



NEWSLETTER

2nd Notice General Meeting 2012 and Workshop

The European Region of the WCPT would like to remind all the Member Organisations (MOs) of its invitation to participate in the General Meeting of the European Region 2012 to be held on 17 - 19 May 2012 in St. Julians, Malta.

A Workshop for MOs will also take place on 16 May 2012 at the same venue. The MOs will be informed of the theme and purpose of the workshop shortly.

(According to the rules of our Reserve Fund and the available budget, the ER-WCPT will support MOs with less than 1,500 members and financial needs to facilitate their attendance at the GM. The ER-WCPT Treasurer will be sending a separate letter concerning this).

Please note that the General Secretary has not received any proposed amendments to articles of the Charter of the European Region of the WCPT.

Motions, as well as Nominations for 1st Vice-Chairman and 2nd Vice-Chairman, two

Alternate Members and Regional Alternate must be received by the General Secretary by **17 February 2012.** As agreed at the 2004 GM in Cyprus it will only be possible to present nominations of candidates during the General Meeting if no nominations have been received prior to the meeting.

Information on accommodation, registration form and mandate form for the MOs delegates attending the General Meeting have been circulated among the MOs and should be returned to the Secretariat or Maltese Association as appropriate by 29th February 2012. **Please note the deadlines.**

The agenda and other supporting documents will be provided in the near future.

There will also be an ER-WCPT Foundation meeting at the end of the 2012 GM (19th May, 12.30 hours) taking advantage that most of the founders will be at the same venue. Further information will be also provided in the near future

Modernising the Professional Qualifications Directive

Modernising the Professional Qualifications Directive will make it easier for professionals to find skilled jobs across Europe

On 19 December 2011, the Commission adopted a proposal for modernising the Professional Qualifications Directive (Directive 2005/36/EC). As the working population in many Member States shrinks, demand for highly skilled people between now and 2020 is projected to rise by over 16 million jobs. If Europe is to meet this demand, gaps in labour shortages need to be filled – for example through mobile and well-qualified professionals from other EU Member States. They can be a key source of growth, but only if they can easily go where jobs are and their qualifications can be

recognised in a fast, simple and reliable way. The proposal aims at simplifying rules for the mobility of professionals within the EU by offering a "European professional card" to all interested professions, allowing for easier and faster recognition of qualifications. It will also help consumers, by inviting Member States to review the scope of their regulated professions and by addressing public concerns about language skills and the lack of effective alerts about professional malpractice, notably in the health sector.

For further information:

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/qualifications/policy_developments/index_en.htm

7th Congress of Croatian Physiotherapists

The Croatian Council of Physiotherapists organised its 7th Congress of Croatian Physiotherapists on 7 – 9 October 2011 in Zagreb, Croatia. The main congress theme was Clinical Guidelines in Physiotherapy. The 1st Vice Chairman and General Secretary participated with presentations.

15th Anniversary International Congress of the Polish Society of Physiotherapy

The 1st and 2nd Vice Chairman, participated with presentations in the 15th Anniversary International Congress of the Polish Society of Physiotherapy held in Lodz on 17 – 19 November 2011.

3rd Pancyprian Congress of Physiotherapy

The 3rd Pancyprian Congress of Physiotherapy was held on 11 – 13 November 2011. The ER-WCPT Chairman attended and addressed the opening ceremony on 11 November 2011 and ran a Pain Management workshop. She was also introduced to Greek dancing!

Fit for Work Europe

The Third Annual Conference of the Fit for Work Europe took place on 19 October in Brussels. There were nearly 200 delegates, including patients, physicians, physiotherapists, policymakers and representatives of serving national governments across Europe and beyond. The ER-WCPT Chairman gave a presentation at the Conference and the General Secretary also attended

Call for projects 2012 to support the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing

One of the objectives of the second Health Programme of the European Commission is to promote European Citizen's Health, with a particular focus on increasing healthy life years and promoting healthy ageing.

DG SANCO along with the Executive Agency for Health and Consumers (EAHC) has launched a call for proposals for projects to meet this particular objective. The call is published at <http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/>.

2012 EU Health Call for proposals released

The European Commission released the work plan 2012 for the Health Programme. The deadline for the submission of proposals is 9 March 2012.

For further information about how to apply <http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/health/projects.html>
http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/how_does_it_work/call_for_proposals/index_en.htm

2013: European Year of Citizens

The European Commission proposes 2013 as the European Year of Citizens. The objectives of the European Year will be to inform and raise awareness about European citizens' rights, but also to engage into deeper debates to explore the societal dimension of European citizenship as a broad concept.

5th Congress of Serbian physiotherapists

The Association of physiotherapists of Serbia held its 5th Congress entitled: "Physiotherapy for the 21st century" in Vrnjacka Banja on 14-16 October 2011. The congress was attended by several delegations from our Region which included Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Macedonia. Mrs Mirjana Grubisic, Chairman of the Croatian Council made an outstanding presentation about Law regulatory in Croatia and explained to all delegations and participants of the congress the great roll of WCPT in helping Croatia to achieve this big success.

Serbian, Bosnian and Herzegovina and Macedonian delegations agreed to establish a protocol of cooperation, undertake research about common problems and develop a platform for resolving urgent problems together. The ER-WCPT sent a letter of support to the Serbian colleagues for their congress.



2012 - European Year of Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations

The EU has designated 2012 as the European Year of Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations. A chance for all of us to reflect on how Europeans are living longer and staying healthier than ever before — and to realise the opportunities that this represents.

Active ageing can give the baby-boom generation and tomorrow's older adults the opportunity to:

- stay in the workforce and share their experience
- keep playing an active role in society
- live as healthy and fulfilling lives as possible.

It is also key to maintaining solidarity between generations in societies with rapidly increasing numbers of older people.

The challenge for politicians and stakeholders will be to improve opportunities for active ageing in general and for living independently, acting in areas as diverse as employment, health care, social services, adult learning, volunteering, housing, IT services or transport.

The European Year seeks to raise awareness of the issues and the best ways of dealing with them. But most of all it seeks to encourage all policymakers and stakeholders to set themselves goals and take action to meet them. 2012 should go beyond debating; it should start bringing tangible results.

Further information:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/ey2012.jsp>

Danish Presidency of the EU - Health Priorities

The Danish Presidency of the EU started on the 1st January for a period of six months until 31 June 2012.

During the Danish Presidency of the Council of the EU, a number of dossiers on the health area will dominate the work of the Council:

- Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR);
- Action Programme in the Field of Health;
- Amendment of the Directive on Tobacco;
- Amendment of the Transparency Directive; and
- The Health Threats Package.

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) does not respect national borders, and the rising level of resistance due to the increased use of antibiotics in both humans and animals is a challenge for most European countries. AMR has been dealt with by previous Presidencies and the Danish Presidency will build on the results already achieved. Major challenges still lie ahead, and Denmark considers it important to keep the issue high on the agenda in the EU.

During the Presidency there will be a focus on promoting a more rational use of antibiotics and on strengthening and improving the surveillance of the use of and resistance to antibiotics. Additionally, Denmark's focus will be on reducing the use of antibiotics in humans and animals, including a particular decrease in the use of critically important antimicrobials (CIA's) in animals. The headline of the initiative is "Prudent

Use" which focuses on promoting a more prudent and rational use of antibiotics.

The overriding purpose of the EU Action Programme in the Field of Health (2008-2013) is to help to achieve a high level of protection for the health and safety of European citizens. The programme has three objectives:

- To improve citizens' health security;
- To promote health, which involves reducing inequalities in this area; and
- To generate and disseminate health information and knowledge.

Along with the programme, funds have been allocated in the EU's budget for the financing of projects and joint initiatives that can contribute to achieving these objectives. The present Action Programme in the Field of Health expires on 31 December 2013. During the autumn of 2011 the Commission presented a proposal for a new Action Programme in the Field of Health that will be discussed during the Danish Presidency.

The Commission is preparing an amendment of the present directive on tobacco from 2001. The directive aims to ensure a well-functioning Internal Market for tobacco products as well as to ensure a high level of health protection. The existing directive provides a number of requirements that tobacco products on the European market have to fulfil. These requirements, among others, concern the determination of threshold values for tar, nicotine, and carbon monoxide, provisions on

warning labels, bans on the use of terms such as “light”, “mild” and the like, as well as requirements on filing which additives are used in tobacco products.

In May 2011, the Commission completed a broad public consultation on the need for an amendment of the Transparency Directive. The Transparency Directive aims to ensure transparency in the measures that Member States establish for the purpose of controlling prices of and limit public reimbursement for medical products.

The public consultation was initiated because the market for medical products and the Member States’ provisions on control and limitation of the expenses for medicinal products have changed significantly since the Directive was originally launched in the 1980s. Therefore, the Commission

EU Health Policy Forum meeting

The 1st Vice Chairman and the General Secretary on behalf of the ER-WCPT participated in the EU Health Policy Forum in Brussels on 12 October 2012. The meeting focused on:

- Directive – Information to patients
- Health treats in cross border
- Financial – Increase in 2% of the 2014 – 2020 perspectives – New title health programme – Health for growth
- Research budget increased the money – 80 billion
- Structural founds
- Cooperation – Chronic diseases – Adopted at the Belgium Presidency – New European Policy to fight chronic diseases
- Icoach // ex-smokers.eu
- Information about the Danish Presidency.

eHealth

Health: driving forward the uptake of e-Health with a new network for European Co-operation

The European Commission adopted on 22 December 2012 a Decision establishing an eHealth Network, as foreseen by the Directive (2011/24/EU) on Patients' Rights in Cross-border Healthcare. For the first time, EU legislation includes provisions on eHealth with clear objectives to find modern, innovative solutions for providing better and safer healthcare for all Europeans.

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/11/1589&format=HTML&aged=0&language=en&guiLanguage=en>

wished to explore the need for an amendment of the directive. The consultation was directed towards a possible expansion of the scope of the Directive.

The opening negotiations of the Commission’s proposal for a Health Threats Package will take place during the Danish Presidency of the Council of the EU. The Purpose of the proposal is to achieve a cross-sectorial approach to health threats in order to link initiatives in the health sector to already existing EU policies in other areas. The proposal is to ensure better coordination of crisis responses and crisis handling of major cross-border health threats.

For further information

<http://eu2012.dk/en>

Patients’ rights in Cross-border Healthcare

On the 4 October 2011 the EU Commission presented a Video on Patients' Rights in Cross-border Healthcare available in all EU official languages

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

Health programme for 2014 - 2020

On 9 November 2011 the European Commission adopted a proposal for the new Health for Growth and Consumer Programmes. The two programmes aim to foster a Europe of healthy, active, informed and empowered citizens, who can contribute to economic growth.

These new programmes will run from 2014-2020 with a budget of €446 million for the Health for Growth Programme and €197 million for the Consumer Programme. There will be a reduction in the number of programmes but focus will be on concrete actions that offer clear EU added-value.

The Health for Growth Programme aims to support and complement the work of Member States to achieve the following four objectives:

- Developing innovative and sustainable health systems;
- Increasing access to better and safer healthcare for citizens;
- Promoting health and preventing disease; and
- Protecting citizens from cross-border health threats.



Health professions launch practical Non-Communicable Diseases guide for everyone to improve their health

WHPA Health Improvement Card aims to reduce the burden of 36 million deaths a year from non-communicable diseases

The world's health professions have launched an easy-to-use, practical guide to help individuals and their health professionals reduce the risk of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) – conditions which currently account for 60% of global deaths¹. The WHPA Health Improvement Card consists of a health scorecard, with “how to” explanatory guides for individuals and health professionals.

This is part of efforts by the World Health Professions Alliance WHPA to reduce the burden of non-communicable diseases worldwide. WHPA represents 26 million nurses, pharmacists, physical therapists, dentists and physicians across 130 countries. It is concerned by the global epidemic of non-communicable disease – such as cardiovascular disease, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases, diabetes, mental disorders and oral diseases – because it represents a significant threat to human health and social and economic development.

“What has been missing from the global stage up to now is a vehicle to empower both patients and individuals to take responsibility for improving their health,” said WHPA spokesperson Jean-Luc Eiselé, Chief Executive Officer, FDI World Dental

Federation. “The WHPA Health Improvement Card does just that. It has been developed by health professionals with input from patients, health partners, and the WHO, to educate individuals on positive behaviour and lifestyle changes.”

“It is a simple, universal educational tool which allows everyone to assess and record their lifestyle/behavioural and biometric risk factors. It helps individuals and their health professional take a proactive approach to prevent NCDs and associated disability.”

The information obtained through the card can help individuals and health professionals develop interventions to address individuals’ risk factors and actively improve their health and well-being. They are shown how to:

- avoid tobacco use and harmful alcohol consumption
- improve diet
- undertake regular sufficient physical activity
- achieve and maintain healthy weight
- manage tension and stress
- access preventive care and screening for preventable illness.

For further information:

www.whpa.org/ncd_campaign.htm

Award to Danish Physiotherapists

The Pakkenberg Award went to the association of Danish Physiotherapists for their work on clinical guidelines for physiotherapy.



(The picture above shows from left: Physiotherapist Inge Risum, Director of Danish Physiotherapists Jette Frederiksen, Protector of the Parkinson Association Countess Alexandra,

President of Danish Physiotherapists occupational group for neurology Inger Marie Hansen, physical therapist and consultant in Parkinson Association Finn Egeberg Nielsen and professional consultant in the Danish Physiotherapists Gurli Petersen. Photo was taken by Thygesen Wæhrens).

Parkinson Association's protector Countess Alexandra presented the Pakkenberg Award to the Danish Physiotherapists for their important work in ensuring a specialized treatment for Parkinson patients everywhere in Denmark

In 2011, the association of Danish Physiotherapists published and implemented a set of clinical guidelines on physiotherapy for patients with Parkinson's disease. A series of regional workshops followed the publication of the guidance, where more than 300 physiotherapists upgraded their knowledge on the treatment of Parkinson patients

The guidelines include:

- Review of the evidence
- List of recommended diagnostic methods and study
- The therapeutic process.

For those affected by Parkinson's disease in Denmark the guidance has contributed to lift the treatment significantly. At the same time the new focus on specialized physiotherapy treatment helps to ensure that those affected by Parkinson's disease are supported with exercise and activity - many studies show that exercise can increase the Parkinson patients' physical capacity and improve time, speed and health-related quality of life.

Parkinson Association chairman Jorry Højer says:

"The Parkinson association greatly appreciates the association of Danish Physiotherapists' work to implement clinical guidelines for working with Parkinson's patients. A large number of Parkinson patients in Denmark receive treatment from physiotherapists and with the clinical guidelines, we can now ensure that treatment follows the latest

EU Observatory publication on health professionals' mobility and health system

The European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies has released a publication presenting evidence from 17 European countries about the mobility of health professionals. This can serve as evidence in the current debates on the issue.

For further information

<http://www.euro.who.int/en/what-we-publish/abstracts/health-professional-mobility-and-health-systems.-evidence-from-17-european-countries>

international specialised knowledge of Parkinson's disease."

Facts about the Pakkenberg Award

The Pakkenberg Award is the Parkinson association's annual award, which is given to individuals who have made an extraordinary effort for Parkinson patients and their relatives. The award is named after the late Professor Henning Pakkenberg, who has had a major impact on the understanding of Parkinson's disease and its treatment in Denmark.

Danish Physiotherapists are proud

The association of Danish Physiotherapists is proud of the award and Jette Frederiksen, CEO of Danish Physiotherapists, said:

«In the association of Danish Physiotherapists we are very proud to receive the award. We are proud of the collaboration between physiotherapists from the community and the private sector, who together have solved a challenge with great goodwill and dedication. That way we could move on an agenda that has important implications for Parkinson's patients. Now we can offer a specialised, evidence-based treatment with the clinical guidelines."

Health at Glance 2011: OECD Indicators

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development published the 6th edition of 'Health at Glance', which provides the latest comparable data on different aspects of the performance of health systems in the 34 OECD countries. It provides striking evidence of large variations across countries in the costs, activities and results of health systems. For the first time, it also features a chapter on long-term care.

For further information

http://www.oecd.org/document/11/0,3746,en_2649_37407_16502667_1_1_1_37407,00.html

