As individual countries, states and provincial quit lines began increasing in number, size and complexity in Europe and the United States, they began communicating with each other, both formally and informally. This led to larger meetings, and eventually to the formation of formal organizations with charters, staff and infrastructure. The networks and consortia have sponsored regular in-person and virtual meetings to share best practices, and have created tools such as minimum datasets and standards, and research agendas [see Section 11. Resources for information about specific services and activities].

The North American Quitline Consortium was formed in 2004, with support from governmental (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and National Institutes of Health) and philanthropic organizations (American Cancer Society and American Legacy Foundation). In 2006, it incorporated formally as a non-profit corporation with a Board of Directors, which included quit-line sponsors, service providers, researchers and other experts.

The European Network of Quitlines (ENQ) was formed in 2005 and has 29 member countries. It helped set up the European Smoking Cessation Helplines Evaluation Project (ESCHER), a research network and created a best practices guide.

Additional information about both NAQC and ENQ, including information on resources for early-stage quit-lines, is located in Section 11. Resources.

Regional coordination is also taking place in other areas. For example, there have been two multi-day meetings of Asia-Pacific quit-lines in Taiwan, China, where best practices were shared and scientific evidence reviewed. The first one was held in 2007. The second meeting was held in 2010, and a more formal Asia-Pacific network of quit lines was formed. It is planned to hold an annual meeting of the network. The next meeting is to be held in 2011 in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. Australia has a National Quitline Managers group, and a joint Australia and New Zealand Quit Group has regular contact via teleconferences to exchange information and develop minimum standards.