

## Introduction speech from the Programme Manager

Dear Colleagues,

It is with great pleasure that I open this experts validation meeting in Torino.

My belief is that the most valuable gift humanity could provide to current and future generation, is the hand-over of knowledge. The Joint Action is precisely doing this : conceiving jewels of knowledge gathering and sharing them, and this makes our project very enjoyable. The coming month we will reach an important destination with both WP5 and WP6 producing their handbook and guidelines. This is a very intense job because we have a lot to share. It is a very satisfying job, because there is so much to learn from each other.

Your presence here is very important and mirrors the very productive days we all had during the holiday period. Indeed, I could read many valuable papers from the WP5 writing team, but also from the various experts participating as reviewers and co-authors.

The next two days we will push forward the handbook of planning methodologies, an important piece of the Joint Action. This is **our** book. I'd like you all to look at it as being its godfather/mother, and willing to offer all possible gifts to the newborn.

Also, we want this product to be useful to and to serve as many competent authorities as possible. I'd like you all to look at it with the eyes of both expert and reader. The writing team, being mother & father of the handbook, needs your dedication for finalising the book - and no doubt you are here to provide valuable additional input and endorsement

I thank you all for the Joint Effort, and especially Annalisa and Paolo for their countless hours on this product.

I also thank the Ordine dei Medici Chirurghi e degli Odontoiatri della Provincia di Torino for hosting us today. Their kind invitation builds the bridge between the experts we are, and the working field that we support with our prognosis and policy proposals.

And now, let's start to work ! I hand over the floor to Giovanni who will explain the objectives of our meeting today and present the agenda.

M. Van Hoegaerden  
Programme Manager.