



EUROPEAN REGION

World Confederation
for Physical Therapy

**Report of the
EU Matters
Working Group
of the ER-WCPT
for the period
2008-2010
to the General
Meeting 2010**

ADOPTED at the
General Meeting 27-29 May 2010
Berlin, Germany

REPORT OF THE EU MATTERS WORKING GROUP OF THE ER-WCPT FOR THE PERIOD 2008-2010 TO THE GENERAL MEETING 2010

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

Introduction

The main objectives of the EU Matters Working Group were to maintain a high standard; to be a permanent observatory for new regulations and issues related to the physiotherapy profession within the European Region of WCPT (ER-WCPT) and to continue cooperation with the European Union authorities.

Members

The members of the EU Matters WG appointed in May 2008:

- Roland Craps, Second Vice Chairman of the European Region of WCPT as Chairman of the EU Matters WG.
- Emma Stokes, (Ireland)
- John Xerri de Caro, (Malta)
- Ana Dimovska Boljevic, (Montenegro)
- Hans Krijgsman, (the Netherlands)
- Elisabeth (Liz) Carrington, (the UK)

The General Secretary of the Europe Region of the WCPT worked with the group and attended all its meetings. Residing in the same country as the chairman of the EU Matters WG was an advantage for communication and for attending other meetings organised in Brussels.

Terms of Reference and activities

The EU Matters WG (2006 – 2008) recommended the following activities for the period 2008 – 2010 that were approved by the General Meeting in Athens in 2008. Responsibilities were assigned as follows:

1.1. Migration Issues

- 1.1. Continue following up the implementation of the Directive on Recognition of Professional qualifications.

Liz Carrington and Emma Stokes

- 1.2. Continue following up the implementation of the Migration Policy at national level.
Liz Carrington, Ana Dimovska and John Xerri de Caro
- 1.3. Continue providing Migration statistics for physiotherapists in the EU.
Liz Carrington, Roland Craps, John Xerri de Caro and David Gorria
- 1.4. Continue facilitating migration for physiotherapists.
David Gorria and Roland Craps

1.2. Enlargement of the EU

- 2.1. Continue providing general information about the enlargement of the EU.
Hans Krijgsman and WG members
- 2.2. Continue following up and assisting Member Organizations on their specific needs in relation to the EU accession.
Hans Krijgsman and WG members
- 2.3. Encourage networking/twinning among Member Organizations.
Hans Krijgsman and WG members
- 2.4. Continue mapping the prospective EU countries if they are not in the WCPT and be proactive in contacting and giving information to their physiotherapy associations.
Hans Krijgsman and WG members

1.3. Health issues in the EU

- 3.1. Continue being proactive in the field of health issues in the EU.
Hans Krijgsman and Roland Craps
- 3.2. Continue following up the implementation of the Health Policy Statement of the European Region of WCPT.
Liz Carrington
- 3.3. Continue liaison with other health professionals and organizations at EU level.
David Gorria

1.4. Legislation and Directives in the EU

- 4.1. Continue monitoring EU Legislation development relevant to the Physiotherapy profession and being proactive in that field.
Ana Dimovska and David Gorria
- 4.2. Encourage MOs to be proactive at national level and make contact with their authorities and European Parliament members related to documents for adoption at EU level that have implications for the physiotherapy profession.

Ana Dimovska and David Gorria

- 4.3. Continue monitoring the EU Cross Border Health Care Directive (Health Service Directive).

Liz Carrington and Roland Craps

Meetings

The EU Matters WG held 4 meetings over the period 2008 -2010:

- 16-18 October 2008 in Brussels, Belgium.
The venue was the new secretariat of the ER-WCPT.
- 20 - 21 February 2009 in Brussels, Belgium.
- 11 - 12 September 2009 in St.Julians, Malta.
- 29 - 30 January 2010 in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

Activities

1. Migration issues

1.1. Continue following up of the implementation of the Directive 2005/36/EC on Recognition of Professional Qualifications

Liz Carrington and Emma Stokes

Directive on Recognition of Professional Qualifications

The EU Matters WG prepared a document presenting specific information for physiotherapists based on the Directive on Recognition of Professional Qualifications. It explained the parts/actions of the Directive that shall be done (mandatory) or may be done (choice) by the National Authorities to implement the Directive at national level. Attention was drawn to the new arrangements for temporary and occasional workers. The document aimed to assist Member Organisations when discussing the Directive and their statutory instrument with Regulatory Authorities. The document was posted on the ER-WCPT website on 15 May 2009.

<http://www.physio-europe.org/index.php?action=41>

Flow Chart

A flow chart on Migration was also developed for the Member Organisations summarising the process of gaining registration through the Competent Authority according to the Directive 2005/36/EC. This flow chart would facilitate migration of

physiotherapists in Member Organisations. The flow chart was developed and published on the website of the ER-WCPT as an annexe to the above document. Good comments were received by the Member Organisations.

Internal Market Information Project (IMI)

Introduction

As reported at the 2088 GM, during the period 2006-2008 the ER-WCPT started collaboration with the EU Commission in the development of the Internal Market Information (IMI) Project related to the Recognition of Professional Qualifications. The ER-WCPT was one of the four professions that participated in the project. The other professions were medical doctors, dentists and accountants.

The IMI system has been developed to improve communication between Member State administrators. It is an electronic tool that provides a system for the exchange of information so that Member States can engage in more effective day-to-day co-operation in the implementation of the Internal Market legislation. IMI is meant to help overcome barriers such as different administrative and working cultures, different languages and a lack of clearly identified partners in other Member States. Its aim is to increase efficiency and effectiveness in day-to-day co-operation between Member States.

IMI and the Physiotherapy Profession

At the invitation of the EU Commission the ER-WCPT was involved in the set up phase of the IMI project. It is now being used to help Competent Authorities with the process of recognition of professional qualifications under Directive (2005/36/EC).

The IMI system assists competent authorities to:

- exchange information electronically in a secure and structured manner
- identify the relevant contact in other Member States using the multilingual search function
- communicate with each other in a fast and efficient way
- request information and receive replies in their own language

Widening of Use of the IMI

IMI is designed as a general system to support multiple areas of internal market legislation and it is envisaged that its use will be expanded to support further legislative areas in the future.

In the summer of 2008, the Commission undertook a series of steps to gather feedback from Member States and to evaluate the pilot project. The results of this exercise were presented in the Commission Staff Working Document "Implementation of the Internal Market Information System (IMI): report on the Professional Qualifications Directive pilot project" (SEC(2008) 2743) which accompanied the Commission Communication "Delivering the benefits of the single market through enhanced administrative cooperation. Progress report on the Internal Market Information System (IMI)" (COM (2008) 703 final)

The fully operational version of IMI for the Professional Qualifications Directive was released immediately after the "IMI Training and Awareness-Raising Days", to be held in Brussels on November 25 and 26, 2008 (References: http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/imi-net/index_en.html , http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/imi-net/training_en.html and http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/imi-net/imi_awareness_days_en.html)

Since December 2009, IMI is also used to support the administrative cooperation provisions of the Services Directive (2006/123/EC).

Reference: http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/imi-net/index_en.html

IMI Information Resources

ER-WCPT Member Organisations are encouraged to ensure that their Competent Authorities are aware of the resources available on the IMI website:

- New eight page brochure (open access)
- Training scheme (Competent Authorities – password protected)
- Video

Reference: http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/imi-net/index_en.html

(References last visited on 14 March 2010)

The EC recommended to the EU Matters WG to review the mentioned above reports and to inform the MOs about them. It was also agreed to recommend to the MOs that they contact their national authorities and report back to the ER-WCPT about their authorities' experiences related to the IMI project.

Latest information about the IMI project was published on the ER-WCPT website on February 2010.

<http://www.physio-europe.org/index.php?action=139>

Common Platform

A briefing paper on this issue was developed by the WG and posted on the ER-WCPT website.

<http://www.physio-europe.org/index.php?action=140>

Review of the Migration Policy Statement

The Migration Policy Statement (MPS) was reviewed and sent to the Member Organisations for their comments in January 2010. All the answers received were positive. The updated Migration Policy Statement will be presented to the ER-WCPT MOs during the 2010 GM for its approval

1.2. Continue following up the implementation of the Migration Policy at national level

Liz Carrington, Ana Dimovska and John Xerri de Caro

The EU Matters WG agreed to review the implementation of Migration Policy and to present a series of focused case studies describing the experiences of five Member Organisations in adopting the MPS. These were disseminated to the Member Organisations to share their experiences.

Anna Dimovska and John Xerri de Caro prepared two articles about these case studies based on the responses from Poland and Portugal. The articles were published in the ER-WCPT newsletter nr.24 of 24 April 2009.

The EU Matters WG also prepared a presentation to assist Member Organisations who had not implemented the MPS to assess ways of implementing the document and address particular barriers that they may have identified in the implementation of the MPS at their national level. The presentation was based on the case studies

received from Denmark, Portugal, Poland, and the UK on how they adopted the ER-WCPT Migration Policy Statement (MPS).

1.3. Continue providing Migration statistics for physiotherapists in the EU

Liz Carrington, John Xerri de Caro, Roland Craps and David Gorria

The EU Matters WG reviewed the statistics published on the European Commission website on the migration of physiotherapists between EU, EEA countries and Switzerland and decided to present the information visually in bar charts based on the positive recognition of applications for registration in EU, EEA countries and Switzerland. This information may be of use to the Member Organisations in identifying trends in the movement of physiotherapists. A draft diagram was presented and approved at the WG meeting in Amsterdam on 29 January 2010.

The EU Matters WG agreed at this meeting to prepare a presentation for the 2010 General Meeting relating to the EU Commission's website statistics on physiotherapists to

- help Member Organisations to access and interpret the data relating to their countries and assess its value
- encourage Member Organisations to take responsibility for contacting their national authorities to ensure the statistics on physiotherapy are accurate and complete

It was also noted by the EU Matters WG that under the heading 'physiotherapist', data had been included for health professionals practicing under other titles in Italy, the Netherlands and Slovakia. It was agreed that this matter should be followed up because it could cause confusion.

1.4 Continue to facilitate migration for physiotherapists

David Gorria and Roland Craps

Member Organisations were asked to update their Migration information as posted on the ER-WCPT website. The Member Organisations were instructed to include an optional heading on unemployment rates. 23 Member Organisations have updated their information on migration procedures in 2009. Member Organisations were also invited to post information about the requirements for practicing the profession or establishing a private practice, in addition to obtaining registration. The rationale was

that there should be a clear distinction between the recognition of qualifications and the requirements for registration/regulation to practice.

2. Enlargement of the EU

2.1. Continue providing general information about the enlargement of the EU

Hans Krijgsman and WG members

Mapping EU Enlargement (Liz Carrington)

EU Accession and Candidate Countries and ER-WCPT Membership as on
(28/01/2010) http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/countries/index_en.htm

EU Candidate Countries	Croatia 2005 accession in progress Macedonia 2005 candidate status, accession negotiations not started Turkey 2005 accession in progress
Application for Membership	Iceland 2009
Potential Candidate Countries	Albania Bosnia and Herzegovina Kosovo Montenegro Serbia
EEA Countries with ER-WCPT membership	Iceland Liechtenstein Norway
EU Country – not a member of WCPT/ER-WCPT	Slovakia
Non EU Countries with ER-WCPT Membership	Israel Jordan Lebanon Syria Switzerland (treated as EU for the purposes of recognition of qualifications under Directive 2005/36/EC)

2.2. Continue following up and assisting Member Organizations with their specific needs in relation to EU accession

2.3. Encourage networking/twinning among Member Organizations

2.4. Continue mapping the prospective EU countries if they are not in the WCPT and be proactive in contacting and giving information to their physiotherapy associations

Hans Krijgsman and WG members

In order to fulfil the mandate of the 2008 GM on Enlargement issues the EU Matters WG agreed to develop an **Information tool** for all the MOs with the following aims:

- To increase the visibility of member benefits for existing MO's
- To list the member benefits for potentially new MOs
- To enhance collaboration with the WCPT

The skeleton of the info tool will be presented at the 2010 GM for discussion

3. Health issues in the EU

3.1. Continue being proactive in the field of health issues in the EU

Hans Krijgsman and Roland Craps

The EU Matters WG informed MOs about developments in EU Health Policies relevant to Physiotherapy practice. The purpose was to enable MOs to engage with Authorities in shaping national Health Policy to include Physiotherapy.

3.2. Continue following up the implementation of the Health Policy Statement of the European Region of WCPT

Liz Carrington

The awareness must be raised of the competence of the profession in making a contribution to the Public Health agenda. At this point it was noted that the PI WG was developing a guide / tool for Physiotherapists on health promotion and disease prevention adding the EU Health Strategy on public health and health prevention. The EU Matters WG agreed to collaborate and contribute to its development.

Accordingly, the document from the PI WG named "*Keep Active – Keep Healthy*" was presented to the EU Matters WG members. This document would be discussed at the 2010 GM under the Professional Issues WG discussion.

The EU Matters WG agreed that a revision of the Health Policy Statement would not be necessary and decided to follow up the document of the PI WG about the role of physiotherapists in Public Health, health promotion and prevention, since it would be more useful for the MOs and individual physiotherapists.

DG Health and Consumers of the European Commission launched a website for health promotion videos produced in Europe. The aim was 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. The EU Matters WG agreed to contact Member Organisations and ask them to publish their material, if available, on the above mentioned website. The EC would also evaluate the results of the two EU Projects, Pain in the Back and Staying Clean and post them on the same website.

http://ec.europa.eu/health-eu/videos/index_en.htm

3.3. Continue liaison with other health professionals and organizations at EU level

David Gorria and Roland Craps

The ER-WCPT has continued to liaise with other health professionals and organisations at EU level such as the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) and the European Health Forum (EHF).

Membership in European Health Forum (EHF)

Meetings of the EHF are held twice a year. The General Secretary and Roland Craps attended the meetings during this period.

- 10 December 2008: EHF meeting
- 11 December 2008: Open Health Forum
- 21 January 2009: EHF meeting
- 14 May 2009: EHF meeting
- 16 October 2009: EHF meeting, also attended by Ana Dimovska
- 20 May 2010 EHF meeting

A document outlining the benefits / added value of the memberships and the characteristics of EHF and EPHA as strategic partners was prepared and posted on the ER-WCPT website on 24 September 2009. The document aimed to enhance the

understanding of Member Organisations about ER-WCPT's strategic alliances and improve the understanding of the benefits of these alliances to European Physiotherapy.

Current Member Organisations of the EU Health Policy Forum which were interested to remain members of the group needed to re-apply. The EU matters working group prepared the renewal of the membership of the EU Health Forum. The document was reviewed by the EC and sent on 15 October 2009.

The EU Matters WG, on behalf of the ER-WCPT, submitted comments to the EU Commission's consultations on

- Directive on Patient Rights in Cross Border Health Care (1 December 2008).
- Green Paper: Workforce for Health (sent 30 March 2009)
- Impact on the Economic Crisis (sent 16 June 2009)
- Gender Bias and inequality (sent 19 November 2009)
- EU Role in Global Health
- Comments to the proposal of the EHF Open letter to President Barroso (sent 27 December 2009).

4. Legislation and Directives in the EU.

4.1. Continue monitoring EU Legislation development relevant to the Physiotherapy profession and being proactive in that field.

Ana Dimovska and David Gorria

CEN (Comité Européen de Normalisation or European Committee for Standardization)

The EU Matters WG discussed the possibilities of transposing the ER-WCPT Physiotherapy Service Standards into a CEN Workshop Agreement, under the CEN Umbrella.

Comments were sent to the Executive Committee for evaluation.

4.2. Encourage MOs to be proactive at national level and make contact with their authorities and European Parliament members related to documents for adoption at EU level that have implications for the physiotherapy profession and

4.3. Continue monitoring the Directive on Patient Rights in Cross Border Health Care (Health Service Directive) – COM (2008) 414 final

Liz Carrington, Roland Craps, Ana Dimovska and David Gorria

A second proposal for a Directive on Patient Rights in Cross Border Health Care had been developed by the EU Commission. The EU Matters WG reviewed the content of the proposal and has sent comments to the EU institutions on the 1st December 2008.

A conference on the Directive on Patient Rights in Cross Border Health Care organised by the Kent Council took place in Brussels on 9 December 2008. The Secretary-General and the EU Matters WG Chairman gave a presentation at that conference with representatives from the EU Commission and Parliament, and with national authorities. David Gorria was the chairman of the meeting and Roland Craps presented the 'View from the MOs of the Netherlands, Malta and Belgium'.

Further information: <http://www.physio-europe.org/index.php?action=141>

On 31 March 2009, the European Parliament Committee for Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) finally adopted the rapporteur, John Bowis' (EPP-ED), Report on the proposed Directive on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare.

The final report, including all the opinions of other Committees, was voted on in the European Parliament Plenary on 23 April 2009.

Building on the work done under the French and Czech presidencies, the Swedish Presidency has tabled four compromise texts on this file. The last one was examined by the Permanent Representatives Committee at their meeting on 25 November 2009. In their note to the Council, the Permanent Representatives Committee pointed out that: "certain issues remain unresolved and the Council is, therefore, invited to examine the major outstanding questions, including the scope of the Directive and the definition of the Member State of affiliation, with a view to reaching a political agreement on a common position.

On 1 December 2009, the EPSCO (Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council) discussed the file, but failed to reach an agreement. At the European Parliament level, rapporteur Françoise Grossetête MEP regretted that the negotiations failed at the Council level.

The EU Matters working group was invited to follow up the further developments of this Directive.

The EU Matters WG has also followed other EU legislation development that might be relevant to the physiotherapy profession.

Specific activities

Civil Society role in European Integration

On 16 January 2009, the General Secretary was invited by the EU Commission to give a presentation about the role of Civil Society in European Integration. 'Creation of a sustainable triangle relationship: Civil society, the EU and national governments – A case example: The European Region of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy' - under the study tour on Health Challenges in Europe, a study tour bringing together representatives of civil society from the Western Balkans countries and Turkey.

Projects Presentation Strasbourg

On 22 and 23 April 2009, the EU Matters WG Chairman participated in the presentation of the results of the two EU funded physiotherapy projects 'Staying Clean' and 'Pain in the Back' at the European Parliament, in Strasbourg, France. <http://www.stayingclean.eu/project.html> ;
<http://www.painintheback.eu/project.html>

Movement for Health, Malta

On 13 September 2009, the EU Matters WG participated in the launch of the Movement for Health Campaign of the Maltese Association of Physiotherapists (MAP) and met with John Dalli, now head of DG Sanco.

Website

A new EU Matters button was created on the website on 24 September 2009.
<http://www.physio-europe.org/index.php?action=138>

50th Anniversary Celebration of the Italian Association, AIFI

On 8-9 November 2009, the EU Matters WG chairman was invited by AIFI, the Italian PT Association, in Rome at the celebration and congress of the 50th anniversary of the Association.

eHealth

In order to inform the Member Organisations about e-Health developments at European level the following documents were collected from the EU Commission:

- e-Health in Action: Good Practice in European Countries (2009)
- Semantic Interoperability for Better Health and Safer Healthcare (2009)
<http://www.physio-europe.org/index.php?action=152>

Closing remarks

The priority tasks of the EU Working Group in the period 2008 - 2010 were the intensive consultations on the Cross Border Health Care Directive; the exploration of the options for establishing a Common Platform for physiotherapists at European level and the active participation in the consultation process of the EU health strategy 2008 – 2013.

Some of the activities of the Working Group are considered to be ongoing and the EU Matters WG recommends these to be followed up in the next two year period.

As a new elected member of the EC, it has been an honour and also a challenge to act as the Chairman of the EU Working Group. This task could only succeed with the support and expertise of my colleagues. As Chairman of the group, I express my sincere thanks to the Working Group members, the General Secretary and the members of the EC for their contribution and good work.

Roland Craps

Chairman of the EU Matters Working Group of the European Region of the WCPT