<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Project Title:</strong></th>
<th>Best practice in palliative care in Europe</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Project Acronym:</strong></td>
<td>PPP</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Logo:</strong></td>
<td>(please send it in jpg format) NO</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Funding programme:</strong></td>
<td>EAHC (formerly known as PHEA)</td>
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<td><strong>Funding programme web page:</strong></td>
<td><a href="http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/health/projects.html">http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/health/projects.html</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Project type:</strong></td>
<td>public health</td>
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<td><strong>Project number:</strong></td>
<td>2006111PPP</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Coordinator:</strong></td>
<td>Prof. dr. Kris Vissers</td>
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<td><strong>Partner countries:</strong></td>
<td>Netherlands, Belgium, France, Germany, England, Spain, Poland</td>
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<td><strong>Project web-site:</strong></td>
<td><a href="http://www.painandpalliativemedicine.eu">www.painandpalliativemedicine.eu</a></td>
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<td><strong>Keywords:</strong></td>
<td>best practice, indicators, models, early start, organisation</td>
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| **Summary of the project:** | Objectives: In cooperation with institutes in seven European countries, an international study will be undertaken in order to describe ‘best practice in palliative care’ in Europe. Therefore, we need to develop indicators that measure best practice in palliative care.
Methods: literature review, modified Rand Delphi procedure, practice test |
| **Aims (research questions) :** | The aim of the project is to improve the quality of life for patients with a life-threatening incurable disease via the definition of ‘best practices for palliative care’, the initiation of palliative care early in the course of the illness for patients with a limited prognosis; the weighing of curative options against potential side effects to attain a balance; and the adoption of an integrated approach to palliative care. These aspects of palliative care are mentioned in the 2005 WHO definition and were further updated and refined for the European context in a framework developed by the international working group which was funded by the EU and convened by the European School of Oncology (Ahmedzai et al, 2004). Special attention will also be devoted to the patients and family caregivers as these people are experiential experts on the quality of palliative care.
Although several European countries have national initiatives regarding best practice for palliative care, attention to the early initiation of palliative care and the adoption of an integrated approach is largely lacking. International differences also exist in health care organisation, moral attitudes towards palliative care, expectations, services, terminology, treatment, perceptions, legal |
embedding of the care and funding of the care (Higginson, 2005). There is an urgent need to evaluate and improve the quality of palliative care. The availability of quality of palliative care indicators and assessment instruments will help patients, family caregivers, care providers, policy makers and ministries of health to evaluate the care provided. An internationally valid, reliable and feasible set of indicators and assessment instruments are also needed to describe, compare and improve the palliative care available in Europe and strive towards 'best practice palliative care.'

**Expected Results:**
- an overview of palliative care organisation in the participating countries, particularly regarding early start and an integrated approach
- internationally valid and reliable quality indicators to assess palliative care
- a definition of best practice in palliative care from an international point of view

**Date of application:** 2006

**Date of approval:** June 2007

**Starting date:** 01 October 2007

**Duration (in months):** 36

**Amount of contribution:** 1.250.000

**Methods:** literature review, interviews, Delphi procedure, practice assessment

**Deliverables:** book, several publications, website, international set of indicators for organisations of palliative care, glossary

**Time lines (milestones):**
- year 1: overview of organisation and models for palliative care in seven countries
- Year 2: set of indicators
- Year 3: best practices in palliative care (practice assessment)

**Work package leaders (name and affiliation):**
- year 1: Xavier Gomez-Batiste Fundació Privada Institut d’Investigació Biomedica de Bellvitge Barcelona
- Year 2: Kris Vissers (Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Centre)
- Year 3: Sam Ahmedzai (University of Sheffield) (USFD)

**Other partners (name and affiliation):**
- Jean-Marc Mollard (Ensemble soigner et accompagner à Paris (France); Prof. E. Klaschik / Mrs Birgit Jaspers- Malteser Krankenhaus, Palliativ Medizin, Bonn (Germany); Wojciech Leppert- Poznan University of Medical Sciences, Poland; Johan Menten - University Hospital Leuven (Belgium)

**Work package goals:** see above

**Dissemination (publications - articles):** at the moment six scientific publications are in preparation

**Dissemination online:** not yet

**Dissemination (Conferences):** we will end up in October 2010 with an invitational conference in Brussels or Nijmegen