Press Release

Malta Ranks Number 15 in New Euro Consumer Heart Index

Brussels, July 3rd 2008

At the launch of the First Euro Consumer Heart Index in Brussels today, the Maltese performance ranked 15th out of the 29 participants. Luxembourg leads with a score of 836 points, followed by France, Norway and Switzerland.

The Heart Index compares the care systems around Europe from a consumer point of view. In five categories, covering 28 performance indicators, Malta scored 670 points out of a potential 1,000.

"Malta has an excellent access to care. The brand-new state-of-the-art Mater Dei hospital should provide the opportunity to attain world class standard but the results are not really visible yet.” says Dr. Arne Björnberg, Research Director for the Heart Index.

What more could be done on Malta?

“The power-balance in cardiac care would gain from letters from specialists to GP:s being copied to patients, for information and dialogue.” states the President of the Health Consumer Powerhouse, Mr. Johan Hjertqvist, when analysing the Index outcome implications for Malta.

About the Heart Index

The Euro Consumer Heart Index provides a ranking of European cardiovascular healthcare systems across five key areas to the consumer: Information, consumer rights and choice, Access, Prevention, Procedures and Outcomes. The Heart Index is constructed from public statistics and independent research. The producer of the Heart Index is the analysis and information organisation Health Consumer Powerhouse. As with all the other Indexes it produces, HCP takes a consumer-centred position. The Heart Index is produced with the help of an unrestricted grant from Pfizer.

For more information and the explanatory report: http://www.healthpowerhouse.com/archives/cat_media_room.html

About the Health Consumer Powerhouse: www.healthpowerhouse.com

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