PressRelease

Health and Ageing oriented large-scale project CHANCES (Consortium on Health and Ageing Consortium on Health and Ageing: Network of Cohorts in Europe and the United States), **launched**.

According to the World Health Organization, as a result of an overall increase in life expectancy, the world's population is ageing. For many people old age is associated with illness. The challenge posed by population ageing makes it necessary to ensure that the extra years of life are as good as possible, without undue limitations in health and social involvement opportunities. Older people' abilities to contribute to the society should never be underestimated, and no artificial barriers should be allowed to restrict them.

The CHANCES project is funded by European Commission under the FP7 funding scheme, and aims at combining and integrating on-going longitudinal studies in order to produce robust evidence on ageing-related health characteristics and determinants in Europe, and their socio-economic implications. Fourteen cohorts participate in the project, covering populations from 18 EU Member States, four associate countries, and three additional countries. The combination of these different studies would lead to an integrated approach to the study of health in the elderly. Four major groups of chronic conditions and disabilities are to be studied: 1. Cancer 2. Diabetes and cardiovascular diseases 3. Fractures and osteoporosis 4. Cognitive dysfunction and Alzheimer disease

An ageing-focused health module will be developed, to be applied to other population surveys. Additionally, the study will generate a unique resource for additional studies on health and its determinants in the elderly. Provisions will be made to allow for this work to be extended.

The Coordinating center of the CHANCES is the Hellenic Health Foundation (HHF), a non-profit organization based in Greece. It provides expertise in the area of health research and on informing the general public on important health issues.