

September 2011

Welcome to the **CHILD** conference

Combating Health Inequalities in Life-threatening Diseases

We are one step closer to teaming up against inequalities in the treatment of children suffering from life-threatening diseases.

Our EU- funded conference „**Bridges for CHILD**“ is taking place in Vienna on **November 17 to 18, 2011** and we would greatly appreciate your participation and / or support.

The conference which will be held at the Vienna Hilton Danube Hotel is a one-and-half- day meeting – so we will work from Thursday 2pm to Friday 6pm.

Whom does the conference address?

We aim to have approximately 80-100 participants from old and new EU member-states, candidate member-states and Western Balkan countries roughly evenly divided between

- paediatricians
- surgeons involved in paediatric high-end care
- other medical health care specialists
- hospital managers
- government officials
- health insurance officials
- representatives from industry
- representatives from NGOs and – most important
- lay-persons as delegates of parents' organizations

Purpose and objective

Paediatric health-care differs in different regions of Europe. The life-expectancy of children with life-threatening diseases of the heart, liver, lungs or kidneys is actually affected by their birthplace.

The objective of this conference is to improve high-end care for very sick children in the new EU member-states, candidate member-states and Western Balkan countries. This includes both safe pathways in case of cross-border health care and twinning projects / close cooperation in case of local care.

The conference itself is intended to create a wide-ranging forum for all the stakeholders involved in the care of children with life-threatening diseases. We will focus on conditions such as congenital heart disease, kidney, liver and lung disease but will also include conditions such as leukaemia and other severe diseases requiring high-end care up to and including transplantation.

Aims

We want

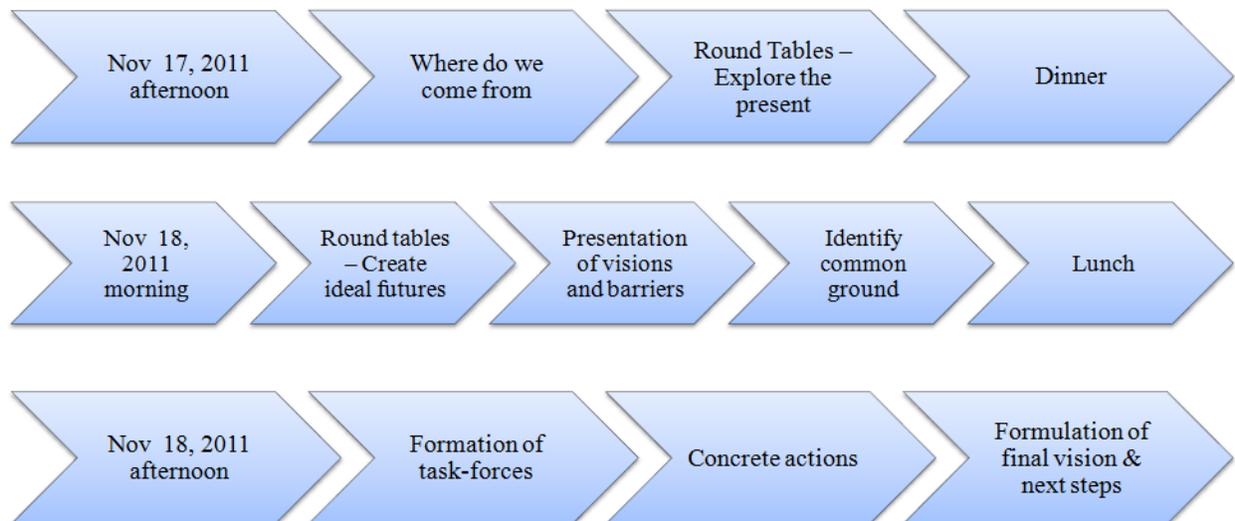
- to raise political awareness for the differences in life-expectancy of very sick children in Europe
- to summarize the existing health inequalities and to draft an agenda listing urgent actions
- to create patient-orientated pathways in cross-border paediatric health care
- to initiate twinning programmes in support of local high-end care and
- to form task forces for specific network projects.

Conference agenda

We will start with an introductory plenary session (Where do we come from?) to build a common understanding and to share our information about the actual status quo.

This will be followed by round tables which are the heart of the conference. In parallel working groups we will analyse the several external and internal influences on the treatment of affected children, what works well and what does not (explore the present). Each group will develop visions and not forget to name possible barriers and how to overcome these (create ideal futures).

The results will then be presented in a plenary session. Common visions can thus be identified by the participants and will lead to the formation of task-forces to trigger concrete actions. We will jointly formulate a final vision and identify the next steps that should follow the conference (see graphical overview below).



Organisation and contact information:

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We expect that the numerous exchanges at this conference will trigger a substantial number of actions and will contribute to reducing health inequalities in children with life-threatening diseases in Europe.

Looking forward to seeing you in Vienna

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