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EAPC ATLAS OF PALLIATIVE CARE IN EUROPE. Carlos Centeno, David Clark, Thomas Lynch, Javier Rocafort, Luis Alberto Flores, Anthony Greenwood, Simon Brasch, David Prail, Amelia Giordano, and Liliana De Lima. *IAHPC Press, 2007, Paperbound, 336 pages, ISBN: 0-9758525-5-8; CD-book, 45 pages plus CD. To obtain the Atlas, contact either the International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care at: <http://www.hospicecare.com/> or The European Association for Palliative Care at URL: <http://www.eapcnet.org/index.html>*

This impressive publication describes palliative care facilities in 43 countries. The listed countries are divided into three regions: Western Europe, Central and Eastern Europe, and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Therefore, in addition to all European countries, this volume also includes a number of nations that are actually in Asia.

The Atlas resulted from efforts of the European Association of Palliative Care (EAPC), International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care (IAHPC, based in Houston Texas USA), the International Observatory on End of Life Care at Lancaster University (UK), the University of Navarra (Spain), and the charity Help the Hospices (UK). The main office of the EAPC is at the National Cancer Institute in Milan, Italy.

The Atlas is presented in two formats. A large, multicolored and well-illustrated paper bound book and a brief, hardbound summary of the full volume containing the full contents on a CD-ROM.

The preface describes the book as the outcome of an EAPC task force formed in 2003 that compiled sufficient data for inclusion from 43 of the 52 countries in which end-of-life care providers were invited to participate. The data will be of great value to health professionals, care givers, and policymakers. Information includes milestones in the development of health policy pertinent to palliative care, accreditation of professionals, national associations, key contact persons, and a selected bibliography on palliative services in each country.

The Atlas contains a wealth of qualitative and quantitative information that gives the reader a sense of the amount and depth of palliative care available in each of the listed countries. A typical country entry includes the following information:

- directory of national organizations including website URLs
- key contacts and national associations of palliative care
- a map of the country illustrating key locations, total services per unit of population

and the numbers of various types of palliative care service

- a brief description of the country location and socioeconomic status
- details on the types of services, workforce, and funding for end of life care
- perceived use of the principal opioids employed in end of life care
- key issues and developments in palliative care within the country including accreditation, milestones and health policy
- bibliography of published references on palliative care within the country

The volume is very attractive, using liberal illustrations including the flags of all of the countries and nicely drawn maps. Two appendices are included. One is the 2005 Palliative Care Eurobarometer questionnaire that was developed by the EAPC task force to characterize services. The second is a survey on palliative care facts for Europe 2005. Both of these instruments were distributed to 52 countries, and as noted above, were completed and returned by 43.

The EAPC and its collaborating organizations and institutions deserve congratulations for developing and publishing this Atlas volume. It provides important historical facts, documentation of services and benchmarks that will help greatly in the establishment of new palliative care services and expansion of current palliative care programs. This Atlas belongs in the library of any organization with a commitment to expanding palliative care and of health policy and analysis groups that are interested in documenting and expanding palliative care.

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