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In 2005, as Cyprus joined BIRO, diabetes prevalence was known to be as high as 10.3% on the island.

Healthcare on the island is provided by a Public Healthcare System, which is means tested, and by a Private Healthcare System, which is privately paid for. All people with diabetes are entitled to free medical care in the Public Healthcare Sector. This care is delivered at the five large hospitals and 32 rural health centres on the island. Care varies between the public and private sector and even between hospitals and rural centres, as there has not been an agreed common framework of care and management of diabetes.

Since joining the BIRO project and with the tremendous assistance of the partners, Cyprus has been able to develop a common framework within which people with diabetes can be looked after. This framework is in accordance with the international guidelines on diabetes care and follows the BIRO common dataset. It has been piloted in Larnaca Hospital with the view to being adopted by all within the Public Health Sector.

At the same time and with the opening of the first multidisciplinary diabetes clinic on the island at Larnaca Hospital, a new system for data collection has been introduced to underpin the creation of a National Diabetes Register.

The electronic register was created in April 2007. It was developed in Microsoft access by the Department of Information and Technology Services of the Ministry of Health. It is based on the BIRO common dataset (Work Package 3) with some additional data being collected and recorded. It has been installed at the Diabetes Clinic in Larnaca Hospital and all the data collected until August 2008 has been entered.

The Ministry of Health has actively been supportive in the development of guidelines for the diagnosis and care of diabetes in the community. Also further training for the care deliverers in diabetes has been organised and taking place. Healthcare providers in the field of diabetes have been travelling abroad, observing and working in diabetes centres along with colleagues, gaining valuable new knowledge and practical experience in the running of diabetes centres. Twenty-five nurses undertook the Certificate in Diabetes Care course delivered by a leading UK University, effectively qualifying as DSNs. All these people are preparing to take up their places in effectively looking after people with diabetes in the community and the Diabetes Clinics within a multidisciplinary team approach.

The expansion of the program in the whole of the island will take place over a period of time as per projected action plan 2005-2013.

## PROJECTED ACTION PLAN 2005 - 2013

### BIRO 2005-2008

- ✓ • April 2007: Start of 1<sup>st</sup> multidisciplinary adult clinic.
- ✓ • Creation of electronic register
- ✓ • Acquisition of computers and printers
- ✓ • Training of Health Care Professionals
- ✓ • Data being collected at Larnaca General Hospital, Famagusta General Hospital and at three rural centers.

### EUBIROD - EXPANSION 2008-2013

November 2008  
Pafos General Hospital

March 2009  
Kiperounta Rural Health Center

June 2009  
Nicosia General and Makarios Hospitals

December 2009  
Rural Centres in Nicosia

September 2010  
Limassol General Hospital

January 2011  
Limassol Rural Health Centres

January 2009 onwards  
Ministry in collaboration with  
Diabetes Associations to get the  
Private Sector involved