

Press Release

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Developing future recommendations for healthy ageing in European citizens

DynaHEALTH - A ground-breaking multi-disciplinary research project was launched at the European Parliament to engage with key policymakers. Over a four year period, the project will develop evidence-based policy recommendations for healthy and active ageing through reducing the risks of obesity and type 2 diabetes. These conditions are increasing with alarming prevalence among ageing populations across the European Union, posing a severe economic burden on healthcare systems.

The DynaHEALTH consortium, made up of 13 partners from six member states, will address the specific need for “personalised” healthcare. By studying the interplay between glucose metabolism, psychological wellbeing and social factors the project will develop new technologies and clinical interventions for targeted disease prevention. The project uses a unique approach by capitalising on a number of existing studies involving 1.5 million Europeans.

Hosted by Linda McAvan MEP, the launch marked the first milestone in this large scale ambitious project, funded by the European Commission’s research programme Horizon 2020. Linda emphasised the importance of collaboration at a European level by saying “projects like this bring together leading researchers from across Europe and have a significant impact as they enable MEPs to address the major challenges faced.”

Christel Schaldemose, MEP and Co-Chair of the Working Group on Diabetes, reiterated the importance of non-communicable diseases such as type 2 diabetes, and the impact that they have on the wellbeing of the European population and the wider economy. She said “We need robust evidence to develop and implement effective policies, and I strongly encourage the project to continue its dialogue with European policy makers”.

Project Coordinator Marjo-Riitta Järvelin, from The University of Oulu, introduced the DynaHEALTH project and explained “It is so important to begin early engagement with policy makers, the academic community, and the general public. It is vital that we maximise the impact of our research through successful and wide-reaching dissemination. The launch event, along with the project website, is just the start of our journey”.



Launch speakers pictured from left: Christel Schaldemose MEP, Jayne Evans of Beta, Miguel Lizaso from the European Commission and Marjo-Riitta Järvelin, DynaHEALTH Project Coordinator.

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Notes to editors:

See more at: www.dynahealth.eu

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About DynaHEALTH

Partners:

- University of Oulu and Centre for Life Course Epidemiology and Systems Medicine, Finland (Coordinator);
- Abbott, Spain;
- Academic Medical Centre, Amsterdam, the Netherlands;
- Beta Technology Ltd, UK;
- Erasmus University Medical Centre Rotterdam, the Netherlands;
- Imperial College London, UK;
- Institute of Diabetes Research, Helmholtz Zentrum München, Germany;
- Institute of Preventive Medicine, Bispebjerg and Frederiksberg Hospitals, The Capital Region, Denmark;
- Laboratorios Ordesa, Spain;
- Ludwig-Maximilians-University of Munich, Germany;
- The Folkhälsan Research Centre, Finland;



- University College London, UK;
- University of Granada, Spain.



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About Horizon 2020

Europe has a 10 year growth and jobs strategy called **Europe 2020**. It was launched in 2010 to create the conditions for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. Five headline targets have been agreed for the European Union to achieve by the end of 2020, covering employment, research and development, climate/energy, education, and social inclusion and poverty reduction.

Europe has identified new engines to boost growth and jobs; these are addressed by seven '**flagship initiatives**'. Within each initiative both the European Union and national authorities have to coordinate their efforts so they are mutually reinforcing. '**Innovation Union**' is one such flagship initiative. '**Innovation Union**' is the European Union strategy to create an innovation-friendly environment that makes it easier for great ideas to be turned into products and services that will bring our economy growth and jobs.

Horizon 2020 is the financial instrument implementing the Innovation Union and:

- Has a budget of nearly €80 billion for the period 2014-2020 which makes it the biggest European Union Research and Development programme ever.
- Is open to everyone.
- Has three priorities (Industrial Leadership, Excellent Science and Societal Change); each of which has a number of sections with a different focus and each section has a detailed work programme.

<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/what-horizon-2020>