

7 WORK PACKAGES

COORDINATION OF THE PROJECT

Work package leader:

UK Health Forum

DISSEMINATION OF RESEARCH RESULTS

Work package leader:

European Society of Cardiology

EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT

Work package leader:

Health Equalities Group

REACHING CONSENSUS ON METHODOLOGY

Work package leader:

European Heart Network

DEVELOPMENT OF A DISEASE MODEL

Work package leader:

UK Health Forum

DEVELOPMENT OF A COST-EFFECTIVENESS MODEL

Work package leader:

University of Groningen

VALIDATION OF THE MODEL

Work package leader:

UK Health Forum

PARTNERS IN THE PROJECT

ASSOCIATED PARTNERS

UK Health Forum (UK)

European Heart Network (BE)

European Society of Cardiology (FR)

Health Equalities Group (UK)

International Diabetes Federation Europe (BE)

Lithuanian University of Health Sciences (LT)

National Institute of Health Doutor Ricardo Jorge, IP
(PT)

University of Groningen (NL)

COLLABORATING PARTNERS

World Health Organization

Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development

European Society for Medical Oncology

European Cancer Organisation

European Respiratory Society

European Kidney Health Alliance

European Association for the Study of the Liver

University of Helsinki

Warsaw University of Life Sciences

Foundation of European Nurses in Diabetes

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ECONOMICS OF CHRONIC DISEASES

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BACKGROUND

Chronic diseases such as cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes and respiratory disease are responsible for over 86% of deaths in Europe each year. Chronic diseases have a large impact upon health and social care costs and in the current climate of austerity, prevention of these diseases should be a key priority.

ECONOMICS OF CHRONIC DISEASES (EConDA) PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The EConDA project is concerned with cost-effectiveness of interventions which reduce chronic diseases in the population. We will draw on the experience and expertise of leading academics and health organisations in the field to achieve the following objectives:

- ◆ Implement cost-effective policies that improve prevention of chronic diseases
- ◆ Reduce health inequalities in chronic disease prevalence by impacting upon populations most at risk.

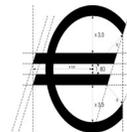
Specifically, we aim to:

- ◆ Seek consensus on the best measures of cost-effectiveness of chronic disease interventions.
- ◆ Develop a statistical model that will test the cost-effectiveness of chronic disease interventions, and the effects of interventions on gender, different age groups and social classes.

The project will focus on coronary heart disease (CHD), type 2 diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), chronic kidney disease (CKD) and two risk factors: obesity and tobacco use.

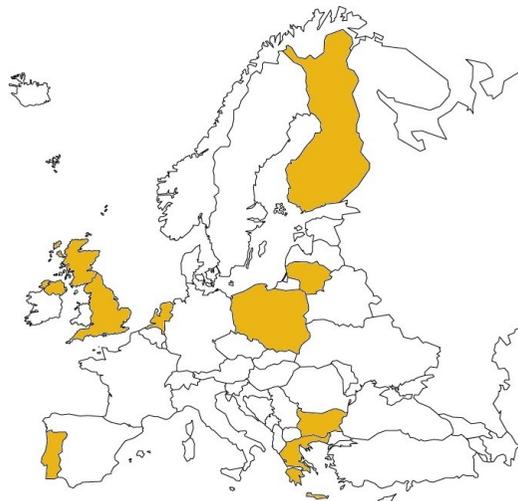
MEASURING COSTS

Cost-of-illness, cost-effectiveness and cost-benefit analyses are common tools used to measure the economic burden of disease because of their resonance with both policy makers and politicians. There is, however, no consensus on the methods behind these studies making comparisons between studies difficult. This project will attempt to reach a consensus and form guidelines for 'best practice' when measuring cost-effectiveness of disease interventions.



THE SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM

In the WHO European Region, chronic diseases (such as cardiovascular and respiratory disease and type 2 diabetes), account for 86% of all deaths and 77% of disability adjusted life years (DALYS) and rates vary between and within countries due to stark inequalities in health. Moreover, chronic diseases have a large impact on health care costs throughout the EU. Effective interventions are necessary to halt the chronic disease epidemic and reduce the burden of these diseases.



FORECASTING FUTURE DISEASE BURDEN

EConDA will use a micro simulation model initially developed by the UK Health Forum for the Tackling Obesities enquiry (Foresight, 2007). This model will show how the costs of chronic diseases will change in the future.

Models for eight EU countries (Bulgaria, Greece, Finland, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal and UK) will be built to demonstrate the future impact of chronic diseases (CHD, COPD, CKD, type 2 diabetes).

POLICY-ORIENTED RESEARCH

Using micro simulation methods enables policy makers to test the impact of interventions upon future disease burden. EConDA will test the cost-effectiveness of interventions such as food and tobacco tax, public space smoking bans and food marketing and the impact of these on future prevalence of chronic diseases.

Knowing the extent to which chronic diseases are expected to rise enables policy makers to allocate appropriate resources and plan prevention strategies against rising disease rates.

PROJECT OUTCOMES

EConDA will identify effective and cost-effective interventions targeted at population groups that are most affected by chronic diseases. In doing so, this will aim to reduce inequalities in health. In addition, the project will increase the knowledge base for reducing early death from chronic diseases as well as wider externalities and losses