

Newsletter n.13 - July 2006

European Region News

2006 ER-WCPT Conference on Clinical Guidelines

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The European Region of the WCPT would like to announce to all the Member Organisations that the final programme and the registration form for the European Region **Conference on Clinical Guideline Development and Implementation** to be held on 10 November 2006 and the **International Programme, Challenges for the future of Physical Therapy**, on 11 November 2006, in Amsterdam, the Netherlands has been posted on the ER-WCPT website.

The deadline to submit registration forms is on 31st August 2006.

Member Organisations can send a maximum of three delegates for both events.

The ER-WCPT will pay the registration fee for one delegate for the Invitational Conference on Clinical Practice Guidelines on 10th November 2006.

Further information: <http://www.physio-europe.org/index.php?action=22&EventId=27&year=2006&month=11>

Elections at the 2006 General Meeting of the European Region of the WCPT

The following candidates were elected by the delegates at the 5th General Meeting of the ER-WCPT held on 25-27 May 2006, in Sibenik Croatia:

- **Chairman of the ER-WCPT** – Antonio Lopes, Portugal
- **Treasurer of the ER-WCPT** – Eckhardt Boehle, Germany
- **Regional Representative** – Emma Stokes, Ireland
- **1st Alternate Member** - Riitta Partia, Finland.
- **2nd Alternate Member** - Johnny Kuhr, Denmark
- **Alternate Regional Member** – Cosimo Bruno, Italy

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Members of the Executive Committee from the left:

David Gorria (Spain) – General Secretary, Emma Stokes (Ireland) – Incoming Regional Representative from 2007, Anne Lexow (Norway) - Regional Representative, Antonio Lopes (Portugal) – Chairman, Sigrun Knutsdottir (Iceland) – First Vice Chairman, Eckhardt Boehle (Germany) – Treasurer, Dagmar Pavlu (Czech Republic) – Second Vice Chairman,

Elected Auditors for the 2008 GM – Cyprus and Finland

Working Groups Members 2006-2008

The Executive Committee is pleased to present the members chosen for the ER-WCPT working groups for the period 2006 – 2008. The selection was made recognising the need for membership continuity and the candidate's skills. All the Member Organisations, which appointed candidates, are thanked by the Executive Committee for encouraging participation in the development of physiotherapy.

**Education Matters
Working Group**

Chairman
Antonio Lopes

Charlotte Hager-Ross
(Sweden)
Nina Holten
(Denmark)
Emil Igelsbock
(Austria)
Grahame Pope
(United Kingdom)
Sonia Souto
(Spain)

**Professional Issues
Working Group**

Chairman
Dagmar Pavlu

Miriam Barcia
(Spain)
Natalie Beswetherick
(United Kingdom)
Malene Haneborg
(Norway)
Dieter Hollerwoger
(Austria)
Philip van der Wees
(Netherlands)

**EU Matters Working
Group**

Chairman
Sigrún Knutsdottir

Hans de Boer
(Netherlands)
Pedro Borrego
(Spain)
Elizabeth Carrington
(United Kingdom)
Elisabeth Haase
(Denmark)
Maria Suwalska
(Poland)

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General Meeting of the European Region of the WCPT in 2008

The Executive Committee of the European Region of the WCPT is pleased to announce that the next General Meeting of the European Region in 2008 will be held in Athens, Greece and hosted by the Greek Association.

Fifty-sixth session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe

The European region of WCPT has been invited to participate in the fifty-sixth session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe to be held from 11 to 14 September 2006, in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Anne Lexow, member of the Executive committee in the European Region of WCPT will be representing the region.

Delegates from the 52 European Member States of WHO will meet this year to discuss the European strategy on non-communicable diseases; the proposed programme budget 2008-2009 and the medium-term strategic plan for 2008-2013; the future of the WHO Regional Office for Europe; and health security. The Committee will be presented with a full report on the work of WHO in the European Region during 2004-2005. The provisional agenda also includes a follow-up session on issues discussed at previous sessions of the Regional Committee.

Further Information:

<http://www.euro.who.int/rc>

Finnish Presidency of the EU – Health Priorities

The Finnish Presidency of the EU started on 1 July for a period of six months till 31 December 2006.

Taking into consideration that protecting health is an obligation under the Treaties which extends to all common policies, Finland wants to determine explicitly what that entails during its Presidency. Finland also hopes it can finalise the decision-making process on the EU public health programme for 2007-13.

EU countries will continue to exchange information on arrangements in the event of a pandemic, in cooperation with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. The most important issue at the moment is the setting up of a Community stockpile for influenza antivirals capable of supplementing the Member States' stocks and ensuring that medicines could be administered quickly in the event of an outbreak. The EU is cooperating closely with the WHO on pandemic preparedness.

With regard to the legislative projects on medicines and medical devices, Finland's objective is to forge a political agreement on the Commission's proposals at the first reading. The proposals are for a Regulation on medicines for use in advanced therapies and Directives amending Directives on medical devices. A new pharmaceutical forum will hold its first meeting during Finland's Presidency. It will set out a strategic blue-print for the work of the G-10 working party on pharmaceuticals and competitiveness.

Finland Presidency will also follow up the legislation concerned with the coordination of social security and a proposal for a Directive on tissue engineering. Work will also continue

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on the Commission's alcohol strategy, the green paper on mental health and the communication on nutrition and physical activity

The ER-WCPT Executive Committee met the Icelandic Health Authorities

During the last Executive Committee meeting held in Reykjavik, Iceland, the ER-WCPT Executive Committee met the Health Minister and her adviser in their offices. There they supported the Icelandic Association in its proposal to change the migration procedure to Iceland and informed them about the principle of Common Platforms. It also supported the position of the association to recognise the autonomy of physiotherapists at administration and clinical levels.



The ER – WCPT Executive Committee together with the representatives from the Icelandic association met the Minister of Health Siv Fridleifsdottir (Fourth from the right).



2nd Helsingborg Consensus Conference on European stroke strategies held on 22 – 24 March 2006 in Helsingborg, Sweden.

The purpose of the Conference was to propose a document for stroke management in the following five domains:

1. Organisation of stroke services;
2. Outcome and quality assessment;
3. Management after acute stroke;
4. Rehabilitation; and,
5. Prevention.

The draft document is a revision and update of the 1995 Helsingborg Declaration on Stroke.

The Conference was arranged by the International Society of Internal Medicine (ISIM) and was organised and led by Thomas Kjellström, the president of ISIM. It was endorsed by the European Stroke Council (ESC) and International Stroke Society (ISS), co-sponsored by the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe, and was in collaboration with the European Region of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy (ER-WCPT) and the European Association of Neuroscience Nurses (EANN)

The ER-WCPT had the opportunity to review and make comments and recommendations on the revision of the 1995 Helsingborg Declaration on Stroke prior to the Conference. All the Member Organisations of the ER-WCPT were contacted and asked to contribute to the update of the Declaration. Several comments were received.

Approximately 130 participants from 24 countries attended the meeting.

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Twenty three countries from Europe and Canada. The First Vice Chairman Sigrun Knutsdottir represented the ER-WCPT at the Conference.



A short summary about the conference has been prepared and posted on the ER-WCPT website.

Further information:

http://www.physio-europe.org/index.php?action=14&new_sld=49

Health Gaps in the Wider Europe: 10 Health Questions about the EU's Neighbours

The World Health Organisation Europe Region has released a book which provides information on the health gaps of Eastern European countries, in order to support Member States in improving the health of the population.

Europe is not uniform with regard to health and health status. Besides, health systems vary significantly between countries and these disparities are not always well recognised.

At the same time, abundant health data and health systems knowledge do exist, and comparing them across borders helps national health policy makers and the international

community to get a broader and more accurate picture of how health in the wider Europe varies.

For each country, the WHO reviews the demographic data, the main disease burden, the risk factors, the actors, the service provision, resources, financing system and reforms.

Entitled "Health gaps in the wider Europe: 10 health questions about the EU's neighbours", it was officially launched on the 22 June 2006 by the WHO and the United Nations Regional Information Centre (UNRIC) in Brussels and the ER-WCPT General Secretary attended the presentation.

The book is not available online yet but can be requested at publicationrequests@euro.who.int

European Health Policy Forum (EHPF) meeting held on 5 April 2006, in Brussels, Belgium

The ER-WCPT General Secretary attended the European Health Policy Forum (EHPF) meeting held on 5 April 2006, in Brussels, Belgium, due to the recently obtained membership of the Region in this group, as was announced in the 12 European Region News. At the meeting the following issues were discussed:

Working group on transparency:

The aim is to establish a set of criteria on transparency that would be applied to members of the Health Policy Forum (current members as well as applicants) in order to avoid suspicious interest in the relations between the forum members and the EU Commission.

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Social policy in the European Union: The forum looked at how it can best interact with DG Employment. Roland Bladh from DG Employment and Social Affairs explained that DG EMPL is eager to get input from health NGOs into the **Open Method of Coordination**, especially on long-term care.

Nutrition policy in the European Union: Members of the forum were updated on the current **consultation on labelling issues** that DG Sanco has launched. It aims to coordinate better the implementation of existing legislation and cut red tape. The European Commission also gave an overview on the latest developments on nutrition policy: the EU (**Green paper** and **Platform for action**).

Other announcements were made as follows:

1. The name of the new Director for Public Health in DG Sanco was announced: Dr Andrzej Rys, a Polish national, as of June 2006. Mr Rys graduated from the Medical School in Cracow. In 1991 he established and ran till 1997 the School of Public Health of Jagiellonian University. From 1999 to 2001, he served as Deputy Minister of Health in Poland and worked afterwards as a consultant with "Health and Management Ltd" in Poland and for World Health Organisation and the World Bank.

2. **Healthcare services:** Now that healthcare services have been excluded from the scope of the **Services Directive**, the European Commission is to relase two separate initiatives: one on services of General Interest and another one covering healthcare services. DG Sanco will be

responsible for running a lengthy consultation prior to issuing any legislative proposal (expected for the end of 2007).

3. **Health and Consumer Programme:** Given the consequences of the **Inter-Institutional Agreement on the EU Budget**, the European Commission is left with two options with regard to the Health and Consumer Programme: either keeps the same structure and reduces the budget for each heading, or reprioritise and refocus the programme. The decision will be taken before the end of May to allow a discussion by the Council in June.

2nd European Parliament- 25 Member States Football Tournament - ER-WCPT Trophy

On 2nd and 3rd June 2006, the **2nd European Parliament- 25 Member States Football Tournament – ER-WCPT Trophy**, was held in Brussels, Belgium. The ER-WCPT, through its General Secretary, organised and sponsored the event.

17 European Parliament teams played, namely: Austria, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, the Netherlands, Poland, Slovenia, Spain, Portugal and the United Kingdom. The winner of the tournament was the Italian team which defeated the Spanish team in a penalty shoot-out.



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Philip van der Wees, member of the Professional Issues WG and from the Netherlands association was at the tournament as a physiotherapist for the players.



More Pictures of the tournament are available on:

<http://www.rielaborato.com/camp/>

European Commission launches new Health Portal

On 10 May, the Commission launched the "Health-EU Portal" - a gateway to simple and sound information on 47 health-related topics. It is aimed at citizens, patients, healthcare professionals and scientists alike.

The launch event took place in Malaga, Spain, within the Commission sponsored "eHealth" conference. The Portal will be available in all 20 official EU languages by the end of June 2006 and will be constantly monitored and updated to ensure it has the latest information.

The 47 health-related topics are divided into six thematic areas:

1. "My Health" – e.g. women's health, people with disabilities, babies and children;
2. "My Lifestyle" – e.g. nutrition, drugs, tobacco, sports and leisure, travel advice;
3. "My Environment" – e.g. energy, road safety, consumer rights;
4. "Health Problems" – e.g. cancer, mental health, cardiovascular diseases;
5. "Care for Me" – e.g. long-term care, insurance, mobility, medicines;
6. "Health in the EU" – e.g. research, indicators, statistics

A window to the world

The Portal provides information on and some 5,700 links to:

- The European Commission and other European institutions;
- European agencies (e.g. those working on communicable diseases, drug prevention, medicines and health and safety at work);
- Member States' health and health related departments;
- European NGOs;
- International organisations.

Visitors can also find facts and figures about the latest events, statistics, health indicators, news, legislation and publications.

The address of the Health-EU Portal is: <http://health.europa.eu>

Summary of the Executive Committee Meeting in Reykjavik, Iceland, on 15-18 June 2006

After the 5th General Meeting of the European Region, which took place in May 2006 in Sibenik, Croatia, the last Executive Committee Meeting of the European Region focused primarily on the feedback from the meeting on future activities for the period 2006 – 2008, and appointment of the members to the three working groups for this period.

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The meeting also focused on the revision of the situation of the next events and the revision of the ER-WCPT guidelines. The result of the Workshop on Common Platforms and Legislation-Regulation held on 24 May 2006 at the same venue as the 2006 GM was also discussed.

Further work for the period 2006-2008 of the three working groups as recommended by the 2006 GM was reviewed by the committee and agreed as follows:

Education Matters Working Group

1. Update the European Physiotherapy Benchmark Statement and review the phrasing with special emphasis to specifics of physiotherapy and in order to make it easier to comprehend and reader-friendly. Further, develop an executive summary of the Benchmark Statement with specific references to the original document. Continue to monitor the implementation of the European Physiotherapy Benchmark Statement.
2. Updating of the Policy Statement on Physiotherapy Education since Education is evolving due to the Bologna Process.
3. Continuation of the Project on Specialisation.
4. Address education issues for Member Organisations involved in the enlargement process and cooperate with the EU Working Group; Monitoring and reacting to issues as they arise from enlargement.
5. Identify information to be included on the website under the button of education relating to basic education, post basic education, and research.
6. Gather information on Quality Assurance measures in Physiotherapy Education.
7. Gather information on Continuous Professional Development activities within the Member Organisations in collaboration with the Professional Issues Working Group.
8. Monitor the developments in re-registration, re-certification in all the ER-WCPT countries in collaboration with the Professional Issues Working Group.
9. Facilitate closer links and cooperation with ENPHE. Collaborate with ENPHE on definitions and issues related to core competences and curriculum in physiotherapy in Europe.
10. Gather information on whether education (at all levels and areas such as basic programmes, specialisation and from a Continuous Professional Development perspective) in physiotherapy is given according to Evidence Based Practice/Physiotherapy.
11. Prepare the 2nd European Congress on Physiotherapy Education to take place in 2008 in Stockholm - Sweden.



Professional Issues Working Group

1. Further work to develop the Network on health promotion and healthy life styles
 - Involvement with WHO activities on this matter
2. Reviewing the European Core Standards and Service Standards
3. Keeping updated the data base on Clinical Guidelines and Multidisciplinary Guidelines:
 - Information Paper on Implementation of Guidelines;
 - Procedures for adopting existing foreign guidelines;
 - Comparison of Audit Tools used in Clinical Guidelines;
4. Promoting the development of Clinical Guidelines in the ER-WCPT (Priority)
 - Guide to develop clinical guidelines (mapping the activities of the MOs on this matter);
5. Explore core competencies of the Physiotherapy Profession in the ER-WCPT taking account of the Physiotherapy Benchmark Statement and the work to identify similarities and differences as part of the Common Platforms agenda;
6. Gather information on Continuous Professional Development activities within the Member Organisations in collaboration with the Education Matters Working Group; (Priority)
7. Monitor the developments in re-registration, re-certification in all the ER-WCPT countries in collaboration with the Education Matters Working Group; and
8. Promotion of the field of the physiotherapist activities, also dealing with political issues related to it.

European Union Matters Working Group

1. Migration issues

- Follow up of the implementation of the Directive on Recognition of Professional qualifications;
- Continue to investigate the establishment of a Common Platform at European level for Recognition of Professional qualifications based on the Directive on Recognition of Professional qualifications; (Priority)
- Follow up of the implementation of the Migration Policy at national level;
- Provide Migration statistics for physiotherapists in the EU; and
- Continue to facilitate migration for physiotherapists.

2. Enlargement of the EU

- Continue providing general information about the enlargement of the EU;
- Follow up and assist Member Organisations on their specific needs in relation to the EU accession; (Priority)
- Encourage networking among Member Organisations; and
- Start mapping the prospective EU countries if they are not in the WCPT.



3. Health issues in the EU

- Be proactive in the field of health issues in the EU; (Priority)
- Continue the follow up of the implementation of the Health Policy Statement of the European Region of WCPT; and
- Continue liaison with other health professionals and organisations at EU level.

4. Legislation and Directives in the EU

- Continue the follow up of EU Legislation development relevant to the Physiotherapy Profession and be proactive in that field.

The members of the three working groups were appointed for the next period, 2006-2008. The selection was made recognising the need for membership continuity and the candidate's skills. The working groups are starting to prepare their first meetings and the Executive Committee wish them successful work.

Future events. The positions of the future events were reviewed. These events are:

1. Conference on Clinical Guideline Development and Implementation to be held on 10 November 2006 and the International Programme: Challenges for the future of Physical Therapy, on 11 November 2006, in Amsterdam, the Netherlands; the 2007
2. WCPT GM and Congress; and,
3. The 2nd European Congress on Physiotherapy Education, to be held on 25 – 26 September 2008, in Stockholm, Sweden.

Workshop on Common Platforms and Legislation-Regulation. The result of the Workshop on Common Platforms and Legislation-Regulation held on 24 May 2006 at the same venue as the 2006 GM was discussed and the positive collaboration and exchange of ideas between the national authorities and the Member Organisations was noted. Further developments on this matter related to the establishment of a common platform for physiotherapists were also agreed.

Review of the ER-WCPT Guidelines. The Executive Committee reviewed and updated the following guidelines of the Region.

- 1 -Guidelines for hosting the General Meeting of the European Region of the WCPT (ER-WCPT);
- 2 - Guidelines for hosting congresses/conferences of the ER-WCPT;
- 3 - Guidelines for hosting seminars / workshops / meetings of the ER-WCPT;
- 4 - Guidelines for hosting an Executive Committee meeting;
- 5 - Guidelines for hosting a working group meeting;
- 6 - Guidelines for working groups;
- 7 -Guidelines for representing the ER-WCPT at meetings and conferences;
- 8 -Guidelines for representation at the WCPT General Meeting;
- 9 -Guidelines for support of national conferences and meetings;
- 10 - Format for reports of meetings attended by the ER-WCPT; and,
- 11 - Executive Committee standing orders

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The European Region of WCPT wishes all Members a nice Holiday Period

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