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Health and Ageing oriented large-scale project CHANCES (Consortium on Health and Ageing: Network of Cohorts in Europe and the United States), second plenary meeting to take place at DKFZ, Heidelberg, Germany, 7-9th of February, 2011

The CHANCES project, which is coordinated by Dr Paolo Boffetta through the Hellenic Health Foundation (HHF), was launched in February 2010. Funded under the EC FP7 framework, the CHANCES is aimed at combining and integrating on-going longitudinal studies in order to produce robust evidence on ageing-related health characteristics and determinants in Europe, and their socioeconomic implications. It represents a major effort in integrating resources across Europe and United States for research on healthy ageing.

During its first year the CHANCES consortium has managed to give a good start to the project and thanks to the collective efforts of the CHANCES partners a well functioning communications system was established within the project. A wiki website was set up for the purposes of data assessment and harmonization. All the work packages are currently actively involved in the data standardization and harmonization process which will allow later analyses of the data. Data analyses plans and proposals are being developed. The first results will be generated within the next year.

The second plenary meeting of the project is aimed to summarize the achievements and to overcome the problems of the first year of work and to set new goals for the second stage of the project.

The CHANCES project is open for collaboration with other healthy ageing oriented cohorts that will express interest in contributing to the CHANCES objectives.