ABSTRACT

Programme: INTERREG EUROPE - Priority 1 - Strengthening research, technical development and innovation.

Project title (provisional): **“SO – HEALTHY –**  - Increase pro-health policy effectiveness through living conditions and patients health improvement, health programmes concerning rehabilitation and enabling return to work after convalescence.

Good communication and cooperation with healthcare stakeholders allows to work out new solutions or ideas. Promoting good human health is one of the goals of the Europe 2020 strategy. In recent years the healthcare organizers are facing new challenges, which are affecting both the health and the o balanced regional development.

* How to make return to work easier for people affected by illness?
* How to build effective and attractive health programmes?
* How to take into consideration opinions of healthcare stakeholders during creation and implementation of complex healthcare strategies?
* How to map out an effective model of rehabilitation as a condition which allows coming back to work after injury or illnesses?

The aim of this project is to make an analysis of those subjects and to create recommendations in before mentioned areas. This will include guidelines, indicate necessary changes or suplements in healthcare policy documents. Project will be based on motivating and promoting cooperation between R&D sector, higher education and healthcare companies (hospitals, health clinics, and other entities affecting development and improving rehabilitation services).

The main goal of the project is to establish health programme models that will have a direct impact on health and life quality improvement of patients who require rehabilitation. Those new policies will result in making their return to work and maintaining employment easier.

**BACKGROUND**

Investments in improving life quality and health of patients by building health programmes concerning rehabilitation, making coming back to work and maintaining employment easier are absolutely crucial for regional development and reducing differences between various regions in Europe.

Investments in improving life quality and health of patients during rehabilitation is an essential element of health promoting policies.

Process of posttraumatic and post-operative rehabilitation should be an inseparable element of each treatment. This process should be instantaneous and comprehensive. This approach guarantees more effective treatment, faster recovery and quicker return to the labor market. Analysis of various costs concerning rehabilitation and benefits for employees (who are unable to work because of lack of availability of proper rehabilitation at the right time) are clearly showing that the reallocation of funds to health promoting policies of improving rehabilitation processes significantly reduces costs of health benefits for patients.

Lack of a systemic approach to a rehabilitation process results in a significant financial burden for a health care system, lower life quality of people and risk of rising unemployment rate.

Each country has different experiences in this matter, however a key point is an exchange of good practices between countries and learning from best functioning health care systems available. Sharing knowledge and access to more innovative rehabilitation methods is a base for improving both life quality and health of patients.

**APPROACH**

The project is based on the assumption that local authorities have a key role in shaping regional health promoting policies and have influence to change treatment of dependent healthcare entities by administration of funds for individual medical procedures.

Local Authorities with a support of a key research entities and medical clusters are capable of analysing accurately these considerations and working out ready to implement, most adequate recommendations for each region. Those considerations will be available in detailed documents of regional operational programmes.

**OBJECTIVE**

The project intends to improve healthcare quality, in particular the area of rehabilitation and employment stimulation by:

* Development of health promoting programmes based on verified solutions considering local specificities.
* Improving regional policies aimed to healthcare business by developing complex solutions systematizing posttraumatic and post-operational rehabilitation and implementing it in regional documents.
* Developing system solutions making keeping employment and coming to work easier for people who require long term rehabilitation.

ACTIONS

The project implements the following actions:

1. PHASE I
   1. Management and coordination, coordinated by the Upper Silesian Agency for Enterpreneurship and Development Ltd. (Górnośląska Agencja Przedsiębiorczości   
      i Rozwoju sp. z o.o.)
   2. Exchange of experience, International exchange of experiences in the field tackled by the project leading to develop new models of health promoting and rehabilitation programmes, considering analysis of documents and good practices. An important role in project will be played by the R&D sector and health business entities, particular those from field of rehabilitation and post hospital care, interested in establishing innovative, system and support models for patients requiring rehabilitation.

* Local stakeholders group constitution in each region (local authorities, trade associations, universities/R&I actors, cultural/social actors)
* Mapping and identification of good practices in the field of Local Authorities supporting rehabilitation after injuries and illness which helps people in coming back to work and maintaining employment.
* Exchange of good practices *- through study visits and peer to peer dialogue between cities and regions; in parallel local cooperation process with local stakeholders group*
* Training for local stakeholders' capacity building *in each region*
* Action plans definition
  1. Communication and dissemination

2. PHASE II

2.1 Monitoring of Action plan implementation. 1 Mandatory project meeting/year. Monitoring tools and procedure definition. Monitoring of Action Plan implementation by each region.

PROJECT DURATION:

PHASE 1 - 3 YEARS

PHASE II - 2 YEARS (mandatory)

PARTNERSHIP

Envisaged partnership counts 6-8 partners from at least 3 different countries.   
Profile searched:

Regional partners, namely: Local authorities/Regional authorities/Chamber of Commerce/trade associations. Tasks: to identify and collect local Good Practices. To establish local stakeholders group for local cooperation (actors from the economic/cultural/social fields). To provide the information needed to University. To host and participate in study visits and peer to peer dialogue and in all activities related to exchange of experiences. To perform communication actions. To coordinate and participate in local stakeholders’ meetings.

IMPORTANT

Regional partners must:

* Have established international relations (i.e. agreements, well established relations, running projects...)
* Have a verifiable policy concerning local development and internationalisation to support building and developing solutions in healthcare business (this means policies or actions already in place/or being committed to develop them)
* provide an active 'local stakeholder group' (sub-partners, no funding) a local stakeholders group composed by all local development relevant actors (trade associations, cultural/social/educational actors, chamber of commerce, Regional relevant authority - if not directly involved as partner)

FUNDING:

85% ERDF - public bodies and bodies governed by public law

75% ERDF - private non-profit bodies

DEADLINE: 22 April 2016.

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WHY Silesian Voivodship and Upper Silesian Agency for Entrepreneurship and Development Ltd.

Silesian Voivodship is one of the most densely populated regions of Poland. It is also highly urbanized and industrialized. At the same time in Silesian Voivodship there are located the most of highly specialized medical centers (hospitals, health clinics, medical profile research institutes, institutes of higher education), which during its everyday activity notice requirement of establishing long term strategy of posttraumatic and rehabilitation care. Upper Silesian Agency for Entrepreneurship and Development Ltd. is MedSilesia cluster coordinator. MedSilesia cluster brings together most important companies from health care business in region and the whole Poland.

Silesian Voivodship

MEDICINE

One of the areas in which the Silesian Voivodeship distinguishes itself on not only the national, but also the international scale, is medicine, especially cardio-surgery and oncology. Regional hospitals specializing in these fields of medicine are high in the national rankings: CARDIO-SURGERY - the Silesian Centre for Heart Diseases (Zabrze), the Upper Silesian Medical Centre, the Clinic of Cardiology (Katowice); ONCOLOGY - the Centre for Oncology, the Maria Skłodowska-Curie Institute (Gliwice), the Clinic for Hematology and Transplantology (Katowice); BURNS - the Centre for Burns Treatment (Siemianowice Śląskie).

The Silesian Centre for Heart Diseases in Zabrze - one of Poland's most important centres for heart transplantation is merits special emphasis. Each year complicated cardiologic and transplantation operations are carried out there. The Zabrze hospital is among the best, as far as operations on the aortic aneurysm are concerned. Together with a few other Polish centres, the Silesian Centre for Heart Diseases is one of the European leaders in the field of cardio-surgery. More and more frequently, doctors from Zabrze perform life-saving simultaneous transplantations of two organs, which is a very rare practice. Another clinic specializing in cardio-surgery is the Clinic No. 1 in Katowice Ochojec. It is one of the best in the world in the field of minimally-invasive operations and the application of modern technologies. This clinic operates on the premises of the Independent State Clinical Hospital No. 7 of the Medical University of Silesia, which was rated first in the Newsweek ranking as the best Polish hospital. For two years, doctors from the hospital in Katowice Ochojec have been performing operations on the heart with no necessity to cut the chest, thanks to the application of the Ezop robot. The patients who do not have to undergo procedures performed by cardio-surgeons are treated in one of the three modern cardiologic clinics.

Oncology is another medical specialization, apart from cardio-surgery, characteristic for the Silesian Voivodship. The Centre for Oncology - the Maria Skłodowska-Curie Institute in Gliwice - Is currently the most modern hospital in Poland. Its equipment is fully computerized.

On the other hand, the Clinic for Hematology and Marrow Transplantation in Katowice is a centre for marrow transplantation, occupying leading position in Europe. It is here where for the first time in Poland marrow transplantation from a foreign donor was performed, as well as marrow transplantation from a Polish non-relative. As the only one in Poland, the centre in Katowice has accreditation at the American Marrow Donor Registry.

Finally, the Centre for Burns Treatment in Siemianowice Śląskie is a Poland's leading centre for the treatment of burns injuries and their complications. The goals and tasks of the centre include, among other things, burns treatment, hyperbaric oxygenation (burns, post-injury burns, infections, inflammations, oedemas), and rehabilitation for post-burns complications.

**ECONOMIC POTENCIAL**

In terms of economy, the Silesian Voivodeship is one of the strongest in Poland. 13% of Poland's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is generated here, giving the Voivodeship the second highest rank in Poland. GDP per inhabitant amounts to PLN 32,800 and is by 4,000 higher than the national average.

The economic transformations going on in the region have resulted in a significant change in the structure of the gross added value (the newly produced value) generated in the region. The share of market and non-market services accounts for nearly 60% and industry 33%, ranking Silesia first in Poland.

The Silesian Voivodship is rich in natural resources such as hard coal, deposits of zinc, lead, methane, natural gas, marlstone, chalkstone, and natural break-stone, as well as medicinal, thermal and mineral waters. The existing raw material base led to the creation of Poland's largest industrial region.

Currently, hard coal mining and iron and steel industry are undergoing deep restructuring. Reduced employment rate, from 243,000 people in 1997 to 121,300 in 2009, and improved efficiency are some of the effects brought by the transformations implemented in mining. Metallurgy, on the other hand, has been affected by essential changes in forms of ownership and management structure. The result is nearly complete privatisation of the industry.

Parallel to the above transformations, also the entire fuel-energy system is under restructuring. Owing to the high concentration of industry, the Silesian Voivodeship is Poland's largest electric energy producer (20% of domestic production).

Now in the process of restructuring, traditional Silesian industrial branches were the basis on which branches connected with their operation were developed, that is, first of all engineering industry, equipped with appropriate machines and experienced staff. After the difficult transformations introduced in the first years of the nineties, the industry entered numerous foreign markets and now is a crucial element of the industrial landscape of the Voivodeship.

Restructuring in the recent years has caused systematic changes in the economic structure of the Voivodship. The whole industry reports a decreased share of mining and metallurgy, which until recently were predominant in the economy of the region , and an increased share of the electro-engineering industry, the information technology industry, power industry and, reporting the most rapid growth, the automotive industry (the region is Poland's largest car producer) and food industry.

Over 430,000 national economy entities are registered in the Silesian Voivodeship. The largest part is comprised of natural persons running business activity - 325,000 - and companies and commercial law partnerships - 30,000. The least numerous is the group of state-owned enterprises - 28. Of the total number of economic entities, 96% operate in the private sector.

GAPR sp. z o.o.

Upper Silesian Agency for Entrepreneurship and Development Ltd. is a regional business support institution experienced in emerging industries consulting, EU projects, cross-cluster cooperation and networking. Since the beginning of its operation the Agency has managed the first Entrepreneurship Incubator that was started in Gliwice. Since 2008 it has enlarged its activities by managing and currently becoming an owner of the industrial zone of “Nowe Gliwice” (New Gliwice) Business and Education Centre within which the second Entrepreneurship Incubator was founded.

Main purpose and mission of the Agency was to encourage economy development of the communes that founded the Agency, to promote entrepreneurship approaches in their society and to support SMEs development. During past years Agency’s activities have been also focused on civilians, youth, unemployed and others, raising their awareness of entrepreneurship, law, social policies, business, economy, labour market, etc.

Upper Silesian Agency for Entrepreneurship and Development Ltd. is also an intermediary organization experienced in emerging industries consulting, cross-cluster cooperation and networking. Agency is cooperating with logistic, tourist, medical, rail, transport, ICT and other clusters in Silesia Region. Among other activities, the Agency focuses on clusters’ development and their promotion in the region, technology transfer, and providing innovative services. The Agency is also a coordinator of MedSilesia Medical Cluster.

MedSilesia Cluster is a group of innovative companies from the sector of medical products in Silesia region. MedSilesia offers a broad range of products from the field of rehabilitation, surgery and orthopedic tools, diagnostic equipment, cardiology and other medical areas – according to our wide range of Cluster Members. Support of the experienced, knowledgeable and renowned research and development institutions allows to provide high quality medical products. Its main aim is to create the Competence Centres in the field of telemedicine, cardiology, rehabilitation, smart hospitals based mostly on the existing equipment, with use of the knowledge of Cluster Members which are, among others: Cardiac Surgery Development Foundation, the Institute of Medical Technology and Equipment ITAM and Medical University of Silesia.