



EUROPEAN REGION

World Confederation
for Physical Therapy

Report of the Chairman of the European Region of the WCPT for the year 2008

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EUROPEAN REGION OF WCPT FOR THE YEARS 2008

European Region of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy (WCPT)

Introduction

The General Meeting (GM) held in Athens, Greece in May 2008, forces us to divide this Report in two periods.

The period from January to May, focused on the preparation of the General Meeting and the period from June to December.

The first period has been fully documented in the papers and detailed reports submitted to the General Meeting, so in this report we will refer mainly to the period of activity after June 2008.

Considering also that this report is complemented by the reports from the Chairs of the three working groups and from the Treasurer, I will only give a general overview of the organisation and of the activities, highlighting some of the major achievements.

The changes at organisational level

Accordingly to the Report of the Treasurer for the year 2008, the European Region of WCPT has had 36 member organisations, 3 of them not in good standing: **Latvia, Liechtenstein and Lithuania**, representing a total of 154.858 Physiotherapists.

The elections at the General Meeting in Athens brought a change in the composition of the Executive Committee.

The composition of the working groups has changed after the General Meeting, but a majority of members in each group has remained, assuring the continuity of the ongoing projects.

The elections at the General Meeting in Sibenik brought a change in the composition of the Executive Committee.

List of elected officers		
	Before the GM	After the GM
Chairman	António Lopes– (2006-2010)	António Lopes– (2006-2010)
1st Vice Chairman	Sigrun Knuttsdottir (2004-2008)	Sarah Bazin (2008-2012)
2nd Vice Chairman	Dagmar Pavlu (2004-2008)	Roland Craps (2008-2012)
Treasurer	Eckhardt Boehle (2002-2006)	Eckhardt Boehle (2006-2010)
Regional Represent.	Emma Stokes (2007-2011)	Emma Stokes (2007-2011)
First Alternate EC	Riitta Partia (2006-2008)	Elin Engeseth (2008-2010)
Second Alternate EC		Hans Krijgsman (2008-2010)
Alternate Regional Rep.	Cosimo Bruno (2007 -2011)	Cosimo Bruno (2007 – 2011)
Auditors for the 2010 GM		Slovenia and Sweden

The members of the working groups until the General Meeting, May 2008, were as follows:

Professional Issues Working Group

- Dagmar Pavlu - Chairman (*Executive Committee European Region of WCPT*)
- Dieter Hollerwoeger (Austria)
- Philip van der Wees (Netherlands)
- Malene Haneborg (Norway)
- Miriam Barcia (Spain)
- Natalie Beswetherick (UK)

European Union Matters Working Group

- Sigrún Knútsdóttir – Chairman (*Executive Committee European Region of WCPT*)
- Elisabeth Haase (Denmark)
- Maria Suwalska (Poland)
- Pedro Borrego (Spain)
- Hans de Boer (Netherlands)
- Elisabeth Carrington (UK)

Education Working Group

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

After the 2008 General Meeting the members of the working groups were as follows:

Professional Issues Working Group

- Sarah Bazin - Chairman (*Executive Committee European Region of WCPT*)
- Dieter Hollerwoeger (Austria)
- Daniel Paguessorhayé (France)
- Philip van der Wees (Netherlands)
- Malene Haneborg (Norway)
- Natalie Beswetherick (UK)

European Union Matters Working Group

- Roland Craps – Chairman (*Executive Committee European Region of WCPT*)
- Emma Stokes (Ireland)
- John Xerri de Caro (Malta)
- Ana Dimovska (Spain)
- Hans Krijgsman (Netherlands)
- Elisabeth Carrington (UK)

Education Working Group

- António Lopes, Chairman (*Executive Committee European Region of WCPT*)
- Nina Holten (Denmark)
- Camilla Wikström-Grotell (Finland)
- Sonia Souto (Spain)
- Charlotte Hager-Ross (Sweden)
- Grahame Pope (UK)
- Emil Igelsbock (Austria) – Appointed for the 3rd Education Congress planned to be held in Wien, Austria, in 2012.

Approved documents at the General Meeting

From the several reports that have been adopted at the General Meeting and are relevant to describe the work developed at Regional level, a particular attention must be paid to the following:

- The revised Migration Policy for Physiotherapists in the European Region
- The revised Health Policy Statement of the European Region of the WCPT
- Document on Quality Assurance Guidance
- Guide presentation to use and facilitate the access to the BenchmarkStatement
- The report on “Quality Assurance in Physiotherapy Education”
- The follow up report and recommendations regarding the implementation of the “European Physiotherapy Benchmark Statement”
- The report on Specialisation for Physiotherapists within the European Region of the WCPT.
- The Revised Education Policy Statement
- ER-WCPT Glossary of Terms
- The report on the development of further work on the implementation of the Framework for Physiotherapy Clinical Guidelines Development
- Revised European Core Standards
- Report on Continuous Professional Development activities and in re-registration re-certification within the ER-WCPT Member Organisations

The major activities and achievements

The great diversity of activities of the European Region in this period of time can only be understood with the consultation of the several specific reports presented to the General Meeting. In this report I will only highlight some of the most relevant facts.

EU Projects Granted under the Health Programme 2003 -2008

The joint project submitted to the EU Commission asking for grant for its development had been approved and is under development. The two themes of the joint project are as follows:

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

The project will last two years, May 2007 – May 2009, and involves 26 Member Organisations of the ER-WCPT in its development. The grant received by the EU Commission will finance a 60% of the project with a total amount of 382.828,86 EURO.

The two guides of the each part has been approved by the partners and the presentation of the results to the Authorities, Media and colleagues will take place in 2009.

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.allready.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.

Representation of the Region in meetings and events

The Region has been represented in several meetings and events.

It is also relevant to consider the contacts with the **European Commission - DG Internal Market and DG Health and the European Parliament**, regarding, for example, the following matters:

- Directive on Recognition of Professional Qualifications;
- Internal Market Information (IMI) Project related to the Recognition of Professional Qualifications, and specially the obligations of the Member States concerning administrative cooperation on this matter. The ER-WCPT was one of four professions that would participate in the project. The other professions were medical doctors, dentists and accountants.
- Patients Rights in Cross borders.
- EU Health Strategy, 2008 – 2013.

The Executive Committee has considered it necessary to be involved with all relevant European organisations related to our field of activity. Budgetary limitations have restricted a greater activity and forced the establishment of priorities.

Taking advantage of having our office in Brussels, and of having a full time General Secretary, priority has been given to attending the meetings held in this city.

The General Secretary has regular contacts with the following organisations:

- **European Health Forum - EHF**
In 2006, the permanent membership of the ER-WCPT in the EHF was approved. Meetings of the EHF are held twice a year. The General Secretary or a member of the EU WG had attended, on behalf of the ER-WCPT, the meetings during this period.
- **European Public Health Alliance - EPHA**
EPHA provides useful information on health issues and EU policy developments and a Member's Electronic Newsletter. The General Secretary regularly attends EPHA Policy Co-ordination Group Meetings, together with other health organisations. The goal of these meetings is to exchange information among EPHA Members and to discuss the main health topics on the EU agenda.

Future Plans

The annual reports from the Chairs of the three Working Groups, that are complementary to this report, present the details about the implementation of the plan of activities for 2008-2010, approved by the General Meeting.

Nevertheless, we can assume that all activities will be developed in line with the main objectives and priorities of the WCPT, and that there are some major projects that define the future commitments of the Region, and show a coherent line of action:

- Complete the inventory of the profession regarding the level of education, activities and scope of practice;
- Monitor the legislative developments at EU level, and their implications for the profession, and cooperate with all relevant entities and partners;
- Present, implement and evaluate the EU Health programmes (“back pain” and “staying clean”), and explore other opportunities;
- Further develop the work related to guidelines (clinical and multidisciplinary) and standards of practice;
- Follow up the implementation of the “European Physiotherapy Benchmark Statement” and the developments in education at European level, in cooperation with ENPHE;
- Prepare the third Congress on Physiotherapy Education – 2012.

According to the motion approved at the 2008 GM to establish an ER-WCPT foundation, the Executive Committee appointed Roland Craps and Eckhardt Boehle, with the support of the General Secretary, as responsible persons to develop the foundation’s statutes. The statutes were presented and approved at the EC meeting held in November 2008, in Brussels, Belgium. After the approval of the statutes it was agreed to send them to the MOs asking them to be founders members.

At organisational level, the improvement of communication with the Member Organisations, the physiotherapists, and the public, in general, will also be a priority of action. Within this project the constant renewal of our website is included, having in mind an easy access to the Member Organisations to update directly their own information, and to improve the quality of the information available.

The objective to reinforce the image of WCPT, and of the European Region, as a credible and proactive organisation, representing physiotherapy as a relevant health care discipline and profession, will also be pursued in all activities to be developed.

Closing Remarks

All the work of the European Region of the WCPT has been possible with the contribution from a vast number of persons, including the members of the working groups, to whom I would like to deeply thank. Our organisational

model relies on the appointment of members to the working groups financially supported by the Member Organisations, and I would like to thank those who have made it possible. At another level, I would like to thank the German and the Netherlands associations for being the key element for the development of the two EU granted projects.

In general terms I would like to thank the support and collaboration of the Member Organisations in the activities promoted, in particular at the General Meetings, and at the Conferences and Congress.

I would like to say a final word of thanks to our General Secretary, David Gorria, for his support and friendship, stressing his competence and commitment to implement the Working Group's and Executive Committee decisions.

It has been my privilege to chair the Executive Committee, and I must state that the friendship, understanding attitude and collaboration from the members of the Committee, have made my task very easy and extremely rewarding. My warm thanks are extended to all of them, including Sigrún Knútsdóttir and Dagmar Pavlu.

António M. F. Lopes

Chairman of the European Region of the WCPT