

**EUROPEAN REGION OF THE
WORLD CONFEDERATION FOR
PHYSICAL THERAPY**



**Education Matters
WG Report
2006
European Region
of the WCPT**

Introduction:

The main objectives of the Education Matters Working Group are to promote the quality of physiotherapy education in Europe and to contribute to facilitate the reciprocity of recognition of physiotherapy qualifications.

The activity of the year 2006 can be divided in two periods, in reference to the General Meeting (GM), held in Croatia, in May 2006.

At the GM we have had the opportunity to present the results of the work developed from 2004 to 2006, and it was rewarding to see that all the recommendations proposed to the GM were approved. In this report we will only summarise the main results of the GM, and highlight the mandate received for a new cycle of activity.

Two members of the group have changed in July 2006.

Members of the working group

- appointed in July 2004:

- António Lopes, Chairman (*Executive Committee European Region of WCPT*)
- Nina Holten (Denmark)
- Regina Jetzinger (Austria)
- Charlotte Hager-Ross (Sweden)
- Grahame Pope (UK)
- Eric Pastor (France)

- appointed in July 2006:

- António Lopes, Chairman (*Executive Committee European Region of WCPT*)
- Nina Holten (Denmark)
- Charlotte Hager-Ross (Sweden)
- Grahame Pope (UK)
- Emil Igelsbock (Austria)
- Sonia Souto (Spain)

The General Secretary of the European Region of WCPT, David Gorria, worked with the group and attended the meetings in 2006.

Meetings

Vienna, Austria, from the 20th to the 22nd of January 2006

Stockholm, Sweden, from the 14th to the 17th of September 2006

Activities from January to May 2006

During the first half of the year the WG concluded the projects, and prepared the documentation to be submitted to the Executive Committee in order to be presented to the General Meeting.

At the GM the following documents were adopted:

- The report of the Working Group on Education Matters
- The follow up report and recommendations regarding the implementation of the “European Physiotherapy Benchmark Statement”
- The interim report on recommendation on Specialisation for Physiotherapists within the European Region of the WCPT.
- The recommendation for a proposed model for the development of Specialisation within Physiotherapy in the European Region of the WCPT
- The Report on the implementation and updating of the Policy Statement on Physiotherapy Education of the European Region
- The Revised Education Policy Statement
- The report on “Quality Assurance in Physiotherapy Education”
- The report on the home page of the Member Organisations, with recommendations.
- The informative paper with recommendations on Continuous Professional Development
- The report on the Bologna Process development

Terms of reference for the period 2006-2008

The terms of reference of the working group for the period of 2006 – 2008 were agreed at the General Meeting 2006 as follows:

- 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 and with specific references to the original document. Continue to monitor the implementation of the European Physiotherapy Benchmark Statement Updating of the Policy Statement on Physiotherapy Education since Education is evolving due to the Bologna Process;
- Continuation of the Project on Specialisation;
- 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;
- Identify information to be included on the website under the button of education relating to basic education, post basic education, and research;
- Gather information on Quality Assurance measures in Physiotherapy Education;
- Gather information on Continuous Professional Development activities within the Member Organisations in collaboration with the Professional Issues Working Group Monitor the developments in re-registration, re-certification in all the ER-WCPT countries in collaboration with the Professional Issues Working Group;
- Facilitate closer links and cooperation with ENPHE. Collaborate with ENPHE on definitions and issues related to core competences and curriculum in physiotherapy in Europe;
- 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;
- Prepare the 2nd European Congress on Physiotherapy Education to take place in 2008.

Activities after June 2006

Overview of “projects” and distribution of responsibilities

The working group met for the first time, in this period, in Stockholm, Sweden, from the 14th to the 17th of September 2006.

The projects have been distributed to the members of the working group.

Considering that some of the projects are interlinked and need some coordination to avoid duplication of work, the various projects were grouped regarding their connections.

The Education WG also chose members for each item and a responsible person (underlined) on each as follows:

Group A

- 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 and with

specific references to the original document. Continue to monitor the implementation of the European Physiotherapy Benchmark Statement – Grahame Pope and Sonia Souto

- Updating of the Policy Statement on Physiotherapy Education since Education is evolving due to the Bologna Process – Sonia Souto and Grahame Pope
- Gather information on Quality Assurance measures in Physiotherapy Education – Grahame Pope , Sonia Souto, Emil Igelsbock and Charlotte Hager-Ross
- 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 – Charlotte Hager-Ross, Emil Igelsbock and Sonia Souto

Group B

- Continuation of the Project on Specialisation – Emil Igelsbock and Nina Holten
- Gather information on Continuous Professional Development activities within the Member Organisations in collaboration with the Professional Issues Working Group – Nina Holten, Grahame Pope and Emil Igelsbock
- Monitor the developments in re-registration, re-certification in all the ER-WCPT countries in collaboration with the Professional Issues Working Group – Grahame Pope, Emil Igelsbock and Nina Holten

Group C

- 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 – Antonio Lopes

Group D

- Identify information to be included on the website under the button of education relating to basic education, post basic education, and research – Sonia Souto, Emil Igelsbock and Antonio Lopes

Group E

- Common Platform and Internal Market Information (IMI) project – Antonio Lopes, Nina Holten and Grahame Pope

Group F

- Facilitate closer links and cooperation with ENPHE. Collaborate with ENPHE on definitions and issues related to core competences and curriculum in physiotherapy in Europe – Antonio Lopes, Nina Holten and Grahame Pope

Group G

- Prepare the 2nd European Congress on Physiotherapy Education to take place in 2008 – Nina Holten, Charlotte Hager-Ross and Antonio Lopes

The projects were reviewed and each item was discussed to determine appropriate actions, timetable for them and goals.

The Chairman of the WG has been charged to follow up the developments of the European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning (EQF), recently established by the European Union.

Date and place of next meetings

The Education WG has planned to meet:

- in Oporto, Portugal, from the 16th to the 18th of February 2007
- in Stockholm, Sweden, from the 7th to the 9th of September 2007
- in Madrid, Spain, from the 18th to the 20th of January 2008

Closing remarks

The working group has dedicated most of the effort to fulfil the priority activities decided by the Executive Committee, and we recognise that the main objectives have proven to be achieved at the General Meeting in May 2006.

As chairman of the group I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the members of the working group, and in particular to Regina Jetzinger and Eric Pastor, those have ceased their collaboration in May 2006, and to the General Secretary David Gorria, for their work, commitment and friendship, and stress my pleasure to work with this team.

After the first meeting of the new working group, I only can be sure of the continuity and improvement of the work assigned to this group, which will be presented to the General Meeting in 2008.

António Lopes

Chairman of the Working Group