

The Espriu Foundation contributes to the new Public Health Bill

| J. A. P.

The Spanish Ministry of Health and Consumption is drafting a Public Health Bill and has invited a group of organizations involved in the field of health (organised through the Spanish Association of Foundations) to take part in drawing up proposals for this future legislation, a process in which the Espriu Foundation is actively involved.

The idea is that the future Act should allow the central state authorities to develop their powers in this area, and so harmonise, co-ordinate and consolidate the National Health System. A meeting of the organizations involved in the process was held on 10 March at which representatives from those foundations taking part in the process, with Dr Jose Carlos Guisado representing the Espriu Foundation. At this initial meeting a working group was set up, coordinated by Honorio Bando of FUNDADEPS, the Education for Health Foundation, and the general aspects of interest to be considered in relation to the Ministry's approach were defined.

These ideas served as the basis for a meeting held on 23 April at the Ministry of Health and Consumption, at which Dr José C. Guisado, along with Honorio Bando and the Chairman of the AEF, Carlos Álvarez, held talks with the Director-General for Public Health, Ildelfonso Hernández. On this occasion there was a discussion of the main aspects to be tackled by the Bill, including health promotion and the promotion of research in the health sciences; the problems currently created by the distribution of competencies (coordination, diagnoses, registers, flagship hospitals, funding for treatments, health alerts, etc.); the involvement of Social Economy institutions, in particular co-operatives, in the field of Public Health, and education for health and prevention.

The Espriu model at Bologna University

| Josep A. Pérez

The need to deal with new challenges, such as the opening up of innovative markets as a result of the new needs of the population or the growing decentralisation and privatisation of public services, forces social enterprises to make qualitative advances in services. They must adapt to modern tools and skills, more complex systems of government, more highly qualified administration and financing instruments and use these for their own needs. All without losing sight of their main objective: the common interest and promotion of the involvement of the parties concerned and the community in general.

In accordance with these needs, the Economics Faculty at Bologna University organised the first edition of its European Summer School on Social Economy (ESSE) on the theme "The Future of Social Enterprise: Models and Experiences". The summer school was held between 6 and 11 July at the Bertinoro campus in Italy, with the aim of discussing issues such as organisation, administration, accountability and governance at social enterprises within the European context, along with the relationship between the market and the institutions or instruments financing such social enterprises.

The Espriu model of co-operative administration of healthcare institutions was one of the case studies discussed during the course. The way in which the organisations that form The Fundació Espriu work together provides an great example of a multi-stakeholder enterprise which includes dif-

ferent interest groups, each with different aspirations and expectations in terms of what they are looking for from the organization.

Dr José Carlos Guisado, Vice-Chairman of the Espriu Foundation, and Dr Gerard Martí, an Espriu Foundation trustee and deputy Medical Director of Barcelona Hospital, gave a presentation explaining the co-operative model of SCIAS as a paradigm of a social enterprise. A model based on Dr Josep Espriu's distinctive vision of co-operative health care, with physicians and patients at its heart. The trustees of the Espriu Foundation also explained to the course delegates the role played by the institution, which serves as an umbrella organisation for the health-care co-operative movement in Spain, as represented by ASISA and Grup Assistència, with a particular focus on the promotion of its activities internationally and its responsibility in chairing the IHCO (International Health Co-operative Organisation).

The address formed part of the programme in support of training in the Social Economy which the Espriu Foundation is developing in partnership with the University of Barcelona's CIES (Centre for Social Economy Research).

