



USING HEALTH SECTOR INVESTMENT TO IMPROVE REGIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Dear Colleagues,

In partnership with DG SANCO we have been conducting an online survey with European regions and key organisations to find out more about the support needs of regions who want to improve how health sector investment can contribute to regional development. The findings from this survey will be reported in our next newsletter and inform the next phase of HCN as a non-profit interregional network and related work led by DG SANCO. In December, DG SANCO together with EHMA will host a workshop with key players (including HCN) to explore how Structural Funds can be better used to contribute to health gain. Importantly for regions, the role that health has in generating economic wealth and prosperity has been recognised in the 12 cohesion priorities for investment identified by the EU for 2007-2013.

Prof Jonathan Watson, Executive Director of Health ClusterNET

HCN seeks new members

This newsletter provides some information for existing HCN partners and organisations in other regions who might be interested in becoming a member of HCN when it re-launches as a non-profit open network in January 2008. For some coming to our European regional Interreg IIIC conference in Brussels in 22 November and hearing about the progress in our first three years will give a clear idea about how we can help your regional health system contribute to regional development. In this newsletter you will find contact details for the Network Office and information about current partners who can offer their views and insights about the value of joining HCN.

Building on the Interreg IIIC phase

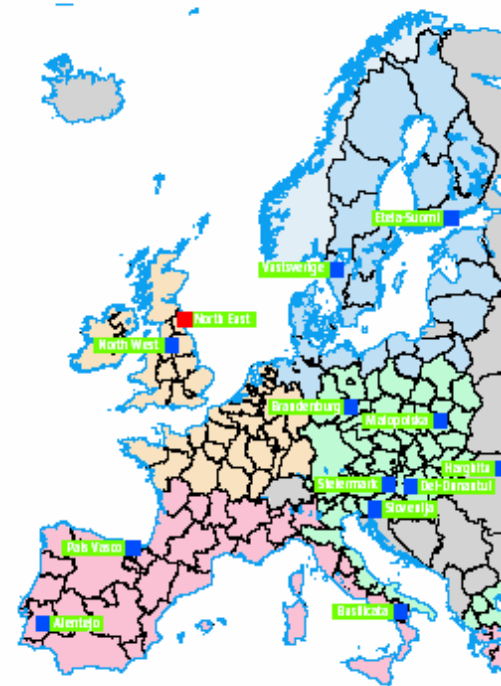
As an Interreg IIIC funded operation, HCN has been developing a clearer understanding of a shared challenge for all partners: how regional health sector investment and assets can contribute to regional economic and social development priorities. Through its focus on four connections (local procurement, affordable capital investment, employment and innovation) it has enabled partners to share knowledge, experience and ideas about how these areas can be used successfully to address the challenge. Interreg IIIC funding ends in December 2007. With support from existing partners and new members, in January 2008 HCN will become an interregional European network formalised as an EC recognised not-for-profit organisation.

The main purpose of HCN in the future

The aim of HCN is to develop a reputation across Europe for supporting the contribution of health sector investment to regional development and the wellbeing of their communities. As a knowledge hub the Network can have an important impact in informing development of and maintaining coherent health systems in regions and for their communities. In achieving this, a basic principle for regional health systems should be to assure quality and universal access, keeping equity for all the citizens in health care.

HCN will deliver benefits for members, partners and sponsors through four interrelated knowledge management functions: a knowledge programme with five working groups and learning sets, a virtual knowledge laboratory with an interactive website, networking networks and other knowledge sources, a development group offering professional development and research support.

The summary of the current business plan can be found on our website: www.healthclusternet.org



CURRENT PARTNER REGIONS

Partner regions: Alentejo (Portugal), Basilicata (Italy), Brandenburg (Germany), Del-Dunantul (Hungary), Etelä-Suomi (Finland), Harghita (Romania), Malopolskie (Poland), North East (England, Lead Partner), North West (England), Pais Vasco (Spain), Slovenija (Slovenia), Steiermark (Austria), Västsvrige (Sweden)

USEFUL CONTACTS

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EMPLOYMENT opportunities for vulnerable social groups

What HCN delivers for members, partners, and sponsors

The main aim of HCN

To support regions to achieve cost-effective economic and social benefits from health sector investments through practical 'know-how' and innovative solutions. Achieving this is informed by understanding the different development priorities and capacity of member regions.

Objectives

- Support regions to **build appropriate capacity** that enables health sector investment to contribute to regional economic and social development
- Facilitate the **sharing of examples of policy development and good practice** relevant to four HCN knowledge themes
- Support regions to increase engagement with their own regional and local health systems **strengthening regional policy and integrated planning** in the four key corporate activity areas
- Provide expert advice to regions and **facilitate exchange of expertise** between regions
- Enable access to and **provide appropriate policy, planning and performance measurement tools**
- **Influence relevant policies** and other instruments at regional/local and EC levels based on insights developed by HCN and associated initiatives
- **Improve understanding** how health sector investment can contribute to regional development **through spin-off member-led projects, HCN-led projects and partnership initiatives** with other key stakeholders

How HCN will be funded and become financially sustainable

In this next stage the Network will be funded from several sources:

- Full member, Associate and NGO member fees (see next page)
- Start-up support in year 1
- Externally funded spin-off projects in which HCN is a partner
- Sponsorship
- Income from development, research and training (e.g. European Executive Regional Development Programme)

There are two important first steps:

- To secure a start-up fund that would be a safeguard for cashflow to meet running costs within year 1, up to the point where the income streams are sufficiently activated.
- To secure a reasonable and progressive level of subscription for the main groups of members. The amounts suggested are based on (i) review of core services that will be attractive to members (ii) review of fee structures for other successful and failing Networks.

Successful spin-off project application in 2007

The Bilbao Consortium of seven European universities has been successful in its bid for Erasmus Mundas funding. A new European Master's Degree in Sustainable Regional Health Systems Development will be launched in September 2008. This degree will be available both full and part-time.

The Bilbao Consortium bid was led by Vilnius University Medical School and Universidad de Deusto. It includes Corvinus University (Budapest), Tampere University, University of Verona, University College Dublin and Glasgow Caledonian University. Discussion with DG SANCO has also suggested interest from another university and this will be discussed with consortium members.

The degree itself builds on and offers valuable professional development support to regions that are pursuing the HCN Agenda of maximising the contribution of health sector investment to regional development.



CAPITAL INVESTMENT models that are affordable and locally relevant

Promoting the regional added value of INNOVATION

Future collaborative work with DG SANCO and other EC Directorates

Autumn has been a busy period as HCN is invited to become involved in and contribute to a range of developments and initiatives. This shows that our hard work as an Interreg IIC funded operation is starting to inform how other key agencies and EC Directorates look to address the challenges of health sector investment informing regional development.

Between now and Christmas HCN has been invited to contribute to the following:

- Delivering presentations about HCN to two regions interested in becoming HCN members (Wales and North West) in Cardiff and Brussels during October
- Delivering a presentation about the lessons HC has learned in its first 3 years to the High Level Committee on Public Health in Lisbon (7-8 November). The HCN contribution will be delivered to one of two parallel sessions: Cohesion Policy and Health including the use of Structural Funds
- Contributing a plenary presentation to a Health Conference held at the Committee of the Regions and organized by Lower Austria on 21 November
- Contributing a presentation to the WHO Regions For Health 2007 Annual Conference in Dusseldorf
- Contributing to a DG Enlargement TAIEX workshop (26-27 November) at the Egyptian Ministry of Health and Population on Public Private Partnership Initiatives in the Health Sector. Specifically, there is interest in the HCN Graz Policy Agenda on Affordable Capital Investment
- Contributing to a workshop in Brussels (10 December) hosted by the European Commission and co-chaired by the Health and Consumer Protection Directorate-General (DG SANCO) and the European Health Management Association (EHMA). It aims at discussing the possibilities for concrete cooperation for using structural funds for health gain.

Becoming a member of HCN

If you would like to find out more about joining Health ClusterNET then please contact the Network Manager (Margit Ohr) at ohr@policy.hu

HCN will start as an independent open network in January 2008. In general members will be attracted from:

- Regional Governments and local municipalities
- Regional and local health services
- Universities and research centres
- Enterprise and other economic actors e.g. Regional Development Agencies

Three types of membership are available:

1. **FULL MEMBERSHIP** for organisations from the above four groups representing their region and having a formal role in health sector investment and regional development. 2 votes at Annual General Meeting
 - €10,000 p.a. if from a region in the EU15
 - €3,000 p.a. if from a region in the EU12
2. **ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP** for international agencies, non-European regions, universities and research centres with a strong interest in the HCN Agenda. 1 vote at Annual General Meeting
 - €5,000 p.a.
 - €1,500 p.a. if from a non-EU region in WHO/EURO area
3. **EUROPEAN NGO MEMBERSHIP** for European NGO's in the health sector, enterprise & innovation, economic development etc who might wish to engage with HCN. 1 vote at Annual General Meeting.
 - €1,500 p.a.

Download the Business Plan Summary for details from our website: www.healthclusternet.org

We look forward to working with you in the future.

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Capability Statement - How HCN members, partners and sponsors will benefit

