

### 3. OPTIMISING THE DELIVERY OF HEALTH CARE TO EUROPEAN CITIZENS

This activity aims at developing new research methods and generating the necessary scientific basis to underpin informed policy decisions on health systems and more effective and efficient evidence-based strategies of health promotion, disease prevention, diagnosis and therapy. It is recognised that the health systems of the EU are a central part of Europe's high levels of social protection and contribute to social cohesion and social justice as well as to sustainable development. The health systems of the EU reflect the overarching values of universality, access to good health care, equity and solidarity, aiming to make provision that is patient-centred and responsive to individual need. The principal target users of new knowledge within the Commission include the Directorate-General for Health and Consumer protection and the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities. In particular the research undertaken will generate the scientific evidence to meet the objectives of the proposed new Programme of Community Action in the field of Health (2007-2013).

The principal targeted users outside the Commission include the Member States (Health Ministries and Public Health Institutes), the WHO (both Headquarters and the Regional Office for Europe), the OECD as well as clinicians, service providers, patients and other stakeholders.

#### 3.1. TRANSLATING THE RESULTS OF CLINICAL RESEARCH OUTCOME INTO CLINICAL PRACTICE INCLUDING BETTER USE OF MEDICINES, AND APPROPRIATE USE OF BEHAVIOURAL AND ORGANISATIONAL INTERVENTIONS AND NEW HEALTH THERAPIES AND TECHNOLOGIES

Special attention will be given to patient safety, including adverse effects of medication: to identify the best clinical practice; to understand decision making in clinical settings in primary and specialised care; and to foster applications of evidence-based medicine and patient empowerment. Focus will be on the scientific benchmarking of strategies; investigating outcomes of different interventions including medicines, scientifically tested complementary and alternative medicines, and new health therapies and technologies taking into consideration prescription strategies, some aspects of pharmacovigilance evidence, specificities of the patient (e.g. genetic susceptibility, age, gender and adherence) and cost benefits.

**Expected impact:** Projects should advance the application of evidence-based medicine in Europe.

The improved use of clinical research findings in clinical diagnosis and treatment as well as patient self-management of disease should be demonstrated and the cooperation between researchers in Europe and other geographic regions enhanced to promote integration and excellence of European research in the area. Findings should be scientifically validated in different settings and be applicable beyond the national level. Scientific methodologies that allow tools for benchmarking and comparative analysis at the European level will be considered an asset.

*Topics for second call, deadline 18 September 2007:*

- **HEALTH-2007-3.1-1: Implementation of research into healthcare practice.** Develop and validate a methodology for measuring how new knowledge is implemented in different health care settings (such as primary care, specialised care, hospital) by different target groups. Identify and validate factors determining the successful and timely implementation of new recommendations/guidelines/procedures, including learning cycles from adverse events in the context of patient safety. Issue recommendations for closing the research-practice gap in the implementation of clinical guidelines in Europe.

**Funding scheme:** Collaborative projects (Small or medium-scale focused research projects).

- **HEALTH-2007-3.1-4: Improving clinical decision making.** Development and validation of a methodology to measure the quality of clinical decisions. The methodology should be applied to explain variations of care in seemingly similar populations resulting from the clinical decision making process in different health care settings to allow comparative analyses of quality of care. This research should strengthen the clinical governance process for measurable improvements in clinical decision making.

**Funding scheme:** Collaborative projects (Small or medium-scale focused research projects).

#### 3.5. SPECIFIC INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ACTIONS FOR HEALTH SYSTEM RESEARCH

The objective is to support research in order to provide a scientific base for International Cooperation Partner Countries (ICPC, see annex I) to improve their health service delivery, including aspects of accessibility, effectiveness, efficiency

and quality of care and userfriendliness.

It also covers public health concepts and interventions beyond health services through cross-sectorial and multi-disciplinary research approaches. Global initiatives such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) should be taken into account.

**Expected impact:** Topics under this area have direct relevance to the international dimension of the public health policy of the European Community by contributing to health protection, prevention and promotion, while at the same time generating new knowledge relevant to social, environmental and economic issues. Through cross-sectorial and multi-disciplinary approaches the research will contribute to initiatives such as the Millennium Development Goals, the Ministerial Declarations on Global Health Research and the European policy framework for attainment of the health MDGs. The principal targeted users include the Commission (in particular DG Health and Consumer Protection and DG Development), Member States (Health Ministries and Public Health Institutes), stakeholders in the various ICPC Regions including Ministries of Health, the WHO global health research community.

*Topics for Specific International Cooperation Actions (SICA), deadline 18 September:*

- **HEALTH-2007-3.5-3: Health care intervention research – optimising hospital care.** Investigation into the implications of health care reform for the secondary care sector in the light of existing knowledge including evidence-based decision making, best/good practice, health inequalities, financing mechanisms, and outcome oriented health care investments, in order to develop and validate relevant policy options. Specific International Cooperation Action. Targeted region: Western Balkans.

**Funding scheme:** Collaborative projects (Small or medium-scale focused research projects).