



Newsletter n.10 - October 2005

European Region News

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2nd Congress on Physiotherapy Education 2008

Following the mandate of the Executive Committee, the Education WG has started to prepare a 2nd Congress on Physiotherapy Education to be held in the second half of 2008, as was suggested in the conclusions of the Estoril Congress

As a first step, an invitation for bids to host the Congress has been prepared and sent to the Member Organisations with a deadline fixed on 15th November 2005. To further developments, Nina Holten and Charlotte Hager-Ross have been appointed as the Education WG Members responsible for this issue. Nina Holten will deal with the Organising Committee and Charlotte Hage-Ross with the Scientific Committee. The other ER-WCPT WGs will also contribute to have a new successful Congress as in Estoril.

Database on Clinical Guideline development programs in the European Region of WCPT

One of the goals of the European Region of WCPT is to create an up-to-date overview of guideline programmes in physiotherapy within the European Region. To accomplish that goal, the Professional Issues WG of the European Region is currently collecting data on existing physiotherapy-specific and multi-disciplinary guideline programmes in the European Region. Based on research, a data base has been prepared and published on the ER-WCPT website. The overview will allow individual physiotherapists access to existing guidelines, and will therefore contribute to the implementation of guidelines and also allow Member Organisations in the European Region to collaborate in guideline development and/or use

and adjust existing guidelines for their own (national) needs.

The data base also includes Multi-disciplinary guidelines existing in many countries of the ER-WCPT and these could be very helpful information for the Member Organi-

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sations, especially for small Members who could be easily involved in Multi-disciplinary guidelines more than in creating their own guidelines.

Member Organisations are kindly requested to send their comments to the secretariat or further information to up-date the data base

Further Information:

<http://www.physio-europe.org/index.php?action=118>

Bologna Process

The Education Working Group has been charged to follow up the developments of the Bologna Process and its implications for Physiotherapy Education in Europe. To achieve this project a paper has been prepared to describe in brief the main developments of the Bologna Process, summarise the main achievements, and provide links to the more relevant documents. The information has been published on the ER-WCPT website.

Further Information: <http://www.physio-europe.org/index.php?action=115>

Network on Prevention and Promotion of Healthy Lifestyles

Based on the questionnaire *Network on Prevention and Promotion of Healthy Lifestyles*, the Professional Issues WG has developed a database with the Member Organisations interested in participating in a Network on Prevention and Promotion of Healthy Lifestyles as was agreed at the 2004 General meeting of the European Region of WCPT in Cyprus. The data base is published on the ER-WCPT website. This information will be very helpful for the Member Organisations since many of them are involved in similar items and they can contact each other to solve possible problems or to establish further cooperation on these items. Member

Organisations are kindly requested to send their comments to the secretariat and inform us of their interest in active participating in the Network in order to update the currently information on the web.

Further Information:

<http://www.physio-europe.org/index.php?action=120>

ER-WCPT and ENPHE Meeting

On 6 July 2005 a Meeting between the European Region of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy (ER-WCPT) and the European Network of Physiotherapy in Higher Education (ENPHE) on future collaboration took place in Brussels. The Chairman of the Education WG and Nina Holten as a member of the group attended the meeting. This first official meeting between ENPHE and ER-WCPT was very fruitful. Both organisations understand the nature and the organisational aspects of each other's organisation. Both organisations share the same objective, to enhance the development of the physiotherapy profession and agree that cooperation will be beneficial for all involved parties.

New Directive

On Friday 30th September 2005, the ER-WCPT Common Platform Task Force and the EU Working Group had a meeting with the EU Commission in Brussels to discuss the steps necessary to develop a Common Platform for physiotherapists. This Task Force was established at the last E.C. meeting in Zagreb, June 2005 and is composed of the Chairmen of the EU and Education WGs. Two members from each WG were also appointed and they are: Nina Holten and Grahame Pope from the Education WG and Liz Carrington and Hans de Boer from the EU WG.

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The Common Platform is a procedure to avoid compensation measures and facilitate the free movement of professionals as is established in the New Directive that was approved on 7th September 2005 and officially published on 30th September 2005. After the publication of the Directive the EU Member States will have two years to implement this Directive into their national law.

The concept of Common Platform is defined in Article 15(1) as a collection of criteria on professional qualifications able to bridge the substantial differences between the training conditions in the different Member States. In compliance with the criteria of the platform, the professionals following this procedure will already have compensated for the differences in question in advance. It must be emphasised that the purpose of the platform cannot in any way be to force national authorities to modify nor to harmonise their national legislation. This is explicitly stated in Article 15(4) of the Directive. The purpose of the platform is to “predefine” the qualification criteria able to overcome the differences between the various national training courses so as to obviate the need for any compensatory measure. Anyway, the professionals are free to follow the Common Platform procedure or the present system of title recognition, since both procedures will remain together.

As a first step in establishing a platform, a precise inventory needs to be compiled on the existing situations in the different Member States, encompassing various aspects like: In which Member States the profession is regulated; What level of qualification is provided or required in the various Member States; and what are the

profession’s area of activities and the content of the training in the various Member States. The Task Force will meet again on 11-12 November 2005 in London.

Further information:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/internal_market/qualifications/future_en.htm

<http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/JOHtml.do?uri=OJ:L:2005:255:SOM:EN:HTML>

EU Open Forum 2006

Health challenges and future strategy will be the theme of the Open Health Forum 2005. The conference and exhibition event will take place in Brussels on 7-8 November 2005.

Three parallel workshops at the EU Open Health Forum will also take place. The three workshop themes are

1. Development of the EU Health Strategy,
2. Health products (regulation of pharmaceuticals and medical devices)
3. Health Services (patient and professional mobility, patient safety).

The objective of the Open Forum is to provide a platform for networking and exchange of ideas and views of different stakeholders of the European Health community. Dialogue and consultation with stakeholders from an early stage in shaping health policy is the key to fulfilling the principles of openness and civil society participation.

This will also be pursued through the proposed new Health and Consumer Programme which was adopted by the Commission on 6th April (see Newsletter number 9), and in which a new strand will be devoted to

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strengthening dialogue with civil society.

The Open Forum is a part of a wider Commission effort to ensure it has the input of health experts in its policy-making. It complements the existing Health Policy Forum, which has been bringing together representatives of the main EU level health networks since 2001.

The ER-WCPT has received an invitation to attend the Conference and a representative from the EU WG will be there.

Parliament's website re-launched at www.europarl.eu.int

The re-vamped central website of the European Parliament was formally launched on 13th September 2005 by the President of the European Parliament, Josep Borrell. Under the slogan "**457 million people have the same address: www.europarl.eu.int**", Mr Borrell said the website aimed to reach a wider public than its predecessor, by making the European Parliament's activities more accessible to everyone.

The new site is divided into five sections:

- News
- Parliament
- MEPs
- Activities
- EP live

Each section is itself divided into information for the general public; experts and opinion formers; and an archive.

Under News, for example, the headlines page takes the reader to the top stories of the week; the press service takes journalists to briefings by theme and by date as well as information on who's who in the EP

press team; the press archive allows for a trawl through previous press briefings and releases.

The EP Live section makes it easier to watch what is happening live in the European Parliament via web streaming.

The Legislative Observatory (for researching background on a particular piece of legislation) is now to be found via the Activities section (icon on right-hand side of the main page).

To search for **Committee meeting documents**: go to Activities; parliamentary business and then see the menu on the left-hand side of the page where "committees" should be clicked.

To find **a debate or text adopted** in the full Parliament, go to Activities, parliamentary business and see the menu on the left-hand side under "plenary sittings".

To find **your MEPs**, it is now possible to click by country and by region under Your MEPs.

The search tool is also more powerful in the new website.

The re-launch of the website is only the first step in the EP's internet communication strategy.

EU publishes new health data

The first set of EU-wide health data from the European Community Health Indicators (ECHI) project has been published on the Commission's Public Health website. The aim of ECHI is to produce better and more comparable data that will enable policy-makers to track developments in the health status of EU populations. The ECHI indicators aim to cover the 25 Member States, the EU Candidate Countries (Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey), the

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Western Balkan Countries, the USA, Canada and Japan and the data is available in English, French, German and Spanish. The ECHI pages on the Public Health website will be developed over the coming months and updated on a regular basis.

Further information:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph/information/dissemination/echi/echi_en.htm

Maximising the contribution of science to European health and safety

The European Commission's Health and Consumer Protection Directorate-General has published a new discussion paper entitled *Maximising the Contribution of Science to European Health and Safety*. Starting from the premise that "in our knowledge society, science is respected, even feared, but little understood", the document aims to clearly set out the role of science in the work of the DG. The paper will serve as a basis for a stakeholder discussion on the potential of, and limits of, science in the context of EU health and safety policy.

All stakeholders are invited to comment on the paper, which can be accessed at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/health_consumer/library/reports/science_health_safety_en.pdf

"30-40-50 Plus - Healthy Work in an Ageing Europe"

Together with the Upper Austrian Health Insurance Funds OÖGKK, the European Network for Workplace Health Promotion ENWHP is holding its **5th European Conference** on **June 14-15, 2006** in **Linz / Austria**,

entitled "**30-40-50 Plus - Healthy Work in an Ageing Europe**". Staged in the context of the Austrian EU presidency, it will conclude the 5th Network initiative, which is supported by the European Commission. The main objectives of this initiative are:

- To improve workplace health and the well-being of the ageing workforce
- To increase awareness of all stakeholders in recognising the needs of an ageing workforce and to respond to the impacts of an ageing workforce on workplace health and well-being
- To identify, analyse, document and disseminate models of good practice for workplace health promotion in the context of an ageing workforce
- To develop a toolbox for promoting workplace health and well-being for ageing workers

Participants representing enterprises, governmental bodies, social partners, public health and social security organisations from all EU Member States, countries of the European Economic Area as well as Candidate Countries and Switzerland will be attending this conference.

More information and registration details are available on the following website:

<http://www.enwhp.org/conferences/5th-european-conference-linz.php>

Tobacco advertising ban takes effect 31 July

The EU's Tobacco Advertising Directive which entered into force on 31 July bans tobacco advertising in the print media, on radio and over the internet and prohibits

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tobacco sponsorship of cross-border cultural and sporting events.

The 2003 Tobacco Advertising Directive applies to any advertising and sponsorship with a cross-border dimension. The prohibition of tobacco advertising and sponsorship is recognised by health experts to be an essential element of an effective anti-smoking policy, with studies showing that a comprehensive ban on advertising can reduce smoking prevalence by up to 7%. Welcoming the Directive, Commissioner Kyprianou said "This Directive will save lives and reduce the number of Europeans who suffer from smoking related illnesses."

Advertising in cinemas and on billboards or by merchandise falls outside the scope of the Directive, however, because it does not have a cross-border reach. The same is true of purely events locally, with participants from only one Member State.

Further information:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_determinants/life_style/Tobacco/tobacco_en.htm

Second wave of EU anti-smoking TV adverts begins

On 5 September, the second wave of EU-wide anti-smoking TV advertisements began, continuing until early October. During this month, the three adverts will be broadcast on 70 European national channels. The adverts, part of the EU's 72 million euro "HELP – for a life without tobacco" campaign, were launched in May, and the first broadcasting phase took place in June and July. Once the second phase is completed, the Commission will gather feedback on the entire TV campaign. The results will be published on the websites of HELP and the European Commission in the autumn.

Further information:

<http://www.help-eu.com/>

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