



# 4th NEWSLETTER

Issue 4, January 2014

## CHANCES 4<sup>th</sup> year progress update (Feb 2013- Jan 2014)

**D**uring the first four years of the project, **CHANCES** (Consortium on Health and Ageing network of Cohorts in Europe and United States) consortium has successfully fulfilled the challenging task of documenting, evaluating and harmonizing existing data across the participating cohorts, using structured procedures, whereas, creation of more harmonized variables is viewed as on-going, dynamic procedure as new research hypothesis will evolve.

**A** total of 60 research proposals, in line with the project's objectives, have been developed by means of broad collaborations of partner institutions, research areas and scientific disciplines. Analyses of certain projects regarding the associations of lifestyle factors and specific biomarkers with mortality/morbidity of the elderly have been finalized during the 4 year of the project and the first papers presenting the analysis of most of the participating cohorts have been submitted to peer-Reviewed scientific Journals. Publications of the CHANCES research hypotheses are expected to appear in the literature within the 5<sup>th</sup> year of the project, according to the initial plan. A network of statisticians support CHANCES analyses and actively cooperate within CHANCES WIKI.

**A** reliable and standardized instrument to assess health and ageing-related outcomes (Health Module) in a comparable fashion in European ageing populations was also developed and pilot studies were undertaken in Ireland and Greece. Analysis of the pilot studies is currently undertaken, and based on those the Health Module is expected to be finalized within the 5<sup>th</sup> year of the project.

**P**rogram's coordination was successfully undertaken via the continuous and effective communication across the Consortium. The project's 4<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting was planned and realized at the beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> year of the project. A wide range of dissemination activities, as well as, a number of publications related to CHANCES objectives were realized ([www.chancesfp7.eu](http://www.chancesfp7.eu))

## CHANCES aims and objectives

Detailed information on health outcomes and their determinants in ageing populations is essential for health, social and economic research and management. The CHANCES project uses existing data from 15 cohorts from Europe and United States, in a consortium of 16 partners, whose efforts are channelled through 11 specific Work Packages (WPs) with the ultimate goal of providing new evidence on the health of ageing populations. The project has developed an efficient and flexible infrastructure for conducting pooled or parallel analyses of chronic diseases and disabilities among the elderly, their determinants, and their economic implications. The main deliverables of the project will be a series of reports and publications on the relation between socio-economic, environmental, lifestyle, and nutritional determinants, as well as, genetic profiles and biomarkers and major chronic diseases, disability and mortality, which will provide the evidence needed for preventive and regulatory action. The project will also create a reliable and standardized instrument to assess health and ageing-related outcomes (Health Module) in a comparable fashion in European ageing populations.

## CHANCES 2013 dissemination activities

CHANCES has a comprehensive dissemination strategy aiming at supporting the effective and responsible use and dissemination of information generated within the project. Dissemination activities during 2013, among others, include the following:

- Parallel session on CHANCES at the IUNS 20<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Nutrition, Granada, Spain, 17 September 2013-Presentations by DKFZ, Erasmus MC, RIVM, UoA
- Round Table on CHANCES at the 4th Pan-Hellenic Congress of Public Health and Social Medicine Forum, Athens, Greece, 23 November 2013-Presentations by HHF and UoA
- Poster presentation by RIVM at the Biomarkers of Ageing 2013 Symposium, Konstanz, Germany, 22-23 March 2013
- Oral presentation by QUB at the BiomarCare Statistics Workshop, Hamburg, Germany, 3-5 June 2013
- Poster presentation by HHF at the Press Conference for SHARE Wave 4 first results book, Brussels, Belgium, 27 June 2013
- Poster & Oral presentation by QUB at the UKCRC Research Centres of Excellence 4th Annual Conference, Cardiff, Wales, UK, 8-10 July 2013
- Abstract submission by QUB at the American College of Epidemiology (ACE) Conference, Louisville, Kentucky, 21-24 September 2013
- Poster presentation by QUB at the Centre of Excellence for Public Health Northern Ireland Annual Away Day, Newcastle, Northern Ireland, UK, 29 November 2013
- Press release issued by the organizers of the IUNS 20th International Congress of Nutrition for the CHANCES project
- Online press release by DKFZ, German Cancer Research Center homepage, 24 April 2013
- Article by DKFZ in Cellesche Zeitung, 30 April 2013
- Presentation by MORGAM at the Annual Meeting of the German Society of Epidemiology, Leipzig, Germany, 24 -27 September 2013
- Radio interview (MDR) given by DKFZ, 13 March 2013
- Radio interview (SWR) given by DKFZ, 22 February 2013
- Thesis presentation by Linda Broer (Erasmus MC), Rotterdam, the Netherlands, 9 October 2013

## Project Coordinator

Hellenic Health Foundation  
HHF  
GREECE

## List of Partners and Collaborators

National and Kapodistrian  
University of Athens  
UoA, GREECE

Umea University  
UMU, SWEDEN

National Institute for Public  
Health and the Environment  
RIVM, THE NETHERLANDS

Wageningen University  
WU, THE NETHERLANDS

The German Cancer Research  
Center  
DKFZ, GERMANY

Danish Cancer Society  
DCS, DENMARK

Erasmus Universitair Medisch  
Centrum Rotterdam  
ERASMUS MC  
THE NETHERLANDS

University of Wuppertal  
BUW, GERMANY

Queen's University Belfast  
QUB, UNITED KINGDOM

National Institute for Health  
and Welfare  
THL, FINLAND

Max Planck Institute  
MPG, GERMANY

International Agency for  
Research on Cancer  
IARC, FRANCE

The Brigham and Women's  
Hospital, Inc.  
BWH, UNITED STATES

University College London  
UCL, UNITED KINGDOM

The University of Tromsø  
UIT, NORWAY

National Institutes of  
Health  
NIH, UNITED STATES

Karolinska Institute  
KI, SWEDEN



## Project's physical meetings

- 4th Plenary meeting, hosted by Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, the Netherlands 11-12 February 2013
- 4<sup>th</sup> Work Package Leaders meeting, Granada, Spain 16 September 2013

## Significant upcoming events

- CHANCES 5th Plenary meeting Paris, France, 10-11 February 2014
- CHANCES Dissemination and Networking Workshop Paris, France, 12 February 2014
- CHANCES 5<sup>th</sup> WPLs meeting (date to be confirmed)



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## Further information:

CHANCES Project website:  
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