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## Informal meeting of the ER-WCPT Member Organisations in Vancouver

The European Region of the WCPT would like to remind the Member Organisations that on 30 May 2007 in the afternoon, from 2 pm to 5 pm, an Informal Meeting for ER-WCPT Member Organisations will take place in the Gazebo room I & II, at the Pan Pacific Hotel, Vancouver, Canada, related to the 2007 WCPT General Meeting.

The agenda of the meeting has been set as follows:

1. Welcome
2. Presentation of the EU Projects granted by the EU Commission
3. Common Platform for Physiotherapists in the European Union
4. 2007 WCPT GM Matters
5. WCPT's Board candidates presentation
6. Closing

A registration form has been sent to all the Member Organisations on 3rd April to be returned to the secretariat not later than the 23 April 2007.

Please note that Member Organisations may send no more than three delegates to the informal meeting and have to be in good financial standing.

After the meeting, a cocktail reception will take place to thank the contributions of those who were members of the ER-WCPT Executive Committee and left their positions between the 2003 WCPT GM and the 2007 WCPT GM, namely: Inger Brøndsted, Carmen Serbescu and Anne Lexow.

## Summary of the Executive Committee Meeting held in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 1-3 March 2007



The Region congratulates its colleagues of Lithuania in their celebration.

The last Executive Committee Meeting of the European Region was held in Vilnius, Lithuania, since the Lithuanian Association had invited the ER-WCPT Executive Committee to hold its meeting there in order to support the association and the physiotherapy development in the country in a meeting with representatives of the Lithuanian Health Ministry. A meeting was held with the authorities and the following themes were discussed:

- Legislation – Regulation for Physiotherapists
- Registration of qualifications
- Autonomy of the profession
- Common Platforms

The Executive Committee also attended the 10th Lithuanian Association Congress where the ER-WCPT Chairman and 1st Vice-Chairman gave presentations on the

ER-WCPT and Physiotherapy Legislation - Regulation respectively.

The Executive Committee meeting focused primarily on the revision of the Working Groups actions to develop the activities for the 2006 – 2008 period approved at the 5th General Meeting of the European Region. The Executive Committee reviewed and agreed them.

The meeting also focused on:

- the situation of the Common Platform project,
- EU grant for the joint ER-WCPT project,
- the ER-WCPT informal meeting in Vancouver, Canada, to be held prior to the WCPT General Meeting,
- the 2nd Education Congress in Stockholm, Sweden and
- the ER-WCPT membership application to the Guidelines International Network (G.I.N.)

**Common Platform Project** – In order to continue the development of the project of a Common Platform for Physiotherapists, a meeting of the Task Force will take place on 20 April 2007, in London, UK at the CSP office, where an action plan for the development of the platform will be prepared. At that meeting, the Task Force will discuss the situation of the project, reflect about its viability, and make recommendations for action consequently.

**EU grant for two ER-WCPT projects** - The joint project submitted to the EU Commission asking for grant for its development had been approved and it's pending of contract signature.

The Coordinator of the EU project, Eckhardt Boehle had met the Education WG and the Professional Issues WG, since they would develop Part A and Part B of the project respectively.

1. Part A - Pain in the back? Guide exercises programme for avoiding back pain in children and teenagers.
2. Part B - Staying clean: Guide exercises programme to support smokers / ex-smokers in giving up.

At those meetings, the purpose of the project, its aims, it's associated and collaborator partners had been presented to the WG's also with the work to be undertaken by the WG's to support the development of the Guide exercises programme in accordance with the time table presented to the EU Commission.

**ER-WCPT informal meeting on Vancouver** - The European Region of the WCPT will hold an Informal Meeting for ER-WCPT Member Organisations on 30 May 2007 in the afternoon, in Vancouver, Canada, related to the 2007 WCPT General Meeting. The agenda for the meeting was agreed with the following points:

1. Welcome
2. Presentation of the EU Projects granted by the EU Commission
3. Common Platform for Physiotherapists in the European Union

4. 2007 WCPT GM Matters
5. Presentation of the candidates for the Executive Committee of WCPT.
6. Closing

The agenda and the registration form will be provided in the near future for the Member Organisations. Please note that Member Organisations attending need to be in good standing. Member Organisations may send no more than three delegates to the informal meeting.

### **ER-WCPT Congress on Physiotherapy Education in 2008**

The Chairman of the Education WG informed the meeting about the activities undertaken to prepare the 2nd Congress on Physiotherapy Education as follows:

- Announcement of the Congress: 1st announcement would be made on 26 March 2007 before the WCPT Congress. Promotion of the Congress would also take place at the WCPT Congress in 2007, using the WCPT stand. 2nd announcement containing the preliminary programme would be due for 1st November 2007.
- Webpage: At the time of the meeting, there was only a banner on the LSR website announcing the Congress but a website would be created as soon as possible, including a possibility to ask for further information and to be kept informed about new development. Information about the Congress would also be posted on the ER-WCPT website with a link to the official page. The ER-WCPT' Chairman offered the possibility of including the logo and website of the Congress at the end of each Region Newsletter to promote it.



- Promotion of the Congress: The Organising Committee would send a letter to all the ER-WCPT MOs asking them to promote and spread information about the Congress as broadly as possible among their networks and members. The General Secretary had gathered the list of the contact person in each ER-WCPT MOs and forwarded it to LSR.
- Sponsors: A letter had been sent to several potential sponsors.
- Reviewers: Reviewers for the abstracts were under a selection.
- Susanne Testrup – Theme 4 Developing learning in practice.

**The Guidelines International Network (G-I-N)** - The Guidelines International Network is an international non-profit association of organisations and individuals involved in clinical practice guidelines. Founded in November 2002, G-I-N has grown to 70 [organisational members and partners](http://www.g-i-n.net/index.cfm?fuseaction=ourmembers&fusesubaction=docs&documentID=6) (<http://www.g-i-n.net/index.cfm?fuseaction=ourmembers&fusesubaction=docs&documentID=6>) representing 34 countries from North and South America, Asia, Europe and Oceania - plus WHO. G-I-N seeks to improve the quality of health care by promoting systematic development of clinical practice guidelines and their application into practice, through supporting international collaboration.

Keynote Speakers: The following four Keynotes speakers had been confirmed with their respectively themes:

- Mark Cole - Theme 1 Continuing Professional Development in a Life Long Learning;
- Ronal Hardem - Theme 2 Distance learning;
- Pernilla Asenlof – Theme 3 Bridging theory and practice;

The application submitted by the Region to be a member of GIN had been approved. From January 2007 on ER-WCPT is a member of G-I-N.

## News about the enlargement of the European Union

The Enlargement is the top priority for the European Union (EU) as well as for the ER-WCPT. The 27 countries of the EU, with nearly half billion citizens, will become the worlds largest economy, providing new opportunities to all its citizens.

On 8 November 2006, the Commission approved the **Strategy Paper and the**

**candidate countries** (Croatia, the former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia, Turkey) **and potential candidate countries** (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo under the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244) **progress reports on their road towards the EU.** Information on the EU Enlargement

Strategy and Challenges 2006 – 2007, including annexed special report on the EU's capacity to integrate new members, is available on the following website:

[http://ec.europa.eu/Hlt159310248e\\_Hlt159310248u/enlargement/key\\_documents/reports\\_nov\\_2006\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/Hlt159310248e_Hlt159310248u/enlargement/key_documents/reports_nov_2006_en.htm)

More detailed and regular information on the continuing enlargement process is available in the Enlargement Newsletter published twice a month by the European Commission's Enlargement Directorate General as a part of its communication

strategy on enlargement. The Commission makes this bulletin publicly available on the following website:

[http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/press\\_corner/newsletter/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/press_corner/newsletter/index_en.htm)

The Member Organisations of the ER-WCPT interested in the problems and politics of enlargement of the European Union may pay attention to the above mentioned Web pages. Many of the EU documents are published in the 27 languages.

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## Promotion of the field of physiotherapist activities

To promote physiotherapy related activities dealing with political issues of Member Organisations, the cornerstones of the new Norwegian self referral scheme for musculoskeletal diseases are presented in this article.

Since 1 January 2006, physiotherapists in Norway specialized in Manual Therapy are able to carry out examination and treatment with a refund from the national insurance scheme without referral of a doctor. As first contact practitioners, they can further more refer patients to a specialist medical practitioner, X-rays or physiotherapy and they can provide sick notes for their patients for up to eight weeks. The arrangement has already been run successfully as a trial project in parts of Norway since 2001 and

applies to the entire country since January 2006.

One of the reasons why Physiotherapists specialised in Manual Therapy are able to issue their patients with sick notes is that they have particular expertise in musculoskeletal diseases. This expertise enables them to assess whether or how much patients are able to work despite these complaints. The objective is to rapidly provide correct treatment so that people with musculoskeletal diseases live a life as active as possible. Further on, the scheme entails greater freedom of choice for care seekers, without seeing their doctor first.

Should a sick leave extend more than eight

weeks, a sick note from a doctor is necessary to entitle sick pay. To do so, the doctor has to be notified of the kind of treatment carried out by the physiotherapist so far and whether a sick note has been issued already.

The Professional Issues Working Group invites all Member Organizations of the

ER-WCPT to share their successes in dealing with political issues. This leads to an easy accessible pool of references, which other Member Organizations can refer to.

For further information on this article:  
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## Health Enhancing Physical Activity (HEPA) Europe

The European network for the promotion of health-enhancing physical activity (HEPA Europe) is a collaborative project which works for better health through physical activity among all people in the WHO European Region, by strengthening and supporting efforts to increase participation and improve the conditions for healthy lifestyles.

The objectives of HEPA Europe are:

- to contribute to the development and implementation of policies and strategies for health-enhancing physical activity;
- to develop, support, and disseminate effective strategies, programmes, approaches and other examples of good practice;
- to support and facilitate multisectoral approaches.

Network activities support cooperation, partnerships and collaboration with other related sectors, networks and approaches.

WHO/Europe closely collaborates with the network, consistently with the goals of its programme on transport and health that include the promotion of physical activity as a healthy means for sustainable transport. The activities of the network are based on policy statements such as the WHO Global Strategy for Diet, Physical Activity and Health and on corresponding statements from the European Commission, as well as on the best available evidence for population-based approaches to promote health-enhancing physical activity.

Membership is open to organisations and institutions active at the sub-national, national or international level willing to contribute to the goals and objectives of the network. The network has no compulsory membership fee, but members will be invited on a yearly basis to contribute through voluntary fees. The network also strongly encourages and welcomes other voluntary forms of contributions either on a regular basis or as a single contribution.

The activities of HEPA are co-ordinated by

a steering committee that meets two or three times a year. From the Netherlands Mireille van Poppel participates in the steering committee of HEPA. She works at EMGO research institute of the VU University Medical Center in Amsterdam.

Further information can be found on the website of HEPA:

[www.euro.who.int/hepa](http://www.euro.who.int/hepa)

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## 50th anniversary of the official recognition of Physiotherapy in Spain

Physical Therapy in Spain will be fifty years old as its official recognition was given according to the decree of June 27th 1957. The Spanish Association of Physiotherapists has planned a commemoration

anniversary event for next June.

The Region congratulates its colleagues of Spain in their celebration.

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## OPEN DAYS (SESSIONS) organised by the Spanish Association of Physiotherapists

The Spanish Association has organised two scientific physiotherapy events to be held in 2007:

- **V Portuguese and Spanish Sessions of Manual Therapy called "Upper quadrant disfunctions"**. These sessions, which have also been organised with the Portuguese Association of Physiotherapy, will be held in the Portuguese city of Braga from 30th March to 1st April 2007. The following two key speakers have been already confirmed: Ms. Ann Moore, from Brighton University (United Kingdom) and Mr. Michael Schaklock, one of the neurodynamic concept founders. Further information could be

found on the following website  
[www.apfisiio.pt/vjornadastm/](http://www.apfisiio.pt/vjornadastm/)

- **VII National and III International meetings of Physiotherapy Education entitled "Convergence, renewal and quality"**. The meeting will be held in A Coruña, Spain, on 27th and 28th April 2007. Mr. Antonio Lopes, ER-WCPT Chairman, and Mr. Antoon Ven, President of the European Network of Physiotherapy in Higher Education (ENPHE), will participate in the meeting. Further information on the website [www.udc.es/euf/jornadas/aef/educacion/](http://www.udc.es/euf/jornadas/aef/educacion/)



With these two events, the Spanish Association of Physiotherapists continues its Scientific Days programme which already included the **1st Latin-American Congress of Physiotherapy and Kinesiology**, held in Oviedo, Spain, in June 2006. The Congress had over 150 Spanish, Portuguese and Latin-American professionals (Therapists). During the Congress, the basis for the creation of a Scientific, Cultural and Professional Forum was discussed, in order to provide training, knowledge exchange and research among a great deal of Professionals of those Regions.

The **IX Physiotherapy National Days at Primary Care**, was held in Murcia, Spain, in November 2006, where 170 participants met. After an interesting debate about Physiotherapy Future at Primary Care level, a conclusion was made about the need of starting off all procedures by the Physiotherapy representative Institutions, in order to participate in the Composition of the Regulation to be carried out by the new Law of Promotion in Personal Autonomy and the Protection of People under Dependence situation. All this will be done in order to fix the role/part that the Physiotherapists are supposed to develop on their starting off performance.

## “Meeting the costs of health care abroad”

The European Commission DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities have launched a new website where EU citizens can check if their home country will meet the financial costs of health care abroad through their national social security or health systems. The Website is currently only English, French

and German but other languages should be soon available in all the official EU languages.

Further information:

[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/social\\_security\\_schemes/healthcare/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/social_security_schemes/healthcare/index_en.htm)

## Evaluation of Health-EU - The Public Health Portal of the European

Health-EU website was launched last year to provide citizens, patients, health professionals and stakeholders with simple, clear and scientifically sound information on European and national activities in public health. The website was designed as a multilingual gateway to 47 health-related topics organised into six thematic areas and covering all health issues affecting

individuals and their environment. The Health and Consumer Protection Directorate-General is now evaluating the Portal among its users, including through an online survey. The survey can be accessed in 22 official languages until 30 April 2007 on the following website:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health-eu/news/logos/promotion\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health-eu/news/logos/promotion_en.htm).



## FP7 Health Research's – EU Grants

*Information day on opportunities for submitting proposals under FP7 Health Research's Third Pillar: 'Optimising the delivery of health care to European citizens', to receive EU Grants*

The European Commission's Directorate General for Research is organising an open information day on April 25th 2007 in Brussels for those interested in research on 'Optimising the delivery of health care to European citizens', the third pillar of the Health Theme in the Cooperation specific programme under the Seventh Framework Programme (Fp7).

This information day will provide information about the scope of the third pillar, submission procedures and experience from FP6 public health research projects. Speakers will include Dr. Octavi Quintana Trias (Director, Health Directorate in DG Research), Dr. Andrzej Ryś (Director, Public Health and Risk Assessment Directorate in DG Health and Consumer Protection), scientific officers of DG Research, a National Contact Point and researchers of FP6-funded projects in the area of Scientific Support to Policies - "Providing health, security and opportunity to the people of Europe".

The activity 'Optimising the delivery of health care to European citizens'

constitutes the third pillar of the Health Theme in FP7. The second call deadline (18-09-2007) of the Health Theme proposes thirty-two topics in this activity. These topics cover an entirely new field of research in FP7 thereby extending the scope of the Health Theme significantly.

The information day targets the following people in the EU Member States, Associated and Candidate Countries and International Cooperation Partner Countries: scientists, Programme Committee Members and Advisory Group Members, National Contact Points, professional organisations, patient organisations, NGOs, policy makers, national representatives, stakeholder groupings and other intermediaries. The topics of this activity will appeal to health research institutes, healthcare providers and policy makers in Europe and beyond.

For further information:

[http://teamwork.intbase.com/0703\\_02/index.php](http://teamwork.intbase.com/0703_02/index.php)

## Healthy ageing, a keystone for a Sustainable Europe

The European Commission DG SANCO, DG Economic and Financial Affairs and DG Employment have published a Discussion paper entitled "Healthy ageing, a keystone for a Sustainable Europe", which gives an overview of current demographic trends including life expectancy and healthy life expectancy, and shows how health policy

can support active ageing, and how this must continue to be a central focus of concern at both EU and national level.

To read the paper:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_information/indicators/docs/healthy\\_ageing\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_information/indicators/docs/healthy_ageing_en.pdf)

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## Health Care Workforce in Europe - Learning from experience

The European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies has published a book entitled "Health Care Workforce in Europe - Learning from experience", that analyses the gaps and current policies and highlights key areas that still need to be addressed as regards training and keeping a motivated

health care workforce, essential for high-performing health systems.

To read the document:

<http://www.euro.who.int/Document/E89156.pdf>



### 2nd European Congress on Physiotherapy Education

Life Long Learning: Developing the Profession | September 25-26 2008, Stockholm

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