Hippokrates Exchange Updates
The Hippokrates Exchange Programme continues to grow thanks to the 'Leonardo Mobility Programme', which enables organisations in the vocational education sector to work with partners from across Europe, exchange best practices, and increase their staff's expertise. In 2010, UK and Slovenia were awarded 'Leonardo' funding to support a number of outgoing Hippokrates exchange participants. Last year, the Czech Republic and Austria have been granted European Commission's funds, while this year, the UK and Switzerland have already been awarded with support from the Programme enabling many more young family doctors to experience these valuable exchanges.

Moreover, new rural host practices have been added to the programme promoting Rural Medicine to junior and future GPs.

The Carosino and Hippokrates Exchange Prize
The Carosino Prize, offered by the Vasco da Gama Movement and EURIPA, is a prize of 700 Euros for the best completed Hippokrates Exchange to a rural practice in 2010 or 2011 and it was established to honour the memory of Dr Claudio Carosino, who was sadly killed on duty. An additional Hippokrates Exchange Prize has been awarded for the best Hippokrates Exchange at either a rural or urban practice in 2010 or 2011. Applications were reviewed and winners selected by a panel appointed by Vasco da Gama Movement, EURIPA & WONCA Europe (with the kind support of Dr Per Kallestrup, Dr Tony Mathie and Dr Jaume Vidiella Banque).
The winners of this year's Hippokrates Exchange and Carosino Prizes for the best completed exchange and the best completed exchange in a rural area are Pedro Miguel Oliveira Azevedo (Hippokrates Exchange Prize) and Fabrizia Farolfi (Carosino Prize). The winners will attend the WONCA Europe Conference in Vienna.

**The Junior Researcher Award 2012**

For a second year, the Vasco da Gama Movement has organised the Junior Researcher Award, which aims to promote a generation of junior GP/FM doctors who include research skills with patient care as a life time career. This year the format has been changed and the award has honoured three outstanding research proposals and three researchers' careers of junior and future GP/FM.

The winners of this year are Virginia Hernandez (UK), Mirene Anna Luciani (Italy) and Anne Maren Dahlhaus (Germany), while the runner-up is Tiago Luís Baptista da Cunha Sousa Veloso (Portugal). All four champions will present their project during a special workshop in this year's WONCA Europe Conference in Vienna, which is scheduled on Saturday, 7th July. Senior GPs and experts are invited to join this workshop and help the four champions in developing their project. This year's jury was supported by the EGPRN and was composed by Professor Paul van Royen (University of Antwerp, EGPRN representative), Professor Christos Lionis (University of Crete), Lenia Chovarda (VdGM Research Group Liaison) and Tobias Freund (VdGM Research Group Coordinator).

**Vasco da Gama Image, Social Media and On-going Collaborations**

This year the Vasco da Gama Movement has launched a full-scale use of Social Media. Users and members can participate in discussions and share news, insights and thoughts on Linkedin and Facebook. The Twitter account keeps informed its followers on our activities and news related to Primary Care. For the second year, participants of the Vasco da Gama Preconference will be able to make observations and give feedback on presentations in real time or suggest a workshop to their friends and colleagues with the use of a special channel (hashtag) on Twitter. Various other types of media, such as photos, videos, audiocasts and slideshows are uploaded and shared via our YouTube and iTunes channels, Flickr and Slideshare.

Furthermore, the Claudio Carosino Wikipedia Page has been created with the kind support of his wife, Maurizia.

In January the Movement participated with two proposals in the WONCA Anniversary Fund. This has been an excellent opportunity for us to establish new collaborations with the networks within WONCA Europe, as well as with various National Associations throughout Europe.

Moreover, the Movement continues working on various projects in collaboration with other networks, such as EURACT, EURIPA, EGPRN and UEMO.
**WONCA Europe 2012 – Preconference & Main Conference Activities**

This year’s Preconference is open to every trainee or new GP, who wishes to participate. The topic is “The Art of Becoming a General Practitioner”. The participants will work in groups discussing this theme, with focus on the difficulties balancing the “art” with the “science” in family medicine. This year’s Preconference Visionary Speech will be held by Carl Steylaerts.

Moreover, the Vasco da Gama Movement is participating with 7 workshops in WONCA Europe 2012; 4 of which are organised jointly with EGPRN, EURACT, EURIPA and the EJGP.

**Future Projects**

The Vasco da Gama Movement looks forward to supporting the next editions of Carosino Prize, Hippokrates Exchange Prize and Junior Researcher Award. Moreover, in the next months we will be working on the World Preconference, which will be held in Prague in 2013, in cooperation with the Waynakay Movement, North America’s First-Five and Spice Route.