
European Commission adopts Health Work Programme 2016

In the context of the EU's Health Programme 2014-2020, the European Commission has adopted the Work Programme for 2016.

The funding opportunities include projects and service contracts, as well as Joint Actions planned with national authorities, in priority areas such as Health of refugees and other migrants, Tackling antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and healthcare associated infections, Support to EU countries to respond quickly and efficiently to health crises, Supporting the establishment of European Reference Networks, and cooperation on eHealth and Health Technology Assessment (HTA), Action on chronic diseases, and risk factors such as alcohol and tobacco, and Preventing communicable diseases such as HIV-AIDS, viral hepatitis and tuberculosis.

The third EU health programme is the main instrument the European Commission uses to implement the EU health strategy. It is implemented by means of annual work plans which set out priority areas and the criteria for funding actions under the programme. The total budget for the programme is € 449.4 million.

AAL is looking for independent experts

The AAL Association is calling for candidates for the AAL Programme, the renewed € 700 million applied research and innovation programme in the field of ICT-based solutions for ageing well jointly undertaken by several Member States with the participation of the Union. Apart from evaluating proposals for funding, experts are needed for reviewing funded AAL projects. A broad range of fields are covered including ICT technology, social innovation, business and more, as set out in full in the published call. The objective is to ensure that AAL grants are awarded only to the best-applied research and innovation proposals, based on a rigorous peer-review process. Interested candidates are invited to send their application to experts@aal-europe.eu.



MEMBERS' CORNER

EAHSA calls for your opinion

In the coming weeks, EAHSA will call members for their opinion on several new communication tools and added value of diverse services of the Association. Via an online survey, EAHSA will seek members' feed-back and suggestions for future activities.

For Aad Koster, EAHSA President, it's time to evaluate the EAHSA website and the re-styled newsletter. 'It is my ambition to further professionalise EAHSA and to develop an Association that is a real representative of service providers for the older people. It is of utmost importance to stay connected to the needs and ambitions of our members'. All members will receive an email to access the online questionnaire. Your feedback is most welcome!

Social care key for efficient HC systems

The world's most efficient healthcare systems have five principles in common, one of which is social care. Aged care in particular is often the weak link in healthcare systems. According to the Guardian, five factors that are often at play in efficient healthcare systems: Implementation of integrated care, considering hospitals as health system themselves, standardisation and simplification, 'payer power' and taking social care seriously.

One country that has grasped the importance of aged care is Japan, which introduced a specific tax paid for a national aged care service that funds home, community and residential care for all citizens on a means-tested basis. It was a costly decision in the short run, but an investment for the long term.

Lyon conference is coming!

EAHSA and FNAQPA, host of the upcoming bi-annual conference, are heading for the last phase of organising the Lyon conference, to be held on 22 and 23 September 2016 in Lyon, France.

'Think European - Act locally. New Business Models and Success Stories in the Provision of Care, Housing and Services for the Elderly' is the 2016 bi-annual conference's theme. 'We and the sector of housing and service providers for older people are facing a change of an era', says Dale Stevenson, EAHSA Conference Task Force President. 'What exists is not sustainable. What exists cannot deal with the challenges emerging. We are facing a critical time of change, a change of an era. To understand the nature of this change of an era we need to look at and understand the context and conditions. We need to look at the implications for management and performance.'

The EAHSA Conference is hosted by the Fédération Nationale Avenir et Qualité de Vie des Personnes Agées – FNAQPA. Since 1991, FNAQPA has been one of the leading national French organizations in the gerontology area. Specialized in the Elders issues, FNAQPA members are both administrators of nursing homes and home services.

For a full conference programme and for registering, please check the conference website. A mailing to all EAHSA members will follow soon.



CALENDAR

Events, seminars and conferences

Name	Date, place	Organiser
Med-e-Tel Conference	6-8 April 2016 Luxemburg (LU)	ISfTeH
Pensions Age Spring Conference: From strength to strength	28 April 2016, London (UK)	Pension Age
EAHSA Strategy Session	27 May 2016, Brussels (BE)	EAHSA
High Level eHealth Conference	6-7 June 2016, Amsterdam (NL)	NL EU President
EAHSA Bi-annual conference	22-23 Sep 2016, Lyon (FR)	FNAQPA/ EAHSA
LeadingAge 2016 Annual Meeting	30Oct–2 Nov 2016, Indianapolis (US)	Leading Age

European Parliamentary Research Service publishes new study on need for action on dementia in the EU

A new [study of the European Parliamentary Research Service](#) (EPRS) is calling for more action on dementia in the European Union. An estimated 6.4 million people in the EU are living with dementia. Although dementia mainly affects older people, it is not a natural part of ageing, but occurs when the brain is damaged by disease. There are many different causes and forms of dementia. Alzheimer's disease is the most common, accounting for an estimated 60 to 70% of cases.



Using complaints as drivers for quality improvement in social and health care

'Complaints, and the way they are handled, continue to be a problem in the care sector. A tendency to defensiveness can mean that the potential to learn from mistakes is simply overshadowed by a lack of candour or an unwillingness to apologise for what has happened early enough', says NCF's Des Kelly, following Citizens Advice's report [Learning from mistakes: how complaints can drive improvements in public services](#). Mistakes happen, but opportunities to improve services are still wasted if people are put off complaining and if the value of complaints data is not realised.

OECD publishes new study on Health Workforce Policies: Right jobs, rights skills, right places

The demand and supply of health workers have increased over time in all OECD countries, with jobs in the health and social sector accounting for more than 10% of total employment now in several OECD countries. This [new OECD publication](#) reviews key trends and policy priorities on health workforce across OECD countries, with a particular focus on doctors and nurses given the preeminent role that they have traditionally played



Art-decorating can make or break the success of a senior living project

Every provider can use artwork to increase resident satisfaction and drive interest in its communities. [Senior Housing News](#) found three rules to turn art-in-residence into a success. Firstly, choose hyper-local art. Pieces that are inspired by or reflective of the local area will give residents a feeling of being at home. A second recommendation is to showcase residents' art—both created and donated. Thirdly, make sure that the art carries through the entire community, especially to the care settings.