



Newsletter n.9 - July 2005

European Region News

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2006 ER-WCPT General Meeting

The European Region of WCPT would like to invite all the Member Organisations to participate in the General Meeting of the European Region 2006, to be held on 25-27 May 2006 in Sibenik, Croatia.

Regarding to the New Directive on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications a Workshop on the Common Platforms and Regulation-Legislation will also be held for WCPT European Region delegates on 24 May 2006 at the same venue.

Any proposed amendments to articles of the Charter of the European Region of the WCPT must be received by the General Secretary by 14 November 2005.

Other Motions, as well as Nominations for Chairman, Treasurer and Regional Alternate Member must be received by the General Secretary by 6 February 2006. As was agreed at the General Meeting in Cyprus it will only be possible to present nominations during the General Meeting if no nominations have been received before.

Detailed information on accommodation, the agenda and other supporting documents will be provided in the near future to the Member Organisations. The nearest airport to Šibenik is Split, Croatia (SPU) situated approximately 55 km from the venue hotel. Organization of transport from the airport to the hotel will be arranged by the Croatian Association.

The ER-WCPT Executive Committee met the Croatian Authorities

During the last Executive Committee meeting held in Zagreb, the ER-WCPT Executive Committee met the Croatian President, Mr. Stipe Mesic, in his palace residence. There they supported the Croatian Association in the development of the recognition of the physiotherapy profession. A meeting with the Education Minister's Adviser was also held where the matter of higher education in Physiotherapy was discussed. The Executive Committee attended the Croatian Association Congress where the ER-

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WCPT Chairman and the 1st Vice-Chairman gave speeches on the Bologna Process and Physiotherapy Regulation respectively.

**Summary of the Executive Committee Meeting in Zagreb, Croatia, on
17-19 June 2005**

The last Executive Committee Meeting of the European Region focused primarily on the revision of the ER-WCPT questionnaires, the annual reports from the Chairman of the E.C. and the working groups, and the situation of the activities under development in the three working groups. The result of the language task force second meeting and the new ER-WCPT website were also reviewed. Preparations for the General Meeting 2006 were continued.

ER-WCPT questionnaires

As was agreed at the Vienna Executive Committee meeting the ER-WCPT questionnaires were reviewed. They were divided into a) Annual questionnaires and b) Questionnaires developed by the working groups in order to gather information for specific projects or actions following the activities approved at the General Meeting.

It was agreed to develop a database to be published on the ER-WCPT website with all the information from the annual questionnaires grouped by themes. This database will be updated directly by the Member Organisations themselves when necessary. The Members will be informed how to update their information on the new ER-WCPT website. This system will avoid the annual questionnaires.

A recommendation to each working group to try to send its questionnaires together, if possible, was agreed.

2004 Annual Reports

The 2004 annual report from the Chairman of the E.C, and from the working groups were accepted by the Executive Committee Members and the Member Organisations will receive a copy of them.

Revision of the activities under development in the three Working Groups

Education Matters Working Group

- Relationship with ENPHE. Contacts with ENPHE have been made and a meeting was planned between the ER-WCPT and ENPHE at the beginning of July at the ENPHE offices in Belgium.
- Update of the Policy Statement on Physiotherapy Education. As was agreed at the 2004 GM, the Member Organisations were asked about the implementation of the Policy and for updates if necessary to be presented at the 2006 GM.

Professional Issues Working Group

- Network on prevention and promotion of healthy lifestyles. The 27 MOs that answered this questionnaire will be contacted to discuss further steps of the Network and a first analysis will be presented at the September WG meeting.
- Application on EU funding for fall prevention in older people. On 14th April 2005 a project was presented to the EU Commission. An answer is expected in September.
- Conference on Clinical Guidelines. Due to the short time period to organise and to invite a Conference in October 2005, the Working Group will prepare a

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Conference to be held in the second half of 2006 following a recommendation of the Executive Committee.

European Union Matters Working Group

- Migration statistics. The Member Organisations were informed of the new EU Commission statistics and they were asked to review the content of the statistics since the EU WG found some information that seemed to be misleading and needed clarification
- The New Directive on Recognition of Professional Qualifications. A letter was sent to the EU authorities pointing out some amendments. The approved text by the EU covers many of the amendments suggested in the letter.
- Workshop on Common Platform. The EU WG and the Education WG will create a Task Force to organise a workshop coinciding with the GM 2006 and develop the first step to achieve a Common Platform. The Task force will be composed by both WG Chairmen and two members from each WG.
- The Service Directive. A letter was sent to the EU authorities suggesting some amendments. At the time of the meeting no answers have been received.
- Joint activity with the Professional Issues WG on prevention and promotion of healthy lifestyles. It was agreed by the Executive Committee meeting that this activity should be developed only by the Professional Issues WG.

ER-WCPT website

The proposal of the new ER-WCPT website was presented to the Executive Committee and agreed. This new design fulfils all the requests of the Region, including a visually impaired version, and presents a more attractive and modern design. It can be used more actively by the Member Organisations directly e.g. to update their information or sending comments to contents.

ER-WCPT regional flyer

Following the recommendations of the Vienna Executive Committee meeting, the new Regional flyer including all the latest changes of the European Region of WCPT was presented to the meeting and agreed. The flyer can be ordered free of charge through the secretariat.

Language Task Force

A second meeting had taken place on 15th April 2005 in the ER-WCPT office in Brussels. The Executive Committee agreed the provisional results with a recommendation to the Language Task Force Members. The final result will be presented to the Task Force for approval. Once approved, the Member Organisations will be informed.

Preparation of the 2006 General Meeting in Šibenik, Croatia

It was agreed to inform the Member Organisation on the 2006 GM and to invite the President and General Secretary of WCPT to attend the meeting

The following deadlines were agreed:

14 November 2005: Deadline to send Charter motions to the General Secretary

6 February 2006: Deadline to send other motions and nominations for Chairman, Treasurer and Regional Alternate Member post.

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New ER-WCPT website

We have pleasure in announcing that the new ER-WCPT website will be online on 15th July 2005. This new design fulfils all the requests of the Region, including a visually impaired version, and presents a more attractive and modern design. The new website also contains a tool that will permit a faster update of its content by the General Secretary and Member Organisations.

Development of the new Directive on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications

The European Council adopted on 6 June 2005 by qualified majority the Recognition of Professional Qualifications Directive. The adoption took place on the second reading of the text thanks to the agreements between the European Parliament and the European Council.

The aim of the new directive is to provide a simpler and more transparent Directive for recognition of professional qualifications. According to the New Directive it will be possible for professional organisations both at European and at national level to establish Common Platforms.

The objective of a common platform is to avoid the compensation measures required by the different Member States if there are substantial differences of education and training. This will facilitate workers migration between the EU countries.

Once officially published in the EU Countries, each country will have two year to transpose this directive into its own law.

The approved text covers many of the requests expressed in the letter sent to the EU authorities by the EU Working Group on behalf the ER-WCPT.

The same day as the approval, a conference on Common Platforms took place in Brussels at the European Economic and Social Committee, arranged by CEPLIS (European Council of the Liberal Professions). There, Ms Catherine HELDMAIER-REGNIER, a civil servant of the European Commission explained the steps to achieve a Common Platform.

The General Secretary attended the Conference and informed the Executive Committee on the steps to achieve a Common Platform for the Physiotherapy profession at European level.

2005 Bologna Process Ministerial Conference

Following the Bologna Process, the last Higher Education Ministers meeting was held in Bergen on 19-20 May 2005. That meeting had the aim of taking stock of the progress of the Bologna Process and setting directions for the further development towards the European Higher Education Area, to be realised by 2010.

The principal conclusions of the meeting were:

- 45 countries had signed the Bologna Process
- There was an international association of students following the developments
- The two cycles were being implemented but there was still some confusion about 2 or 3 cycles based on dividing the second cycles on Masters and PhDs
- The topic of Quality Assurance would be developed
- A next ministerial conference would take place in 2007

For further information there is a website <http://www.bologna-bergen2005.no/> where all main

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documents of the Bologna Process, as well as the Bologna Position Papers, are available. The website also provides news, a glossary, a review of EU activities and all information on the latest conferences and seminars in the context of the Bologna process.

2005 WHO European Region session

Anne Lexow, the Regional Representative, was invited to participate in the fifty-fifth session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe to be held from 12 to the 15 September 2005 in Bucharest, Romania.

This year the representatives of the 52 Member States in the WHO European Region would discuss:

- A European strategy for child and adolescent health and development;
- The update of the regional policy framework for health for all;
- The Region's policy on alcohol;
- Injuries and traffic accidents; and
- The next phase of the WHO Regional Office for Europe's strategy to strengthen European health systems.

Further Information:

<http://www.euro.who.int/rc>

U.K. Presidency of the EU - Priorities

The United Kingdom (UK) Presidency of the EU started on 1 July for a period of six months till 31 December 2005.

The general priorities of the UK Presidency will be: Economic reform, security, climate change, Africa.

Other issues that will be progressed are: Sustainable development, chemicals regulation for health, environment and competitiveness,

reform of EU sugar regime, EU/US - strengthening economic partnership.

The health priorities of the UK presidency will be focused around two themes: Patient safety and tackling health inequalities

During the UK Presidency a number of issues that have been dominating the general EU agenda will be dealt with in the EU Health Council. It will deal with the proposals for a new Health and Consumer Protection Programme, pharmaceuticals (paediatric medicines, EMEA fees), food safety (nutrition and health claims labelling, additions of vitamins and minerals to food, food additives). There are also proposals in other Councils relating to health, namely the Working Time Directive, Services Directive and Research and Development Framework Programme.

The expected policy work in the Council include among other things:

- Green paper on mental health in September
- Communication on emergency preparedness and pandemics in early September
- Green paper on nutrition, diet, physical activity in October

Health calendar events of the Presidency

- October 17-18 – Health Inequalities Summit
- October 20-21 Informal meeting of Health Ministers
- November 28-30 Patient Safety Summit
- December 9 Formal Health Council

Commission adopts new EU health and consumer protection programme

The Commission adopted an EU Public Health and Consumer Protection programme on April 6,

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**within the framework of the draft
2007-13 Financial Perspectives.**

The proposed Programme combines and extends the current EU Public Health Programme and the current financing programme in support of EU consumer policy. Both common and specific objectives and actions for health and consumer protection policy are outlined in the draft Programme, and in consolidating the two programmes into one, the Commission aims to exploit synergies between health and consumer policies.

Common Actions

The Programme includes plans to improve Health and Consumer Protection information, strengthen the role of Health and Consumer organisations in the EU, further develop consultation mechanisms and link Health and Consumer policy more closely to other policy areas.

The new Public Health Programme's Executive Agency will be extended to support all activities under the joint programme and include a Consumer Institute as a new department.

Health

The three strands of the existing Public Health Programme – gathering and providing information, monitoring threats and tackling key health determinants – are reinforced.

Three new strands – delivering an efficient response to health threats, helping to prevent diseases, and fostering co-operation between health systems – are created. There will be a particular focus on bridging health inequalities, addressing ageing and children's health.

The budget foreseen for the new Programme is € 1 203 million. The proposal for the Public Health and Consumer Protection programme will now be forwarded to the European

Parliament and Council for adoption through co-decision procedure.

**EU health ministers agreed on
increased cooperation**

EU health ministers convened in Paris on 13 and 14 April to discuss how to actively respond to some health challenges that are increasing in scale and complexity.

Commissioner Kyprianou and the 25 EU health ministers discussed closer co-operation in the fight against cancer, HIV/AIDS and pandemic influenza.

An "Alliance against cancer" was discussed to develop better co-ordination of the national structures for research, the spread of guidelines and protocols for diagnoses and treatment, as well as the exchange of best practices.

In the field of HIV/AIDS, ministers wish to strengthen the co-ordination of clinical trials in the continuing search for a vaccine, part of a comprehensive global response.

Finally, the ministers wished to build a higher level of protection against pandemics one of the priorities of the Union. This could include reinforcing health alerts at European level, the co-ordination of national decisions in response to crises, and the continuation of initiatives for the development and production of vaccines.

**EU ministers call for better use of
technology in healthcare**

Commissioner Markos Kyprianou and European Health and Information Technology Ministers met for the third annual eHealth conference in Trømso, Norway on 23-24 May to debate how to exploit the potential of information and communication technologies (ICT) in Europe's healthcare systems.

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The conference, jointly organised by the European Commission, the Luxembourg Presidency and the Norwegian government, discussed ways of rapidly sharing information between countries as patients move around, creating greater public awareness on health issues through electronic communication, and improving care and patient safety.

“eHealth can empower patients and improve healthcare. Even more importantly, by reducing the scope for medical errors, it can save lives. We need a partnership between health ministers, technology providers, patient groups and health NGOs to release the full potential of eHealth in Europe. The Tromso conference is a step towards achieving that,” said Commissioner Kyprianou.

The conference participants identified key targets for the next five-years:

- *eHealth can support the provision of good care within and across borders:* In their recent ‘Reflection Process on Patient Mobility’, the Health Ministers of the EU supported the mobility of patients to ensure that European citizens can access the best available care. Achieving further standardisation and inter-operability of patient medical records is an important basis for easing patient mobility.
- *Developing Citizen Empowerment and Support through eHealth:* The Internet is a key resource to enable more patients to be treated, supported and monitored in comfort and safety at home, work and at play.
- *Delivering Safe and Efficient Healthcare through eHealth:* eHealth

tools such as electronic prescribing and real-time decision support can reduce medical accidents and errors. Efficient eHealth tools will facilitate more flexible and collaborative work within and between health institutions and in primary, secondary and home care.

The Commission will launch an EU Health Portal later this year, a “one-stop shop” for health information produced by the EU, and a gateway to the websites of national and regional health authorities and civil society groups.

The conference and exhibition showcased eHealth success stories, including projects fostering eHealth applications financed by the EU’s Public Health Programme and by the Information Society Technologies research.

Spotlight on innovations in the eHealth domain

The European Commission’s Information Society and Media Directorate-General have set up an on-line information service to promote the outcomes and developments of research projects funded by the Information Society Technology Community programme (IST). eHealth was recently the editorial focus, with a number of successful projects presenting cutting-edge technologies and innovations like remote health monitoring, mobile systems for electronic patient records, advanced medical imaging solutions and new techniques for cancer diagnosis.

Further information:

www.cordis.lu/ist/results

The European Region of WCPT wishes all its Members a happy Holiday Period

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