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## 2008 ER-WCPT GM

The European Region of the WCPT would like to invite you to participate in the **General Meeting of the European Region 2008**, to be held on **22-24 May 2008** in Athens, Greece.

**A Workshop to approve the EU Project Guides, Part A – Pain in the back? Guide exercises programme for avoiding back pain in children and teenagers** will also be held for WCPT European Region delegates on **21 May 2008** at the **same venue**.

Please note that any proposed **amendments to articles of the Charter of the European Region of the WCPT** must be received by the General Secretary by date 22 November 2007.

**Other motions**, as well as **Nominations for 1st Vice-Chairman and 2nd Vice-Chairman and two Alternate Members** must be received by the General Secretary by date **22 February 2008**. Remember that as was agreed at the 2004 GM in Cyprus it will only be possible to present nominations of candidates during the General Meeting if no nominations have been received before.

**Detailed information on accommodation, registration form, the agenda and other supporting documents will be provided in the near future.**

**NOTE: The Region has made a provisional booking of rooms at the hotel where the GM will be held. To get a reasonable price the number of rooms (approximately) should be confirmed by the end of October 2007. For this reason the secretariat wants to know as soon as possible if your delegates will stay there. The rates are as follows: Single room – 120 EUR / Double 150 EUR The Region encourages Members Organisation to stay there. It will facilitate communication and informal discussion. Grants will be offered. Members will be informed soon about the EU grant and ER-WCPT grant for attending these meetings.**

<http://www.royalolympic.com/>

## 2nd European Congress on Physiotherapy Education

The Executive Committee of the ER-WCPT and the Swedish Association of Registered Physical Therapists (L.S.R.) are pleased to announce that the abstracts submission, for the 2nd European Congress on Physiotherapy Education, entitled "Lifelong learning, developing the physiotherapy profession – Linking education, the profession and employment", has been opened on 15 August 2007 with a deadline fixed for 2 January 2008

The Region wishes Member Organisations to promote the Congress as widely as

possible and encourage their members to attend this event in Stockholm (Norra Latin), Sweden, on 25-26 September 2008. A Post-Congress meeting for ER-WCPT delegates would also take place after the Congress at the same venue, on 27 September 2008, to approve the EU Project Guides, Part B - Staying clean: Guide exercises programme to support smokers / ex-smokers in giving up .

For further information visit the website <http://www.already.net/lsr-intranet/>

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## Eu projects websites

According to the EU Project time table the websites for each part of the project are already online.

You can find them on the following links:

Part A - Pain in the back? Guide exercises programme for avoiding back pain in children and teenagers.

<http://www.painintheback.eu>

Part B - Staying clean: Guide exercises programme to support smokers / ex-smokers in giving up.

<http://www.stayingclean.eu>

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## Summary of the Executive Committee Meeting held in Athens, Greece, on 12-15 July 2007

The last Executive Committee Meeting of the European Region was held in Athens, Greece, to start preparation of the 2008 ER-WCPT GM at the same venue. This meeting was also the first one of Emma Stokes, the new Regional Representative of the ER-WCPT.

The Executive Committee meeting focused primarily on the preparation of the 2008 ER-WCPT GM and on the situation of the ER-WCPT project granted by the EU Commission.

**2008 ER-WCPT GM** – The Executive Committee met the Greek association and the manager of the hotel, where the 2008 ER-WCPT GM would be held on 22-24 May 2008, to visit the hotel facilities and review the budget of the GM. At the meeting, it was also agreed to prepare a first notice for the Member Organisations, informing them about the deadline for presenting motions to the ER-WCPT Charter, fixed by 22 November 2007, and about the positions for elections. At the 2008 GM there will be elections for 1st Vice-Chairman, 2nd Vice-Chairman and Alternate Members. The deadline to send nominations is fixed by 22 February 2008.

**ER-WCPT project granted by the EU Commission** – The Executive Committee met Mr. Georgios Margetidis, the Project Officer (P.O.) of the EU Commission for the EU project granted to develop the following two guides:

- Part A - Pain in the back? Guide exercises programme for avoiding back pain in children and teenagers.
- Part B - Staying clean: Guide exercises programme to support smokers / ex-smokers in giving up.

This meeting was held to officially start the development of the EU project.

A Workshop to approve the EU Project Guide, Part A Pain in the back? Guide exercises programme for avoiding back pain in children and teenagers will be held on 21 May 2008 at the same venue as the 2008 General Meeting. The workshop for WCPT European Region delegates will be prepared by the Education WG and Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee meeting also focused on:

- 2007 WCPT GM – Associated events
- Member Organisation Issues
- ER-WCPT Chairman, WGs Chairmen and Treasurer annual reports
- Common Platform Task Force

**2007 WCPT GM and associated events** – The Executive Committee agreed that the 2007 WCPT General Meeting was successful and recommended that the General Secretary will contact the WCPT to request the final version of the documents approved to review them at the next WG meetings.

The ER-WCPT had sent letters to congratulate the new WCPT President, Prof. Marilyn Moffat from the U.S.A., Vice-President, Mrs. Zola Dantile from South Africa, and the Netherlands Association for being elected to host the 2011 WCPT General Meeting and Congress. Letters of thanks had also been sent to the former WCPT President, Mrs. Sandra Mercer Moore from Australia, Vice-President, Inger Brøndsted from Denmark, and the Canadian Association for hosting the 2007 WCPT General Meeting and Congress.

A meeting of representatives from the WCPT Regions and from the WCPT took place on 30 May 2007, in Vancouver, Canada. The ER-WCPT Chairman, Treasurer and the General Secretary attended the meeting on behalf of the Region. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the collaboration among the WCPT Regions in a common data set project, to work together in data collection avoiding duplication of work for the MOs. This

project will also facilitate worldwide information exchange and will also include discussion forums in areas of common interests. The representatives of the WCPT Regions had agreed the proposal and the WCPT will start to develop the project.

The Minutes of the Informal ER-WCPT meeting held on 30 May 2007 in Vancouver, Canada, were approved with minor amendments and will be sent to the Members Organisations and posted on the ER-WCPT website.

**Member Organisations Issues** – The Maltese Association, readmitted as member of the WCPT, and the new Association from Montenegro, admitted as new member in the WCPT at the 2007 WCPT General Meeting, had requested ER-WCPT membership. With these two associations, the ER-WCPT will represent 35 Member Organisations.

**ER-WCPT Chairman, WGs Chairmen and Treasurer annual reports** - The 2006 annual reports from the ER-WCPT

Chairman, the WGs Chairmen and Treasurer were reviewed and agreed by the meeting. The reports will be sent to the MOs and posted on the ER-WCPT website.

**Common Platform Task Force** - A meeting of the Common Platform Task Force took place on 20 April 2007, in London, the U.K. At that meeting, an action plan was agreed by the Common Platform Task Force.

The Common Platform will meet again on 1st December 2007, in Estoril, Portugal, to review the material and information in order to achieve the first step in developing the Common Platform. The members of the Executive Committee will attend this meeting since they will be at the same time in an Executive Committee meeting in the same venue. Once the first step in developing a Common Platform, monitoring the different situation of the profession in the EU Countries, will be finished, a recommendation about the next steps will be prepared to be presented to the 2008 GM for approval.

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## Council approves EU Health Programme for 2008-2013

On 9 October the Council adopted a Decision establishing the Second Programme of Community Action in the Field of Health for the period 2008-2013. Building on the Public Health Programme 2003-2008, the new Programme sets the framework for funding European projects and other actions related to health for 2008-2013.

The Programme's objectives are: to improve citizens' health security; to promote health, including the reduction of health inequalities and to generate and disseminate health information and knowledge.

The new Programme will come into force on 1 January 2008. The budget for the Programme is €321.5 million.

Cross-European actions, which support developments at European level in the field of health, are eligible for funding under the new programme. To ensure participation by organisations, which promote a health agenda in line with the Programme

objectives, a wide variety of financing mechanisms are offered. These include co-financing and tendering actions, operational grants, and joint financing with Member States and with other Community programmes.

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## New directive proposal on supplementary pensions

The European Parliament has approved the proposal for a new directive on supplementary pensions which aims to facilitate workers' mobility in the EU Member States by establishing minimum standards for the acquisition and maintenance of the supplementary pension rights, and thus make them easier to carry across borders. The objective of this Directive is to harmonise the conditions for acquiring supplementary pension rights; to

tighten up the rules governing the transfer of acquired rights, and; to improve the information given to workers on how mobility may affect supplementary pension rights.

For further information:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+REPORT+A6-2007-0080+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN>

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## “Healthier together in the EU”

The European Commission has published a brochure entitled “Healthier Together in the EU” which describes the scope of work on health that the EU is carrying out, in order to help protecting the EU citizens and enable them to make healthy choices and live healthier lives.

For further information

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_information/documents/healthier\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_information/documents/healthier_en.pdf)

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## High Level Group of experts on ageing population

The European Commission set up a group of governmental experts to study the problems related to the ageing of the population and to make recommendations to the Commission. The group will also serve as platform to exchange good practices and experiments regarding care for the elderly.

For further information

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/789&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

## WHO publishes World Health Data for 2007

The World Health Organisation has published the World Health Statistics for 2007 in an updated version of their Statistical Information System (WHOSIS).

This third edition of WHO's report includes a section with 10 highlights of global health statistics for the past year as well as an expanded set of 50 health statistics.

WHOSIS database can be either used as an on-line tool or downloaded along with

the data tables, and allows access to comparative data from across the world.

WHO makes every effort to ensure the reliability and accuracy of these data, but before using the database it is best to be acquainted with the precise definitions for each of the indicators included.

For further information

<http://www.who.int/whosis/whostat2007.pdf>

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## Good Practices on Health & Migration in the EU

Is the topic of a report included in the Health Programme for the PT Presidency of the EU. The aim of this report, available on this website, is to discuss issues of health and migration with reference to some of the interventions that EU Member States (MS) have found to be effective in the field.

The ultimate goal is to improve migrant health and health care in member states, primarily by sharing and exchanging different experiences but also by identifying

the pit It aims to describe and to characterize MS initiatives in Health & Migration that proved to be effective. Thus, the report will disseminate and share information, contributing to improve the health of migrants.

For further information

<http://www.eu2007.min-saude.pt/NR/rdonlyres/65871074-1F1A-4D40-96C1-034020081B8B/10593/relatório3.pdf>

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## Get Active! A TV campaign to promote physical activity

EU Commission and UEFA kick off football season with a TV campaign: 'Go on, get out of your armchair!'

The European Commission and the Union of European Football associations (UEFA)

launched a joint TV campaign to encourage European citizens to engage in physical activity as part of their daily routine. The advert aims to motivate users to get out of their armchairs and be physically active,

using the slogan 'Go on, get out of your armchair'. Millions of Europeans are expected to view this advert during the half-time break of this season's televised Champions League football games.

The initiative comes at a time when poor diets and low levels of physical activity in Europe are the leading factor for six out of seven of the main health threats in Europe.

The lack of physical exercise, together with unbalanced diets, is responsible for a sharp rise in obesity in the European population, with more than half the adult population being overweight or obese. Another worrisome figure is the 22 million children rated as overweight. Sadly, the number of overweight or obese children is growing at a

rate of 400 000 new cases registered every year.

The 30 second advert is expected to reach between 80 and 100 million viewers each week during the match season of the Champions League. It will be aired free of charge in more than 40 European countries during the interval of the football games.

The advert is the result of a joint co-operation with UEFA, which is offering 30 seconds of airtime that it devotes to social initiatives.

Further information

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_determinant/life\\_style/nutrition/nutrition\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinant/life_style/nutrition/nutrition_en.htm)

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## Move Europe - A Campaign for the Improvement of Lifestyle-Related Workplace Health Promotion in Europe

Under the leadership of the National Contact Office (NCO) in Italy (ISPESL/University of Perugia), the ENWHP has developed its 7th initiative on life-style related Workplace Health Promotion (WHP), focusing on the combination of the following 4 fields:

physical activity, healthy diet, mental health and smoking prevention. The initiative is designed as a campaign which sets quality standards for Good Practice in WHP, identifies complying models and disseminates these results throughout Europe.

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## New medical intelligence system will help identify public health threats

The European Commission has developed a medical intelligence system that constantly collects and sorts information from more than 1000 news and 120 public

health websites in 32 languages. Complementing traditional approaches, the system, called MediSys, will provide health authorities with real-time knowledge

about disease outbreaks or industrial accidents, thereby helping to identify such incidents as early as possible and so react in a timely way. It can also provide invaluable information to authorities tackling a major incident such as a bio-terrorist attack.

Traditional surveillance systems monitor death rates, the utilisation of health services (e.g. emergency room admissions, drug prescriptions), abnormal patterns, changing laboratory characteristics and exposure to risks related to the environment, food or animals. Yet, certain public or animal health threats may go unnoticed but can be reported in the local press or by other less known sources. The challenge is how to find them.

Using pre-defined keywords and combinations, MediSys crawls through the web and sorts information into three primary categories: "Diseases", "Bioterrorism", and "Other Threats". Articles or "hits" are then classified in more precise categories such as "AIDS-HIV", "Respiratory infections", "Avian flu", "Legionella", "Anthrax" or "Nuclear safety". Statistics are stored on the filtered categories and "breaking news" is detected in a given category. Based on the level of

new articles retrieved and the detected keywords, an automatic alert can then be sent by e-mail and SMS to decision-makers who are on permanent standby. For example, in the recent case of the outbreak of foot and mouth disease in the UK, MediSys detected a sudden jump in news reports and automatically sent email and SMS alerts to Public Health officials across Europe.

Working with the University of Helsinki, an automatic incident detection system has also been put in place. This analyses English reports and extracts structured data on the number of cases, the location and the date. This then feeds an automatic incident database used by the Member States and the European Commission. Citizens can also have free access to this automatic information scanning tool, which includes alert statistics, articles in various languages, and e-mail alerts.

Further information:

Public version of MediSys:

<http://medusa.jrc.it>

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/1225>

### 2nd European Congress on Physiotherapy Education

Life Long Learning: Developing the Profession | September 25-26 2008, Stockholm

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