sectors to take advantage of the enormous investment opportunity presented by the older consumer;
- Contribute to future structure and implementation of EU innovation funding, by presenting and comparing the impacts of different options for the post 2014 EU funding programmes for innovation-related activities;
- Contribute directly and indirectly to improve the Quality of Life of the user's community.

The AgeingWell Thematic Network is co-funded by the European Commission, under the ICT Policy Support Programme (ICT PSP) as part of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme.



### [Guideline for the use of Health Technology Assessment \(HTA\) in the decision-making process in border regions](#)

HTA is the new buzz word in Brussels. To contribute to the debate, HOPE has worked with partners to produce a Guideline for the use of HTA but in a very context: border regions.

This Guideline aims indeed to empower all decision-makers in border regions to effectively develop and implement new technologies. It offers practical indications and examples about how to answer questions and where to find information related to HTA, addressing the needs of both cooperating and not-cooperating hospitals situated in border regions. The Guideline has been tested in two experimental case studies, which represent until now the first and unique examples of HTAs in small-sized, local border settings.

This publication is one of the main deliverable of the EU-funded project [EUREGIO II](#) "Solutions for improving cooperation in border regions", which ran from December 2008 to November 2011. The EUREGIO II project aimed to support health and health service related activities in border regions.



### New staff member

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Beatriz Elola joined HOPE Brussels' Central Office in January 2012. This Spanish journalist will help the organization improve its communication tools and activities, one of which is this *HOPE update*.

For any comments, contact her: [com@hope.be](mailto:com@hope.be)