



EUROPEAN REGION

World Confederation  
for Physical Therapy

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# **Report on the Follow Up and Recommendations Regarding the Implementation of the “European Physiotherapy Benchmark Statement”**

**ADOPTED at the  
General Meeting 22-24 May 2008  
Athens, Greece**

**REPORT ON THE FOLLOW UP AND RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE  
 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE “EUROPEAN PHYSIOTHERAPY BENCHMARK  
 STATEMENT”**

**European Region of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy (WCPT)  
 Education Matters WG**

The Education Working Group carried out a follow-up survey on the implementation of the European Physiotherapy Benchmark Statement (EPBS), adopted in the final version at the Extraordinary General Meeting in Barcelona 2003. It was agreed that the questionnaire previously used would be circulated to allow comparison with data presented in 2006. The questionnaire was distributed to all 35 Member Organisations (Member Organisations) and 7 replies were received (Table 1). The return rate was thus 20%. It is of note that whilst the response rate is small, five of the seven respondents had previously replied to the survey, and as such some comparisons can be drawn.

**Table 1**

Replying Member Organisations in 2004	Replying Member Organisations in 2006	Replying Member Organisations in 2008
Austria	Austria	Czech Republic
Cyprus	Cyprus	Denmark
Denmark	Denmark	Estonia
Germany	Estonia	Italy
Iceland	Germany	Luxembourg
Ireland	Greece	Norway
Liechtenstein	Italy	Spain
The Netherlands	Liechtenstein	
Norway	Norway	
Portugal	Poland	
Sweden	Spain	
	Sweden	

Of the seven respondents, five (71%) have promoted the EPBS widely amongst their members and relevant education interest groups. It is also of note that four (57%) have made the relevant competent authorities aware, whilst three report that the National Agency for Quality Assessment is aware. As five of the respondents had previously replied these results reflect previous knowledge. Of the Member Organisations responding for the first time the Czech Republic had made members aware, but as yet had not promoted the EPBS to either the National Competent Authority, or the Agency for Quality Assurance, whilst Luxembourg had yet to promote it to its members, but had informed the National Competent Authority.

Three of the Member Organisations had translated the EPBS into their national whilst a further three Member Organisations report work in progress regarding translation of the EPBS at present. Only one MO (Norway) reported that it had not translated the EPBS.

An interesting progress is observed in the fact that two Member Organisations (Norway and Spain) who had previously indicated a move towards introducing National Specifications have decided not to introduce them. Two other Member Organisations (Denmark and Estonia) have also taken this decision. Of the remaining respondents, no decisions have been taken and all have yet to initiate discussions at a national level.

It should be noted that there were no suggestions for amendments to the EPBS from any of the Member Organisations, although Denmark indicated that they would like a shorter version of the Document.

## **Conclusions**

The present report reflects responses from only 20% of the Member Organisations and thus may not represent the full extent of implementation of the European Physiotherapy Benchmark Statement in Europe. Although five of the replying countries are the same as in previous surveys, it is still not a complete overlap, and this combined with the low response rate impedes a true monitoring of progress in terms of implementation. The most notable observation from this survey is the increased proportion of Member Organisations who have decided not to introduce National Specifications. There was no indication as to why this trend has developed and this may need to be investigated in the future. Nevertheless, there is an increased number of Member Organisations reporting progress in several of the areas related to implementation of the EPBS, such as translation and raising awareness by

providing information to and collaborating with members, Physiotherapy education programmes and National Bodies etc.

No responding Member Organisations indicated a need to amend the EPBS, although Denmark would like a shorter version; it is hoped that the development of a guide to use of the EPBS will meet these needs without changing the content or structure of the document, which seems to be well accepted.

Although a positive attitude towards the EPBS seems to prevail, it is plausible that it takes time to fully implement such a policy development.

### Recommendations

1. It is recommended that the ER-WCPT continues to promote the implementation of EPBS by the Member Organisations.
2. It is further recommended that the Education Working Group continues to monitor the implementation throughout the European Region.
3. The issue of the development of national specifications should be investigated in more detail and monitored by the Education Working Group.
4. The use of the “Guide to using the EPBS” should be monitored and its usefulness assessed.