



NEWSLETTER

Elections at the 2014 General Meeting of the European Region of the WCPT

The following candidates were elected by the delegates at the 9th General Meeting of the ER-WCPT held on 8 - 10 May 2014, in Copenhagen, Denmark:

- **Chairman of the ER-WCPT** – Sarah Bazin, U.K.
- **1st Vice Chairman of the ER-WCPT** – Roland Craps, Belgium (elected in 2012)
- **2nd Vice Chairman of the ER-WCPT** – Sonia Souto, Spain (elected in 2012)
- **Treasurer** – Gerhard Eder, Austria
- **Regional Representative** – John Xerri de Caro, Mala (starting in 2015)
- **1st Alternate Member** – Maarit Keskinen, Finland
- **Regional Alternate** – Sebastian Zdunski, Poland

Elected Auditors for the 2016 GM – Ireland and Sweden

General Meeting of the European Region of the WCPT in 2014

The Executive Committee of the European Region of the WCPT is pleased to announce that the next General Meeting of the European Region in 2016 will be held in Limassol, Cyprus on 21 – 23 April 2016 and hosted by the Cyprus Association of Physiotherapists. A workshop for ER-WCPT delegates will also take place, most probably, at the same venue the day prior to the GM, on 20 April 2016.

Working Groups Members 2014 - 2016

The Executive Committee is pleased to present the chosen members for the ER-WCPT working groups for the period 2014 – 2016. The selection was made recognising the need for membership continuity and the candidate's skills. All the Member Organisations who nominated candidates are thanked by the Executive Committee for encouraging their participation in the further development of Physiotherapy.

Education Matters Working Group

Sonia Souto – Chairman

Silke Gruber	Austria
Camilla Wikström-Grotell	Finland
Erwin Scherfer	Germany
Helen French	Ireland
Henri Kiers	Netherlands
Charlotte Häger Ross	Sweden
Helena Johnson	UK

Professional Issues Working Group

Sarah Bazin – Chairman

Nicole Muzar	Austria
Lia Charalambous	Cyprus
Esther Mary D'Arcy	Ireland
Nirit Rotem	Israel
Marie-Paule Anzia-	Luxembourg
Roland Paillex	Switzerland

EU Matters Working Group

Roland Craps – Chairman

Silvia Meriaux	Austria
Elisa Pelosin	Italia
Maria Busuttil	Malta
Karie Bente Sorlie	Norway
Natalie Beswetherick	U.K.

ER-WCPT Foundation Working Group

Roland Craps – Chairman

Erwin Scherfer	Germany – Education WG
Henri Kiers	Netherlands – Education WG
Esther-Mary D'Arcy	Ireland – Professional Issues WG
Maria Busuttil	Malta – EU Matters WG
Gillian Yeowell	UK - Expert



Summary of the Executive Committee Meeting in Brussels, Belgium on 27 - 28 June 2014

After the 9th General Meeting of the European Region, which took place in May 2014 in Copenhagen, the last Executive Committee Meeting of the European Region focused primarily on the feedback from the General Meeting, on future activities for the period 2014 – 2016, and the appointment of the members to the four working groups for this period.

The meeting also discussed the next regional event; the 4th Education Congress on Physiotherapy Education in November 2016, the latest developments related to the reviewed Directive on Recognition of Professional Qualifications and (ESCO) European Skills Competences and Occupations. The EC also discussed about the invitations received from the MOs and requests for support.

The work programme for the period 2014 – 2016 of the working groups as recommended by the 2014 GM to achieve the regional strategic objectives was reviewed by the Executive Committee and agreed as follows:

Education Matters WG

1. To list and describe the expected minimum outcome competences of occupations within the field of Physiotherapy in relation to the European Skills Competences and Occupations (ESCO) classification system (SO1-4).
2. To further develop the European vision for CPD including Specialisation, in conjunction with the PI WG (SO2, So3).
3. To monitor Bachelor, Master and PhD programmes in Physiotherapy within the ER-WCPT and present recommendations to the MOs (So3).
4. To monitor the quality assurance procedures in physiotherapy education and related topics (So3).
5. To monitor the ranking process within Higher Education at national and international levels and consider formulating an introduction to a critical appraisal of the ranking system and procedures (So3).
6. To keep updated the information about education and related topics displayed at the webpage of ER-WCPT (So3).
7. To explore the relevant contents to be included in Section 6 of the Diploma Supplement, that may contribute to facilitate mobility and employability of new physiotherapy graduates present recommendations to the Higher Education Institutions (SO3, So4).
8. To collaborate with the EU WG in the modernisation of the Directive for professional Qualifications 2005/36/EU (SO4).
9. To take relevant initiatives in relation to the European Foundation for Physiotherapy and Physical Activity (EFPPA) of the ER-WCPT and support related actions and projects (SO3, So4).
10. To contribute to the completion of the 4th European Congress on Physiotherapy Education to take place in 2016 (SO1-4).
11. To prepare the organisation of the 5th European Congress on Physiotherapy Education to take place in 2020 (SO1-4).
12. To continue facilitating closer links and cooperation with ENPHE and other relevant entities related with physiotherapy education (So3).
13. To do a mapping of the physiotherapy scope of practice in the different MOs of the ER-WCPT.

The first Education Matters WG meeting for the period 2014 - 2016 will take place on 2 – 3 October 2014 in Bucharest, Romania. WGs members would also participate with presentations in the Romanian Association congress on 3 – 4 October 2014.

Professional Issues WG

Active Points (1 – 5)

1. Clinical Guidelines and Multidisciplinary Guidelines:
 - To continue collaboration in Clinical Guideline development, collecting the evidence, dissemination and implementation – GM Discussion Session Recommendation on how MOs become involved and cooperate in Guidelines development, dissemination and implementation.
 - To maintain involvement with GIN and its Allied Health Professionals Group
 - To consider further the need for holding a 3rd Conference on Clinical Guidelines. Focus on implementation; this may be organised with other health professionals, patient's organisations and legislators.
 - To keep the clinical and multidisciplinary guidelines database updated every year



- To look for EU funding for further development of European Guidelines.
- 2. Promote Physiotherapy in the European Region.
 - To maintain and update the document Promoting Physiotherapy in the European Region and to make it accessible to MOs. To continue to provide material on Evidence Based good Practice promotion statements
 - To further explore physiotherapy interventions versus operative techniques in relation to the evidence base.
- 3. Promote the role of Physiotherapists as:
 - First contact practitioners / Direct Access / Self Referral
 - Independent prescribers
 - Advanced Practitioners
 - To explore the feasibility of a conference on this topic in 2017
- 4. To maintain, update and promote the Briefing paper - Active and Healthy, the role of the Physical Therapist in Physical Activity and emphasise the value of the physiotherapists' involvement in health promotion and disease prevention.
 - EU Platform for Physical Activity collaboration.
- 5. To follow developments of the use of volunteer workers and their impact on health care employment - Observe Employment issues and their impact on the profession (in collaboration with the EU Matters WG)

Collaborate – Internal (6 – 10)

- 6. With the EU and Education Wgs
 - Explore the impact of Physiotherapy Assistants for patients
- 7. With the Education Matters WG
 - Follow up the Continuous Professional Development activity within the Member Organisations, in the work place and continue to monitor developments in re-registration, re-certification and develop a framework that all MO's can relate to.
- 8. With the EU Matters WG
 - on responses to EU legislation to the profession of Physiotherapy and the users of its services and
 - on activities of European Health organisations relevant to professional issues of the ER-WCPT
- 9. To be a point of contact for MOs regarding professional Issues
- 10. To harmonise the Glossary with WCPT Glossary with an addendum to include nomenclature specific to the European Region.

Collaborate – External (11 – 13)

- 11. With the European Forum for Primary Care
- 12. With the Fit for Work Europe Coalition
- 13. With European Umbrella Insurance Companies / Associations in the ER-WCPT MOs in relation to the provision of Physiotherapy

The first PI WG meeting for the period 2014 – 2016 would take place in Brussels, Belgium, on 26 – 27 September 2014.

EU Matters WG

- 1. **EU Legislation related to the profession of physiotherapy and the users of its services (So4)**
 - Directive on Recognition of Professional qualifications (priority) DIR EEU/55/2013
 - Support the development of the European Professional Card for physiotherapists – according to the 2014 GM mandate
 - Follow up national implementation – e.g. partial access



- Monitor the developments on the Common Training / Test Principles (in collaboration with the Education WG)
- Consult Member Organisations and provide responses to consultations from the EU Commission.

2. EU Policy related to the profession of physiotherapy and the users of its services (So4)

- Interpret the development of European Skills Competences and Occupations (ESCO) and disseminate the information to the Mos
- Monitoring the European Health Workforce and migration of Physiotherapist across Europe & EU Commission Health Work Force group
- Monitoring of health issues related to physiotherapy in the EU related to the 2020 Health Strategy & EU health third programme 2014 - 2020.

3. Inform and involve Member Organisations about developments (So4)

- Provide regular and brief updates to Member Organisation on developments regarding directives and legislation relevant to the physiotherapy profession.
- Update all relevant documents concerning EU matters on the ER-WCPT website.
- Investigated and disseminate good practices in the use of ICT that improves public health in Europe.

4. Develop policies and resources to support the MOs achieve ER-WCPT strategic objectives (SO1 – SO2 – SO3)

- Establish a coalition / network within the ER-WCPT on advocacy so that the member organisations can share experiences and create common strategies at national or European level (e.g. set up a European Network on Direct Access / Self Referral, based on the different health systems)

5. Contribute and engage with health professionals and organisations at EU level (SO4)

- EU HPF European Health Policy Forum
- EPHA European Public Health Alliance
- Other possible organisations or networks.
- Trade Union Umbrella organisations

The first EU Matters WG meeting for the period 2014 - 2016 would take place on 10 – 13 September 2014 in Malta.

Foundation WG

A meeting of the Foundation WG will take place in October – November 2014 to prepare next steps and lead related actions.

Italian presidency of the EU - Health Priorities

The Italian Presidency of the EU started on 1st July for a period of six months until 31 December 2014.

The Italian Presidency has presented its priorities on health as follows:

Due to their cross-cutting nature, health-related issues represent a priority for the Italian Presidency, which will be engaged in involving the third sector, such as active healthcare organisations.

The Presidency will promote healthy lifestyles and prevention, within the conceptual framework of the “3rd Health EU Programme”, also taking into account gender differences, with a special view to the prevention of respiratory diseases and cancer.

The Italian Presidency will invite its European partners to consider the outcome and perspectives of the fight against HIV/AIDS – ten years after the Dublin Declaration on the partnership against this disease. Priority will be given both to vaccines as an effective tool for public health, also aiming at the adoption of Council conclusions, and to antimicrobial resistance.

As regards healthcare, more work will be done to guarantee the quality of services in order to ensure the greater safety of patients. Given the adverse economic cycle, special attention will be given to the issues of efficiency, efficacy and the cost-effectiveness of healthcare delivery.

The Italian Presidency intends to promote public discussion on patient safety and care-related infections. Discussions will also be held on dementia, the treatment of pain and palliative therapies.

Health research plays a primary role with regard to the aforementioned issues and a discussion on this specific issue will be launched during the Informal Meeting. Ministers will consider the benefits for patients arising from research and innovations in the pharmaceutical and medical devices sectors.

The Italian Presidency will focus on the review of the Regulations on medical devices and in-vitro diagnostic medical devices. The Presidency will also explore whether and how to take forward the review of the Directive 89/105/EEC on the transparency of



measures regulating the prices of medicinal products for human use and their inclusion within the scope of public health insurance systems.

Furthermore, the Presidency provides a venue for a wide-ranging reflection on health in the Mediterranean

EU Platform on Physical Activity

A joint meeting of the High Level Group on Nutrition and Physical Activity and the EU Platform for Action on Diet, Physical Activity and Health took place in Brussels on 10 June 2014.

The agenda included a key address by European Health Commissioner, Mr Tonio Borg, presentations by the Commission and the World Health Organisation on the Action Plan on Childhood Obesity, an update from the Joint Research Centre, and experiences by Member States and stakeholders on Public Private Partnerships. Finally, the Commission will present a report of the actions of the EU Platform for action on diet, physical activity and health.

Funding - DG Sanco / Health

Specific 2014 calls open under EU 3rd Health Programme (2014 – 2020): Call for projects & Call for operating grants. The Third EU Health Programme is the main instrument that the Commission uses to implement the EU Health Strategy. Annual work plans of the Programme set out priority areas and the criteria for its funding actions. The programme has 4 overarching objectives, which seek to:

- Promote health, prevent diseases and foster supportive environments for healthy lifestyles taking into account the 'health in all policies' principle;
- Protect Union citizens from serious cross-border health threats;
- Contribute to innovative, efficient and sustainable health systems;
- Facilitate access to better and safer healthcare for Union citizens.

For this first call, launched on 10 June 2014, the EU Commission is not funding all the areas of the

area, also facilitating the sharing of experiences among experts from the Southern countries, so as to revive collaboration and define shared goals and strategies.

For further information: <http://italia2014.eu/en>

Related to this platform, in which the ER-WCPT is an active member, we would like to share with you the EU council conclusions of 20 June 2014 on nutrition and physical activity.

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/lsa/143285.pdf

For more information on the Commission's nutrition and physical activity policy:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/nutrition_physical_activity/policy/index_en.htm

programme, only just a few. Member Organisations have been informed about it and requested for ideas to develop project proposals under the opened areas mostly related to **chronic diseases**. The deadline to present proposals is fixed on 25 September.

According to the comments received from the MOs, the secretariat would evaluate options to present proposals for funding if possible., in collaboration with the Foundation WG.

Current open grants can be found on:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/3hp/>

<http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/health/projects.html>

Health programme

Third Health Programme - Annual work plan for 2014 adopted

http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/events/adoptio_n_workplan_2014_en.htm

European Reference Network Conference

The Directive 2011/24/EU on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare strengthens cooperation between highly specialised healthcare providers across the European Union by the establishment of a system of European Reference Networks.

Establishing European Reference Networks of highly specialised healthcare providers represents a clear

added value for the EU and will help to provide affordable, high-quality and cost-effective healthcare to patients with conditions requiring a particular concentration of resources or expertise, and to improve these patients' access to the best possible expertise and care available in the EU for their condition.

The legal framework, as foreseen in the Directive 2011/24/EU, was adopted on 10th of March by the



Commission, after an exhaustive consultation process with national authorities, experts, and stakeholders, providing for the criteria and conditions that Networks and its Members shall fulfil and for the establishment and evaluation of future Networks.

DG SANCO has organised a conference on European Reference Network on 23rd of June in Brussels which brought together highly specialised healthcare providers, experts, national authorities, decision-makers, and independent bodies with experience in the assessment and evaluation of healthcare providers.

WCPT Congress 2015 - Recruiting European abstract reviewers

The World Confederation for Physical Therapy Congress 2015 will take place in Singapore, on 1-4 May 2015.

The International Scientific Committee (ISC) is looking for physical therapists with relevant research and reviewing expertise who can offer their services to review platform and poster abstracts submitted for presentation at congress.

If you are interested, please complete the online questionnaire by 31st July 2014.

The aim of the conference was to discuss the state of play on the organisation of highly specialised networks and their members across the EU and to look into the next steps of the deployment process, in preparation for the forthcoming call for European Reference Networks in 2015.

For further information:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ern/events/ev_20140623_en.htm

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WCPT2015_Abstract_Reviewers

The number of abstracts sent to reviewers will depend on their area of expertise and the number of submissions received. However, it is anticipated that reviewers will receive no more than 30.

The review process will begin on 10th November 2014 and all reviews must be completed by 1st December 2014.

World Physical Therapy Day 2014

World Physical Therapy Day falls on 8th September every year, and is an opportunity for physical therapists from all over the world to raise awareness about the crucial contribution their profession makes to keeping people well, mobile and independent. WCPT supports member organisations in their efforts with a toolkit of free materials.

WCPT is pleased to announce that new materials for World Physical Therapy Day 2014 are now available for download from the WCPT website. While remaining under the general Movement for Health theme, this

year's message is: "Fit to take part". The focus of the message is the key role of physical therapists in supporting people with illness and disability to participate fully in society. Physical therapists help people fulfill their potential by maximizing movement and functional ability and they provide rehabilitation services so that people are fit to take part.

The materials are now freely available for download from the WCPT website at:

www.wcpt.org/wptday-toolkit

The European Region of the WCPT wishes all Members a nice Sumer Holiday Period

<http://www.liverpool2016.com/liverpool>

