



EUNESE

EUROPEAN NETWORK  
FOR  
SAFETY  
AMONG  
ELDERLY



THE RIGHT FOR A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE



"La vie est l'ensemble des forces qui résistent à la mort"

"Life is the gathering of forces opposing death"

Général Charles de Gaulle



## EUNESE at a glance

Every year almost 100,000 elderly (older than 65), citizens of the European Union countries (EU 25) die of the most preventable cause of death, namely injuries. Despite the fact that elderly people constitute about 20 % of the total population of the enlarged EU, they "contribute" 47 % of the total number of deaths caused by unintentional injuries. These health threats are common to all countries and co-ordinated action needs to be taken in order to efficiently tackle them.

The main goal of EUNESE is to build a European network that will ensure harmonization of core activities concerning injury control and safety promotion among the elderly at national as well as European level. Complementing the current initiatives for data collection, and exploiting data sources that have been supported to a great extent by the European Commission, the EUNESE project seeks to assess the risk profile of injuries, identify the most effective solutions, drawing on the rich diversity of cultural and social variation in experience across Europe.

This knowledge will be used to set up a 5-year action plan based on priorities and cost efficient practices for the prevention of injuries among both independently living elderly, as well as those living in care home settings. Full details of the best available approaches will be specified in a policy manual.

EUNESE will try to link human resources and interested parties who participate in existing injury prevention and safety promotion projects among elderly and act as clearing house of evidence based information. The ultimate goal is to disseminate the knowledge gained in this field to all decision makers involved in social and health care of elderly.

## Injury deaths among older people across Europe

Injury deaths per 100,000 per year among elderly (65+)  
(Data not available for Cyprus)



Source: WHO mortality database, last three available years for each country, adjusted by CEREPRi

NETWORKING CAN REDUCE  
UNTIMELY LOST LIFE



## 2. Setting Policy Priorities

- Identification of the epidemiological spectrum of injuries and risk factors as well as of the best practices for injury prevention concerning elderly
- Creation of a “best practices for injury prevention” policy manual
- Development of the 5-year work plan for action in the enlarged European Union focusing on injury control and safety promotion among elderly

## 3. Implementing Cost Efficient Projects

Having identified the best practices, the network will be involved in projects to implement these measures that would focus on the safety of homes, institutions, public health areas mostly frequented by elderly and recreational areas selected to address all three “Es” that work in injury prevention:

- Engineering: e.g., defining the structural modifications for a safer environment for elderly in houses and residential care settings
- Education: e.g., training materials
- Enforcement: environments frequented by elderly adhere to both the minimum norms required by standards and regulations or they are close to a maximum of best practices advocated by the experts

## 4. Disseminating results

Dissemination will be achieved through EU and international fora as well as through:

- EUNESE Web-site
- Cooperative networks
- Web network
- Scientific publications
- Printed materials
- Press releases
- Public hearings



# Main objectives of EUNESE

## 1. Creating a Network:

### ■ Network Membership:

The aim is to include participants with diverse background, which will contribute to the exchange of ideas, experiences and information in order to improve the well-being of elderly people. Participants (individuals or members of organizations/ institutions) will come from the fields of:

- injury research and prevention,
- geriatric health,
- consumer protection,
- advocacy for senior citizens,
- social welfare of older people



### ■ Network Building:

This will be done by invitation and active recruitment of experienced and motivated members, which will contribute to create a momentum and act as catalysts to identify and recruit other members to the network.

Marketing techniques, a "Who's Who?" for injury prevention among elderly people and a "EUNESE Project Information" website will be the tools that will assist in the further development of the network.

Collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO), European Consumer Safety Association (ECOSA) and relevant health networks will ensure unnecessary duplication of work that has already been done and increase the potential for common actions.



## Who's Who?

Coordination and leadership:

Center for Research and Injury Prevention (CEREPR),  
University of Athens, Medical School, Department of Hygiene  
and Epidemiology, Greece

### Partners:

24 European Countries



Austria,  
Belgium  
Cyprus  
Czech Republic  
Denmark  
Estonia  
Finland  
France

Germany  
Greece  
Hungary  
Ireland  
Italy  
Latvia  
Liechtenstein  
The Netherlands

Norway  
Poland  
Portugal  
Slovak Republic  
Spain  
Sweden  
Turkey  
United-Kingdom

with the collaboration of the World Health Organization

Duration

EUNESE is a 36 - month project  
(July 2004-June 2007)



### Sponsorship

The project is seeking to collaborate with organizations interested in sponsoring the development of the project activities and the sustainability of the Network on a long-term basis



## Why join EUNESE Network?



- We all desire a safe Europe for all elderly people
- We all believe in co-operation and the power of exchanging information
- We all need accessibility to experts
- We all need reference material where all specialized information (best practices) is gathered
- We all believe that the rich diversity of culture and history across Europe offers opportunities to learn from each other's good practices and to seek the best

# LET'S JOIN FORCES





"People in the EU are living in better health than ever before; but good health for all is far from reality"

David Byrne former EU Health Commissioner

"Health is a human right. My biggest challenge is to advance that right across the Union in a world where the threats are real and our means not unlimited"

Markos Kyprianou EU Health Commissioner



1st EUNESE Meeting, November 2004

## Contact details



CEREPRi

Center for Research and Prevention of Injuries

Medical School, University of Athens

75 M. Asias, Athens,

115 27, Greece

Telephone: +30 210 7462187

Fax: +30 210 7462105

website: <http://www.cc.uoa.gr/socmed/hygien/cerepri>