

Udine, 15th January 2014

Dear Colleagues,

As usual at the beginning of a new year we come with a letter where we try to summarize our state of the art and to plan our future activities.

In the last year EUNETIPS activities resulted in a slow but solid growth of the network.

Today the network has 22 member societies from 16 countries representing more than 6.500 health care professionals actively engaged in Infection Control/Hospital Hygiene (IC/HH) activities throughout Europe.

We had two official meetings (June in Geneva at ICPIE and December in Berlin) where we were able to plan our activities and to discuss our strategies. In Berlin we were also able to focus our attention on a specific topic which affects almost all our national and local health care systems: "Costs of healthcare systems and quality of IPC/HH in Europe – which way: state, insurance, private paying ". The presentation of Philippe Hartemann is available in our website.

The attached slides reported the main issues discussed in Berlin.

Looking back to 2013 targets we can try a short balance of what has been done and what still needs attention and investments:

1. One target was to increase our European representativeness and in 2013:
 - a. we welcomed IPS as a new member;
 - b. we asked all member societies to promote new contacts with societies and professionals working in our field especially those from European countries at the moment non represented in the network;
 - c. this target still remains a major challenge and I strongly invite you to continue the efforts both by :
 - i. sending us a list of possible interested societies: it is enough to send us the contact details (i.e. email address at least);
 - ii. contacting directly these society to explore their interest to join the network.
2. A second target was to keep permanent contacts with DGSANCO, ECDC, WHO and other European institutions which are interested and engaged in infection prevention and patient safety; these contacts have been developed and, as an example, EUNETIPS actively sustained the 5th of May WHO campaign "SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands". Furthermore these contacts brought to initiatives which will engage us from the beginning of 2014 and are reported below.

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3. A further target was to make our website (www.eunetips.eu) more and more informative about documents and initiatives, using it as the hub for our activities; our website thank to Walter Popp is very active and we invite you to:
 - a. share documents and papers of interest (it needs only the time of an email to Walter);
 - b. share scientific events/congresses (also national) which include a session about international perspective;
 - c. share courses in IC/HH;
 - d. share posters and videos you think are interesting to European colleagues;

Please don't worry too much about the language: we can manage this barrier both with an extended abstract in English and, for some of them, translating them in English.

4. A fourth target was to be more present in the national and international congresses. There have been many opportunities in 2013 (i.e. DGKH, SIMPIOS, SF2H, SEMPSPH, etc.). As far as we know at the moment also in 2014 there will be these opportunities. It would be very useful if each society could report these activities to us so that they could be uploaded in the website. Among the planned meetings I like to stress the session in the HIS congress next November 2014 in Lyon. If you are planning similar initiatives in your country and you need any support, please do not hesitate to contact us.
5. A last target was to emphasize the opportunity to conduct surveys or other kind of research which need to include many different countries perspectives. In this target we were not successful in 2013 but we have some greater opportunities in 2014. Specifically we plan to:
 - a. answer as EUNETIPS and to promote the member societies active participation to a public consultation promoted by DG SANCO on “patient safety and quality of healthcare: action at EU level” ;
 - b. promote and support the ECDC survey on the state of the art of IC/HH training in Europe planned for the mid of the year;
 - c. promote and support the ECDC call for IC/HH courses developed accordingly to the ECDC core competencies technical report;
 - d. If you have any idea or proposal, please do not hesitate to send it to us: we will discuss immediately about it and share it with all members.

Last but not least we had also the opportunity to have the support of some sponsors (3 M) which helped us to realize our meeting in Berlin; we are very grateful to them and we hope this support could continue in future initiatives.

The relationship with our potential sponsors is still a very important issue for our future activities and we should develop it very attentively this year.

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We found that many sponsors are very interested in our projects but we should finalised this in a more structured way.

Now let me just remind you **our 2014 duties** at the beginning of the years:

1. We want to participate to **EU public consultation on patient safety and quality of healthcare** both at national level and as EUNETIPS (it would be very important if we could agree about EUNETIPS answer trying to summarize the position of our societies)
 - a. To do this is very important if you can **send us your contribution by the end of January** since the deadline for the consultation is the 28th of February.
 - b. You can find more information about this consultation in the attached slides and at the following email address http://ec.europa.eu/health/patient_safety/policy/index_en.htm:
2. We want to advertise and promote to those potentially interested **the TRICE IS call for courses: deadline is the 15th of January (delayed to the 31 of January)** and information could be asked through an email to elisa.fabbro@uniud.it:
 - o This is part of the ECDC programs to promote IC/HH training in Europe and is the first attempt to recognize at EU level the compliance of the submitted training initiatives with the European IC/HH Core Competencies (see attached slides).
3. We want to continue to be actively involved in the promotion of the **WHO call to action 5th of May campaign** (see attached slides):
 - a. please send us suggestions;
 - b. let us to know what your society is doing.
4. We want to improve our website more and more:
 - a. please **send us documents, position papers, videos, courses** of interest to European colleagues so that they could be uploaded in our website;
 - b. **let us know national congresses with international sessions** so that we can upload them;
 - c. Countries which are still lacking representativeness are: Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Turkey.
5. We want to contact new European societies and colleagues engaged in Infection Prevention and Control, especially those working in countries not represented in our Network:
 - a. please **send us possible contacts** you think could be interested;
 - b. please **contact colleagues and societies** which could be new EUNETIPS members.

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The date of our **spring meeting** is not defined at the moment and **if someone thinks it is possible to host the meeting** providing some logistic support is welcomed.

The autumn meeting is planned in Lyon since we will manage a session at the HIS congress.

At the end of this letter let me, also on behalf of the board of EUNETIPS, wish you and all your colleagues a 2014 very successful for our societies and for EUNETIPS.

Silvio Brusaferrero

