

Newsletter n.8 - April 2005

# European Region News

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## **The 6th Nordic Physiotherapy Congress 2005**

The Nordic Congress in Physiotherapy will take place 1-3 June, 2005. It will be held in Helsingør hosted by the Association of Danish Physiotherapists. The official congress language will be English.

The five Nordic Associations for Physiotherapists are presenting a research congress that promotes the connection between academia and practice in the physiotherapy profession in the Nordic countries. By choosing this congress theme, the Nordic organisations wish to stress the importance of dialogue between researchers and clinicians, the importance of physiotherapy knowledge and skills in the professional health service, and the role of the physiotherapy profession as an indispensable partner for society towards health and wellness.

The five Nordic Associations are inviting 400 – 600 Nordic physiotherapists to attend and participate in the Congress. The congress welcomes researchers, clinicians, professional developers and educators from the Nordic countries and other countries to present physiotherapy research in all areas of physiotherapy and on various research levels.

Further Information:

<https://www.nhg.dk/Default.asp?ID=735>

## **Twinning Programmes**

The European Region of WCPT wants to encourage the Member Organisations to participate in twinning programmes. Twinning was first developed within the European Region, and Twinning Projects were stimulated to strengthen and assist the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and WCPT member organisations in Africa. However, at the Limassol G.M., it was agreed that Twinning could be more widely interpreted than that, to include Twinning between European countries themselves and between countries from any geographical region. These Twinning Programmes are for the mutual benefit and development of the participating associations. The support must be in accordance with the needs and wishes of the twinning partners. The finances of any such programme are the responsibility of the twinning partners and assistance may be sought from an outside agency, but not WCPT.

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For further information visit [www.physio-europe.org](http://www.physio-europe.org) or contact the Regional Representative: [anne.lexow@fysio.no](mailto:anne.lexow@fysio.no)

**Summary of the Executive Committee Meeting in Vienna, Austria, on  
3-6 March 2005**

The last Executive Committee Meeting of the European Region focused primarily on the revision of the activities developed and proposed by three working groups. The result of the language task force first meeting was also reviewed. Preparations for the General Meeting 2006 were continued.

**ER-WCPT questionnaires**

The Executive Committee recognised that the ER-WCPT is using numbers of questionnaires to collect information from the Member Organisations. It was agreed that this is the only way to collect information without cost to the European Region. The Executive Committee agreed to review all the ER-WCPT questionnaires at the next meeting with the aim of simplifying them and taking out irrelevant questions.

**The following actions recommended by the working groups were reviewed by the Executive Committee Members.**

**Education Matters Working Group**

- Relationship with ENPHE and other educational networks
- Follow up on the implementation of European Physiotherapy Benchmark Statement in the ER-WCPT Member Organisations.
- Update of the Policy Statement on Physiotherapy Education
- Quality Assurance measures in Higher Education.
- Specialisation for Physiotherapists
- Continuous Professional Development and Life Long Learning issues
- Monitor the developments of the need for re-registration/re-certification for maintaining Physiotherapy practice in the different countries in Europe
- Information on education for the new EU and EU accessing countries
- Collecting data from the Member Organisations on Education Information

**Professional Issues Working Group**

- Report about collection data from the Member Organisations on Clinical Guidelines and Multi-disciplinary guidelines
- Conference on Clinical Guidelines coinciding with the CSP Congress in October 2005
- Network on prevention and promotion of healthy lifestyles
- Application on EU funding for Fall prevention in older people
- Collecting data about Member Organisations involvement on ICF
- Annual update of information on standards of practice
- Bone and Joint Decade

**European Union Matters Working Group**

- Migration questionnaire
- Migration statistics
- The New Directive on Recognition of Professional Qualifications – latest development
- Conference/workshop on Networking/Common Platform

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- The Service Directive – latest development
- Enlargement of the EU - Networking
- Implementation of the Health Policy Statement
- Joint activity with the Professional Issues Working Group on prevention and promotion of healthy lifestyles
- European Health Forum (EHF)

### **ER-WCPT website**

A new draft design for the ER-WCPT website was presented to the Executive Committee. This new design will fulfil all the requests of the Region, including a visually impaired version. The Chairmen of the working groups informed the meeting of their wished changes on the content in their respective working groups' buttons.

### **Language Task Force**

A first meeting had taken place on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2004 in the ER-WCPT office in Brussels. The Executive Committee agreed the provisional results in principle with some detailed changes. They would be presented to the Task Force on their next meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> April for further discussions.

### **Second Congress on Physiotherapy Education**

The Chairman of the Education WG asked for approval of the Executive Committee to start planning a second Congress on Physiotherapy Education to be held in 2008. As was suggested in the conclusions of the last Congress, it had also been agreed by the Education WG to recommend that the Executive Committee consider the involvement of other European Educational Networks but keeping the ER-WCPT in the leadership of Congress.

The Executive Committee agreed the recommendation. It was decided that the Congress should be in the second half of the year 2008.

### **Patients Safety Conference**

Under the auspices of the Luxembourg EU Presidency and the European Commission, a conference on “**Patient Safety – Making it happen – The European perspective**” took place in Luxembourg, Building Jean Monnet, 4-5 April 2005. The objectives were to:

- Identify interests and challenges at EU level
- Share best practices and experiences
- Sustain and strengthen political momentum

The outcomes will be listed in the “Luxembourg Declaration on Patient Safety”.

Among the speakers at the Conference were:

- Luxembourg Minister of Health and Social Security, Mr. Di Bartolomeo
- EU Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection, Mr. Kyprianou
- Director VA National Centre for Patient Safety in the USA, Dr. Bagian

The General Secretary attended the conference on behalf the ER-WCPT.

### **Development of the new Directive on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications**

The EU WG had prepared a letter to inform the Member Organisations on the second reading of the Directive on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications

The EU WG had also prepared a letter to the EU Commission and the

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European Parliament Rapporteur with comments on the new text of the proposed Directive, suggesting the need for clarification and clearer text on some issues.

On 19 April, the European Parliament will vote in its Internal Market Committee on the text proposed and its amendments. The General Secretary met a civil server of the European Commission in charge of this Directive to get information about the opinion of the Commission on the text.

The view of the Commission is that the common position reflects overall the key elements of its initial proposal and of the amendments of the European Parliament as set out in its amended proposal. With regard to the provision of services, the Commission regrets that the common position does not further facilitate the conditions imposed on the service provider, but accepts the principle of control by the host Member State. The Commission finds that in view of the current level of administrative cooperation between the Member States, the common position strikes an acceptable balance between making the provision of services easier and enabling the host Member State to verify the services provided on its territory. The Commission therefore supports the common position adopted by the Council by qualified majority.

100 amendments have been presented to amend the Directive. Almost all of them are linked with the service directive and will influence the result of the service directive too. According to the proposed amendments, it seems clear that there will be a possibility for professional organisations at European level to establish Common Platforms. After the

result of the European Internal Market vote on 19 April, the General Secretary will have a meeting with the Commission Head of Unit to ask for information on the way to achieve a Common Platform within ER-WCPT.

Further information:

<http://www2.europarl.eu.int/oeil/file.jsp?id=220062>

### **Development of the Service Directive.**

The EU Working Group had prepared a letter to inform the Member Organisations about the content of the Service Directive. The group had also prepared a letter to the European institutions with comments from the ER-WCPT.

The Health care Professionals' Organisations had prepared a joint statement asking for special treatment for health professions with reference to the importance of the safety and quality services for the patients. The main point of the statement was that the European Union had to take care of its citizens-patients and the actual directive was not doing that.

The General Secretary met a civil server of the European Commission in charge of this Directive to present the comments from the ER-WCPT. The Commission is open and flexible to our position and supports a special treatment for health professionals.

The Commission presents two options:  
1) To take out health professionals from the Service Directive. In this case there will be two sub-options a) no regulation b) a health care services directive, but developed by DG Sanco.  
2) To keep the health professionals in the service directive but with a special treatment, not yet clarified.

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It seems clear that the result of the Recognition of Qualifications Directive will influence the result of the Service Directive.

Further information:

<http://www2.europarl.eu.int/oeil/file.jsp?id=240902>

### **EU Commission site of the lists of regulated professions and migration statistics**

The European Commission has published a new data base on its website on Migration statistics of regulated professions. The information is collected for two-year periods provided by the national authorities in each Member State.

The EU Working Group has reviewed the data base and found that some of the information seemed to be misleading and needed clarification. The Working Group has sent a letter to the Member Organisations informing them about the new data base and asking them to check the results for migrating physiotherapists in their countries. The ER-WCPT website will be linked to the data base.

The EU Working Group will summarize and interpret the results of the new data base. The analysis would cover aspects such as the recognition process (automatic, by test or after a period) denials of recognition and trends of migration. It is therefore important that the Member Organisations inform about any incorrect information they might discover.

Further information:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/internal\\_market/qualifications/regprof/index.cfm?lang=en](http://europa.eu.int/comm/internal_market/qualifications/regprof/index.cfm?lang=en)

### **Conference on Humor and Health**

The Fourth European Conference on Humor and Health was held on 11-13 April in Bled, Slovenia.

It was organised by the Slovenian Union for Health Promotion and Health Education under the auspices of the Minister of Health of Slovenia.

The main objectives of the conference were to boost scientific research on the links between humour and health and introduce the concept of humour into health promotion.

### **The new European healthcare agenda**

***Commissioner Kyprianou sets out EU healthcare priorities.***

Healthcare systems across Europe increasingly face the same challenges, such as how to respond to an ageing population, rising patient expectation and developments in medical science.

According to Commissioner Kyprianou, health policy-makers need to develop cooperation at EU level to help health systems work together. Speaking at the conference "Healthcare in Europe: is it getting better?" held in Brussels on 20 January, Mr Kyprianou outlined the Commission's priorities for developing cooperation over the coming years. These are:

- Cross-border healthcare purchasing and provision. This covers issues such as the financial impact and sustainability of cross-border healthcare, and the availability of information to patients concerning the quality, safety and continuity of their care, as well as patients' rights and responsibilities and data on the extent of cross-border healthcare.

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- Life-long learning for health professionals.
- Creation of centres of reference, e.g. for tackling rare diseases or other conditions requiring specialized care.
- A network to share and develop assessment methodologies to ensure sustainable health technology developments.
- Development of value added through IT services and networks.
- Extending health impact assessment to cover health systems.
- Spreading of best practices on patient safety.

Mr Kyprianou underlined that increased cooperation at European level can contribute to improving the quality and accessibility of healthcare in Europe, but it is only part of the solution. The other part concerns investment in healthcare within the Member States themselves.

### **Commission President sets agenda for the coming years**

***Jose Manuel Barroso, European Commission president, set out a five-year plan for Europe in which improved health and consumer confidence is essential to build sustainable competitiveness and growth.***

The Commission's work programme, adopted on 26 January, focuses on the importance of improving economic growth and employment within the European Union.

President Barroso outlined an agenda that seeks to create a more business-friendly environment, boost research and innovation, and modernise labour markets and social protection systems in Europe.

Linking health to sustainable growth, the Commission President underlines that the EU needs mechanisms in

place to respond rapidly to health crises and to improve the safety of its citizens.

New Health and Consumer Protection measures which the Commission plans to propose in 2005 include:

- A new health and consumer policy programme for 2007-2013;
- Measures for the control of avian influenza;
- Minimum standards for the protection on farm of all chickens kept for the production of meat in the EU;
- Rules for placing on the market of aquaculture animals;
- New rules on the control of agrichemicals such as pesticides.

### **New EU anti-smoking campaign launched**

***"HELP: For a Life Without Tobacco" is the new EU slogan promoting smoke-free lifestyles among young people.***

The European Commission has earmarked 72 million euro over four years for its new anti-tobacco campaign targeted mainly at adolescents and young adults (15 to 30 year olds).

"Every year, tobacco-related illnesses cost EU countries 100 billion euro and cause 650,000 deaths. Prevention and information campaigns like ours are an investment in a healthier and more prosperous future for our citizens," said Health and Consumer Protection Commissioner, Markos Kyprianou. "I want to see a major shift in our society, where being smoke-free becomes the norm and the smoke-addicted are a dwindling minority. If all EU countries followed the lead of Ireland, Italy and Malta and banned smoking in public places it would go a long way to achieving this," he added.

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The campaign logo: "HELP: For a Life Without Tobacco" encompasses three key messages: do not start; it is possible to stop; passive smoking is also dangerous. These messages will be communicated via TV and cinema advertising to be launched by the end of May in all 25 Member States. There will also be a road-show with a giant inflatable structure touring the capitals

The campaign website, [www.Help-eu.com](http://www.Help-eu.com), which is due to go online on 1st May, will give information to all citizens of the European Union in their own language, and is aiming to become a point of contact for young people, as specific contents will be developed for them.

For your Information:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph\\_determinants/life\\_style/Tobacco/help\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_determinants/life_style/Tobacco/help_en.htm)

and creating events with the help of local public health bodies and NGOs.

**Please notice  
ER – WCPT office has moved  
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