



Contents

- 2nd European Congress on Physiotherapy Education and Post Congress of the ER-WCPT
- Workshop – Approval of the EU projects' guide exercises programmes
- New ER-WCPT secretariat office in Brussels
- New Commission initiative on patients' rights in cross-border healthcare
- Improving the quality of life in later years
- EU to help school kids fight the flab
- New website of the Executive Agency for Health and Consumers (EAHC)
- New website for health promotion videos launched
- 2009 - European Year of Creativity and Innovation
- EU Open Forum – 10 – 11 December 2008 / Brussels, Belgium

2nd European Congress on Physiotherapy Education and Post Congress of the ER-WCPT

A total of 460 participants from 34 countries were present at the **2nd European Congress on Physiotherapy Education**, entitled “**Lifelong learning, developing the physiotherapy profession – Linking education, the profession and employment**”, held in Stockholm, Sweden on 25 - 26 September 2008. All the abstracts and presentations from the Congress are available on the website (<http://www.already.net/lsr-intranet/>).

Post Congress Seminar. The European Region of WCPT arranged a Post Congress Seminar on physiotherapy education for delegates from the Member Organisations in Stockholm, Sweden on 27 September 2008. A total of 32 delegates from 20 Member Organisations were present.



The aim of the seminar was to analyse the conclusions of the European Congress on Physiotherapy Education and discuss the implications for further work to be developed by the working groups of the European Region of WCPT. The report of this seminar will be sent to the Member Organisations.



Workshop - Approval of the EU projects' guide exercises programmes

The partners of the EU projects, Pain in the back: Guide exercises program for avoiding back pain in children and teenagers and Staying clean: to support smokers/ex-smokers in giving up, met on 24 September 2008, in Stockholm, Sweden.

At the meeting the partners agreed the content of both guides and the next steps of the projects were defined



New ER-WCPT secretariat office in Brussels

ER-WCPT secretariat in Brussels has moved office to a new address. (Please note that the address has changed, but not the e-mail, telephone and fax number).

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This new office will provide the facilities requested by the ER-WCPT projects and developments.





New Commission initiative on patients' rights in cross-border healthcare

Although the vast majority of patients receive healthcare in their own country, sometimes the care is best provided abroad. This can be the case for example for highly specialised care or in border areas where the nearest appropriate facility is abroad.

Rules for receiving cross-border healthcare and for reimbursement of costs are now not always completely clear or easy to understand. That is why the Commission has developed a proposal for a legal instrument which will provide more clarity about possibilities to seek healthcare in another Member State. The proposal will also make clear who is responsible for quality and safety

of care in cross-border settings. Finally it will strengthen cooperation in different areas, such as networks of centres of reference for specialised care, for example.

This proposal will thus help patients in getting the healthcare they need, and help Member States ensure the accessibility, quality and financial sustainability of their health systems and the well-being of their citizens.

For further information:

http://ec.europa.eu/health-eu/news/streaming/crossborder/crossborder_en.htm

Improving the quality of life in later years

Vast improvements in the quality of life of the elderly can be achieved by bringing nursing and physiotherapy teams into residential care homes for older people. According to an intensive two-year pilot scheme undertaken in the United Kingdom, not only will this improve quality of life for patients, but hospital admissions will also fall as a result.

For further information:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/infocentre/article_en.cfm?id=/research/headlines/news/article_08_09_03_en.html&item=Infocentre&artid=8053



EU to help school kids fight the flab

New plans to give free fruit and vegetables to schoolchildren – and extend the range of dairy products already available.

An estimated 22 million children in the EU are overweight. More than 5 million are obese – and it gets worse: the figure is expected to rise by around 400 000 every year.

Eating habits formed in childhood are usually carried over into adulthood and then passed on to the next generation. Most Europeans already eat too little fruit and veg – less than the 400g a day recommended by the World Health Organisation – and consumption is declining among younger generations. With this in mind, the commission has a new plan to encourage healthy eating among children.

Starting in 2009 the commission would like to use EU money to distribute free fruit and vegetables to schools. Studies suggest that poorer families are least likely to eat the recommended five portions of fresh fruit or

veg a day. Providing healthy snacks free of charge could make a real difference to needy youngsters' diets.

The costs will be shared 50-50 between the EU budget and national governments (75-25 for less affluent countries). The EU contribution will total around €90m a year.

Similar schemes for milk have been operating for over 30 years now. In the 2006-07 school year, 305 000 tonnes of milk was distributed to schools in 22 EU countries.

The commission would now like to extend the scheme to include other dairy products, including cheeses, yoghurt and buttermilk. Secondary schools would also be eligible for deliveries under the new plan. As the number of schools covered goes up, more and more children will be encouraged to opt for healthy, high-quality dairy products instead of low-quality convenience food and drinks.

New website of the Executive Agency for Health and Consumers (EAHC)

The Executive Agency for Health and Consumers launched its new website on 22 September. The website, apart from acquiring a fresh new look and a structure that reflects the recently extended mandate of the EAHC, provides more information about public health projects managed by the Agency in a user-friendly way.

For further information:

<http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/index.html>



New website for health promotion videos launched

DG Health and Consumers of the European Commission launches a website for health promotion videos produced in Europe. The aim is to share ideas and best practice and to show what has been done in public health campaigns on issues such as addiction prevention, communicable diseases, cancer or nutrition and physical activity.

For further information:

<http://www.healthclips.eu/>

2009 - European Year of Creativity and Innovation

Europe needs to boost its capacity for creativity and innovation for both social and economic reasons. That is why the EU has declared 2009 the European Year of Creativity and Innovation.

The modern world puts emphasis on better use of knowledge and rapid innovation. It therefore requires a broadening of the creative skills base involving the whole population. In particular, there is a need for skills and competences that enable people to embrace change as an opportunity and to be open to new ideas in a culturally diverse, knowledge-based society. Education and training are determining factors in this.

Ján Figel' Commissioner responsible for education, training, culture and youth, believes the Year is "*an effective way of helping to meet challenges by raising public*

awareness, disseminating information about good practices, stimulating education and research, creativity and innovation, and promoting policy debate and change. By combining action at Community, national, regional and local levels, it can generate synergies and help to focus policy debate on specific issues."

The Commission does not propose that a specific budget should be allocated for the Year, arguing that it can be organised by using existing EU programmes and planned administrative expenditure. In order to involve all those who might be interested, the Commission invites member states to appoint national coordinators who can cooperate through a small steering group at EU level.

The activities of the Year should focus on



creating an environment favourable to creativity and innovation and become a strong impetus for a long-term policy priority. Emphasis should be put for instance on education across a wide range of subjects including mathematics, science and information and other technologies. Highlighting creativity through such skills should foster problem-solving and the practical application of knowledge and ideas. All forms of innovation including social and entrepreneurial innovation should be taken into account.

Artistic creation and new approaches in culture should also receive due attention, as

important means of communication between people in Europe and in the follow-up to the ongoing European Year of Intercultural Dialogue (2008).

The European Year of Innovation and Creativity is proposed as a cross-cutting initiative covering not only education and culture, but also other policy domains such as enterprise, media, research, social and regional policy and rural development. It should include information and awareness-raising campaigns, promotion of good practices, debates, meetings, conferences and promote a wide variety of projects at regional, national and European level.

EU Open Forum - 10 - 11 December 2008 / Brussels, Belgium

Developing and implementing health in the European Union

DG 'Health and Consumers' will organise the above conference within the activities of the EU Health Forum in Brussels.

Under the overall theme of "Developing and Implementing Health in the European Union" the conference will mark an important step towards strengthening the involvement of all stakeholders in contributing to the development and implementation of actions and activities to protect and improve the health of European citizens. Building on the progress made through structures as the EU

Health Forum, the European Commission will work closely with stakeholder groups, and with regional and local level bodies with a view to optimising their contribution to the implementation of the EU health strategy.

Registration for the EU Open Health conference is welcome from all interested parties and/or organisations from the broader community of interest in EU health policy.

This conference aims to contribute and



EUROPEAN REGION

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NEWSLETTER

Number 22 October 2008

increase the profile of health in the EU policies through discussion between EU policy makers and stakeholders on pressing public health issues and their impacts on the Community. The EU Open Health Forum is a mechanism for the European Commission to get feedback from stakeholders on the implementation of the EU Health Policy and to identify the need for new policy initiatives at EU level. It also facilitates networking and exchange of best practice in the implementation of public health policies at EU, national, regional and local level.

The new EU Health Strategy aims to deliver concrete results in improving health. As set out in the Treaty, the EC has a unique role to improve and protect health and in addition to facilitate cooperation on health. Given Member States' responsibilities in health at

national, regional and local levels, and the need to respect subsidiary, they must be closely involved in the implementation of the strategy. To that end, a new EC-level structured cooperation mechanism will be developed to promote coordination between the Member States. This cooperation mechanism will assist the Commission in identifying priorities, defining indicators, producing guidelines and recommendations, fostering exchange of good practice, and measuring progress. It will also provide opportunities for local and regional involvement. In parallel, there is a need to improve the structured input of stakeholders into the process.

For further information:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_overview/health_forum/open_2008/index_en.htm

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