

European Health Award

2011

European Health Award for a Health Policy Initiative of European Importance



The European Health Forum Gastein (EHFG) is Europe's most important health policy conference, supported by the European Commission, the Austrian Ministry of Health, WHO Europe, and the World Bank. The EHFG is a forum for debate between policy-makers, public health and health care stakeholders, business and industry, science and academia and civil society. For years the EHFG has been an annual landmark on the European health policy agenda and a key element in creating a better future for health in Europe. In 2007, on the occasion of its tenth anniversary the EHFG initiated the European Health Award. The purpose of this Award is to recognise health policy initiatives of European importance that have proven to contribute to meeting health challenges in Europe. The Award includes a prize of 10,000 euro, sponsored by the Forum of Research-based Pharmaceutical Industry (FOPI).



Disparities in health: a European challenge

Today's health problems are more multifaceted and complex than ever. Demographic change, technological advances and scarce resources are the cornerstones defining future health policy in Europe. A wide gap between European countries, in both health status and the capacity to protect and promote health and deliver world-class health services, is evident. A broad policy approach is needed to solve these problems.

Purpose of the European Health Award

The purpose of the European Health Award is to highlight and reward a European cross-border initiative that can contribute in a clear and significant way to meeting some of the challenges described above.

At present, there are various initiatives in Europe that are designed to improve standards of health and medical treatment. Some of these have made a considerable contribution to their field, and may well prove valuable in the optimisation of health services in other countries. As single health systems cannot ensure optimal, cost efficient approaches in areas such as health promotion, prevention, health care services and treatment, it therefore seems an obvious step to share best practice projects with a view to adopting them as possible building blocks for cross-border cooperation and improving health and treatment. Yet what



works in one country may not necessarily be transferable to another. In order to ensure a degree of transferability, the selection procedure requires that initiatives nominated for the European Health Award must have been implemented in at least two European countries.

Selection process

After the evaluation by an independent expert, nominations will be approved by the EHFG board, which represents the four pillars of the EHFG (politics & administration, business & industry, science & academia, and civil society) and a shortlist will be created for consideration by the jury. The winner of the Award will be selected by the jury in September 2011.

Award criteria

- A health policy initiative of European importance that focuses on public health or health care delivery addressing an important threat to the health of the population.
- The initiative has to demonstrate a benefit to population health or health care, respectively, in terms of prevention, improving quality of care, access to care or through increased efficiency or cost-effectiveness.
- The initiative shall be already in the implementation phase in at least two European countries, although it does not have to be completed at the time of application.
- Expected outcomes and improvements have to be demonstrated and at least initial results shall be presented.
- The health policy initiative needs to be transferable to other European countries.



The previous Award winners

2007: European Alliance against depression – A networked initiative for the timely treatment of depression using a widely spread approach to involve all relevant stakeholders.

2008: CAWT Renal Project – Cross-Border Collaboration for Quality Improvement in Delivery of Renal Care is a partnership that facilitates collaborative working between health and social care organisations cross the Irish border.

2009: European Practice Assessment (EPA) – designed to improve the exchange of knowledge and experience by practical physicians in the area of primary care.

2010: Chronic Diseases Alliance – unites ten public and professional health organisations active in heart disease, stroke, hypertension, diabetes, kidney disease, cancers, respiratory and liver diseases for a common prevention approach.

Closing date for receipt of applications: Monday, 6th June 2011

If you would like to nominate a health policy initiative for the European Health Award, please fill in the application form and submit to: boriana.goranova@ehfg.org

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