



EUROPE REGION

World Confederation  
for Physical Therapy

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# **Report of the Professional Issues Working Group of the ER-WCPT for the period 2010-2012**

**ADOPTED at the  
General Meeting 17-19 May 2012  
St. Julians, Malta**

## REPORT OF THE PROFESSIONAL ISSUES WORKING GROUP OF THE ER-WCPT FOR THE PERIOD 2010-2012

### European Region of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy (WCPT) Professional Issues WG

#### Introduction:

The main objective of this Report is to give a short general overview of the activities of the Professional Issues Working Group of the European Region of the WCPT within the period from May 2010 until May 2012.

As Chairman of the PI Working Group, I would like to thank all members of the group for their work in preparation for this General Meeting and their presentations.

The main objectives of the Professional Issues Working Group have been:

- Guideline development and dissemination and the maintenance of the data base
- Complete the *Keep Active Keep Healthy* document, now entitled *Briefing paper –Active and healthy, the role of Physiotherapists in Physical Activity*
- Work with the Education Matters WG on CPD, registration, re-registration and re-certification
- Promote and map the take up of Direct Access and Self Referral programmes by MOs
- Promote the role and position of Physiotherapists in Europe

#### Members

After the General Meeting in May 2010 the following members were appointed to serve on the Professional Issues Working Group by the Executive Committee.

- Sarah Bazin, Chairman of the European Region of WCPT as Chairman of the Professional Issues Working Group, United Kingdom
- Karen Langvad Denmark
- Hille Maas Estonia
- Ulrike Steinecke Germany
- Esther-Mary D'Arcy Ireland
- Philip van der Wees Netherlands (September 2010 - July 2011)
- Victorine Graaf-Peters Netherlands (July 2011 – May 2012)
- Javier Gonzalez Iglesias Spain

The General Secretary of the European Region of the WCPT, David Gorría, worked with the group and attended all the meetings.

### **Terms of reference and activities**

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The Professional Issues Working Group recommended the following actions for the period 2010 – 2012 that were approved by the General Meeting in Berlin 2010.

Members of the Working Group agreed to lead on specific activities as follows:

1. **Clinical Guidelines and Multidisciplinary Guidelines:** (Philip van der Wees, Karen Langvad and Victorine Graaf-Peters)
  - To monitor and promote procedures for adopting existing foreign guidelines –
  - To promote further collaboration in Clinical Guidelines development, especially in collecting the evidence.
  - To maintain involvement with GIN
  - To keep the clinical and multidisciplinary guidelines database updated The WG has started the preparation of a 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference on Clinical Guidelines in 2014
2. Follow up the activities on Continuous Professional Development within the Member Organisations, and continue to monitor developments in re-registration, re-certification in collaboration with the Education Matters Working Group. (Hille Maas)
3. To continue promoting the role and position of the physiotherapists in Europe. (Karen Langvad and Ulrike Steinecke)
4. To promote and update the *Active and Healthy, the role of the Physical Therapist in Physical Activity* document and stress the value of the physiotherapists involvement in health promotion and disease prevention. (Esther-Mary d'Arcy)
5. To promote and map the implementation of self referral/direct access programmes by MOs within ER-WCPT (All WG members)
6. To develop links and explore collaboration with the European Forum for Primary Care and Fit to Work Europe (Sarah Bazin)

7. To explore the relationship and involvement of ER-WCPT MOs with Trade Unions (Sarah Bazin and Esther-Mary d'Arcy)
8. To link with Insurances companies (Sarah Bazin and Esther-Mary d'Arcy)
9. To collaborate with the EU WG on responses to EU Legislation related to the profession of physiotherapy and the users of its services (All WG members)
10. To collaborate with the Education WG to create the “Promoting research and research careers within physiotherapy in Europe. (Briefing paper)” (All WG members)
11. ER-WCPT and WCPT Core Standards (Esther-Mary d'Arcy)

## Meetings

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In the years 2010 - 2012, the Working Group held four meetings:

- 5 – 7 October 2010 in Warwick, The U.K.
- 4 – 6 February 2011 in Dublin, Ireland
- 9 – 10 September 2011 in St. Julians, Malta (Joint meeting of the three ER-WCPT WGs)
- 6 – 8 January 2012 in Copenhagen, Denmark

## Activities for the period 2010 - 2012

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Clinical Guidelines and Multidisciplinary Guidelines:

- To monitor and promote procedures for adopting existing foreign guidelines – The WG has gathered information, to be used by the MOs. As an example, the Danish Association with the Adaption Group for guidelines of GIN, initiative to adapt incontinence guidelines from KNGF
- To promote further collaboration in Clinical Guidelines development, especially in collecting the evidence. – Two projects have been started in collaboration with 18 ER-WCPT MOs to develop a **European guideline for physiotherapy in Parkinson's disease and European Neurorehabilitation Guidelines for Stroke using the Dutch “Guideline for Physical Therapy in patients with Stroke” as a template.**

**A European guideline for physiotherapy in Parkinson's disease** was an initiative of the Parkinson guideline development group of the Royal Dutch Society for Physical Therapy, and supported by the Association for Physiotherapists in Parkinson's Disease Europe (APPDE) and the ER-WCPT. Newsletters had been circulated among the MOs and the 3<sup>rd</sup> will be in March 2012. Meetings of the Steering Group had taken place. Information around publications and congresses would be prepared by March – June 2012. A Dutch Adaption would be prepared by April – August 2012 and a MDS collaboration and referral criteria by September 2012

- To maintain involvement with GIN: At the 7<sup>th</sup> International G-I-N Conference, held in Chicago, EE.UU, in August 2010. Philip van der Wees was elected as new Chairman of G-I-N. He was the first non medic to become a board member of G-I-N in 2009 and then Chairman in 2010. At the G-I-N conference in Seoul, August 2011 he was re-elected as Chairman for 2012.
- Philip Van der Wees was selected for a Harkness Fellowship 2011-2012. This fellowship is provided by the Commonwealth Fund for mid-career health services researchers to spend a year in the United States as Harkness fellow in Health Care Policy and Practice. Fellows work with leading US experts to conduct a research study that addresses a critical issue on the health policy agenda in both the US and their home country. Worldwide 14 candidates are selected each year from eight countries: UK, Germany, Netherlands, Switzerland, Norway, Australia, New Zealand and Canada). Due to this fellowship, he was not be able to attend the last two meetings for the period 2010 – 2012 and was replaced by another KNGF expert on Clinical Guidelines, Victorine Graaf-Peters.
- To keep the clinical and multidisciplinary guidelines database updated – An update was prepared by the WG in 2011 and posted on the ER-WCPT website. A second update will be made after the 2012 GM.
- The WG has started the preparation of a 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference on Clinical Guidelines in 2014. The conference would have the same structure as previously: morning session open and afternoon session only for ER-WCPT delegates. The conference would focus on implementation.

Follow up the activities on Continuous Professional Development within the Member Organisations, and continue to monitor developments in re-registration, re-certification in collaboration with the Education Matters Working Group.

- Information has been collected through a questionnaire from the MOs and will be presented at the 2012 GM in a report with recommendations for further work by Education WG colleagues.

To continue promoting the role and position of the physiotherapists in Europe

- The WG has developed a document entitled *Promoting the role and position of Physiotherapists in the ER-WCPT* to be used by the MOs. The document will be presented at the 2012 GM for discussion. It would be a live document to be continuously updated as appropriate during the next WG period  
Information about how to do strategic communication has been added to the document.

To promote and update the Active and Healthy, the role of the Physiotherapist in Physical Activity document and stress the value of the physiotherapists involvement in health promotion and disease prevention.

- This document was discussed by the three WGs at the joint meeting in Malta and also circulated among the MOs for comments in December 2011. The final version will be presented at the 2012 GM.

To promote and map the implementation of self referral/direct access programmes by MOs within ER-WCPT

- A Report on Direct Access – Patient self-referral within the ER-WCPT has been published with a presentation on the ER-WCPT website. The report and its presentation are based on the Direct Access survey carried out by Emma Stokes and Tracy Bury after the ER-WCPT Workshop on Direct Access (Berlin 2010).

To develop links and explore collaboration with the European Forum for Primary Care and Fit to Work Europe

- Collaboration with both organisations has been established
- The Chairman attended and made a presentation at the Third Annual Fit for Work Europe conference held on 19 October 2011 in Brussels, Belgium. The General Secretary also attended.
- The Fit for Work Europe team has invited the development of a blog post to be published on their website and signposted on their Twitter account entitled: *The role of physiotherapists in helping labour retention of MSD sufferers.*

- The EFPC has also invited abstract submission for their next annual conference.

#### To explore the relationship and involvement of ER-WCPT MOs with Trade Unions

- Information has been collected through a questionnaire from the MOs and will be presented at the 2012 GM in a report with recommendations for further work

#### To link with Insurances companies

- Information has been collected through a questionnaire from the MOs and will be presented at the 2012 GM in a report with recommendations for further work

#### To collaborate with the EU WG on responses to EU Legislation related to the profession of physiotherapy and the users of its services

- The WG has submitted comments in EU Directives such as the Professional Qualifications Directive (Directive 2005/36/EC)

#### To collaborate with the Education WG to create the “Promoting research and research careers within physiotherapy in Europe. (Briefing paper)”

- The WG has followed up the document and presented comments at the Joint meeting of the WGs in Malta.

#### ER-WCPT and WCPT Core Standards

- The WG has reviewed the ER-WCPT Core Standards of Physiotherapy practice versus the WCPT Standards of Physiotherapy Practice.

#### Closing remarks

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During the two-year period 2010 – 2012 the Professional Issues Working Group has completed the remit agreed at the General Meeting in 2010.

Many of the activities of the Professional Working Group are ongoing and will be recommended to be continued for the next two years period.

As chairman I would like to express my sincere thanks to the working group members for their active participation in the work of the group, and as well as to the ER-WCPT Secretary David Gorria for his active support.

#### **Sarah Bazin**

Chairman of the Professional Issues Working Group of the European Region of the WCPT