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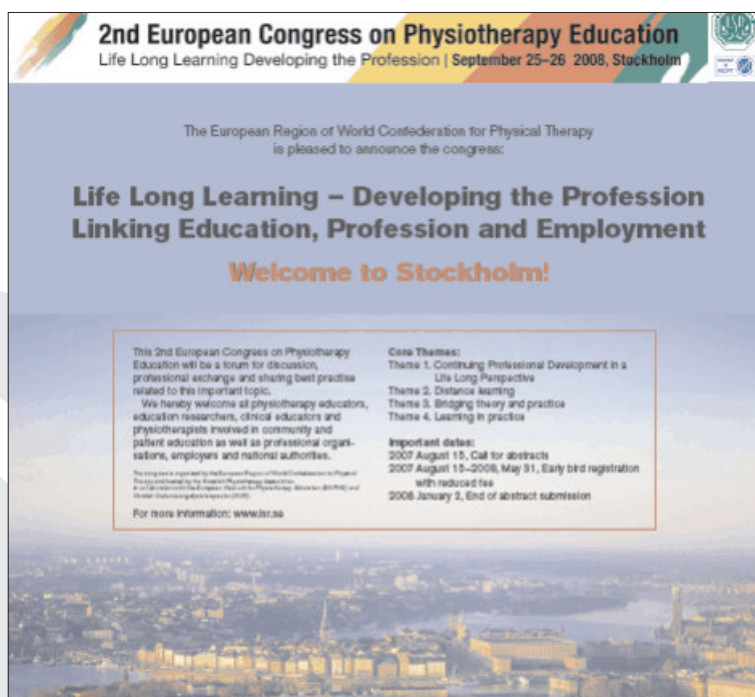
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## 2nd European Congress on Physiotherapy Education - Website

The Executive Committee of the ER-WCPT and the Swedish Association of Registered Physical Therapists (L.S.R.) are pleased to announce that the website for the 2nd European Congress on Physiotherapy Education, entitled “Lifelong learning, developing the physiotherapy profession – Linking education, the profession and employment” has been launched.

The Region wishes Member Organisations to promote the Congress as widely as possible and encourage their members to attend this event in Stockholm (Norra Latin), Sweden and reserve the dates of the Congress, 25-26 September 2008, on their agendas.

For further information visit the website <http://www.already.net/lsr-intranet/>



## 2007 WCPT General Meeting

The 16th General Meeting of the WCPT took place in Vancouver, Canada. From the meeting we would like to highlight the approval of the motion to admit the following new members in the WCPT.

- Afghanistan Physical Therapy Association
- Bahamas Association of Physiotherapists
- Bahrain Physical Therapy Association
- Bangladesh Physical Therapy Association
- Brazilian Association of Physical Therapists
- Emirates Physiotherapy Society
- Guyana Physiotherapy Association
- Montenegro Association of Physiotherapy

WCPT now represents 1001 member organizations.

Also the election of the new President, Prof. Marilyn Moffat, from the American Physical Therapy Association, and the new Vice-



The new elected President Prof. Marilyn Moffat (mid Position) and the Vice-President Dola Zantile (second from the left)

President, Zola Dantile, from the South African Society of Physiotherapy took place. The European Region of the WCPT congratulates them on their election and wishes them many successes in their new duties. At the meeting, Mrs. Emma Stokes, took her position at the WCPT Executive Committee as Regional Representative of the European Region. And we also wish her all the best with her new duties.

The Region would also like to thank the former President of the WCPT, Sandra Mercer Moore, the former Vice-President, Inger Brøndsted, and the former European Regional Representative, Anne Lexow, for their contributions during their mandates to raise the profile of our profession.

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

An Informal Meeting for ER-WCPT Member Organisations was held on 30 May 2007 in Vancouver, Canada. 17 Member Organisations attended the meeting where the following themes were discussed:

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

## Acknowledgment of the Contributions to the ER-WCPT from former Executive Committee Members between 2003 and 2007

After the Informal meeting of the ER-WCPT, held on 30 May 2007, in Vancouver, Canada, a cocktail reception took 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 (Denmark), Anne Lexow (Norway) and Carmen

Serbescu (Romania), who was not able to attend it.

During the event, the ER-WCPT Chairman, Antonio Lopes, had words of gratitude for each of them on behalf of the ER-WCPT and offered an acknowledgment present.

## 2011 WCPT Congress in the Netherlands



The next WCPT Congress and General Meeting in 2011 will be held in Amsterdam. The Royal Dutch Society for Physical Therapy (KNGF) will host the congress, and will collaborate with the Executive Committee and Member Organisations of the European Region to get as many delegates to Amsterdam as possible. Let's show the world what European collaboration can do!

We hope to meet you there!





## Network of WCPT CEOs

On 4 June 2007, the WCPT Network of Chief Executive Officers (CEO) met in Vancouver, Canada, to discuss and share ideas for improving the development of the organisations. Points on the agenda included business arising from 2007 WCPT GM/Congress, Clinical Guidelines, European Region EU Project and Doctors "Whitebook" on Rehabilitation. The meeting was attended by CEOs from Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, USA, Finland, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the U.K., Switzerland and ER-WCPT General Secretary.



The next meeting will take place on 10-11 September 2007, in Helsinki, Finland. If your CEO is interested in participating or in receiving further information, please

contact the WCPT Secretary General [bjmyers@wcpt.org](mailto:bjmyers@wcpt.org) or the ER-WCPT General Secretary [info@physio-europe.org](mailto:info@physio-europe.org)

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## Portuguese Presidency of the EU – Health Priorities

The Portuguese Presidency of the EU started on the 1st July for a period of six months till 31 December 2007.

In the field of health, the programme of the Portuguese Presidency, along the lines of the 18-month Programme of the German, Portuguese and Slovenian Presidencies, will focus mainly on health promotion, disease prevention, access to healthcare and innovation.

The Portuguese Presidency will also strive to ensure continuity and sustainability of policies, through the development of initiatives on themes elected as priority by previous presidencies, such as health and health systems impact assessment (following the Finnish Presidency initiative on Health in All Policies), HIV/aids and Pharmaceutical Innovation (following the work of the German Presidency on these two fields).

In the present demographic context, characterized by low birth rate, population ageing and intense migratory flows from third countries to some member states, health services are faced with new and important challenges.

Thus, the main initiative of the Portuguese Presidency in the field of health, the Conference «Health and Migration in the EU – better health for all in an inclusive society», to be held in Lisbon on 27th and 28th September, will aim at mobilizing member states, national and international organizations and NGOs to discuss and work on proposals of intervention strategies and policies, in order to promote health, prevent disease and improve the access to healthcare by migrants.

Specifically, the Conference's objectives are: to assess the 21st century international migration moves and their impact on the EU demography and economy; to improve knowledge on migrants' health status and health determinants (accounting for the demographic dynamics of the migratory process and its impact; the specific political and legal frameworks at both national and international levels; the socio-economic integration of migrant families); to identify best practices about migrants' access to health services (health promotion, prevention and access to care), encompassing formal and informal care, as well as social

and cultural activities aimed at facilitating inclusion; and to contribute to the definition of health policies and strategies aimed at improving migrants' integration, which could be implemented at both EU and Member States levels.

With the goal of contributing to the definition of the European Health Strategy, following the debate launched by the European Commission on this issue, a Round Table on Health Strategies in Europe will be held, on 12-13 July, which will aim to define a framework of reference for the development of an European health strategy, as well as to discuss strategies to fight specific diseases and gender-specific issues and other socio-economic determinants, in order to improve equity and reduce health inequalities.

Further to these initiatives, from which the Presidency expects to take conclusions to the Council in cooperation with member states MS, the Presidency will give political impetus to the legislative and non-legislative work of the community institutions. Among other issues, this includes the extremely important debate on the Community framework on safe, high-quality and efficient health services and the European Health Strategy.

The Portuguese Presidency will pay special attention to the future developments at

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the international level, particularly in what concerns the World Health Organization, coordinating community positions in the field of tobacco control (at the 2nd Conference of the Parties of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control), at the WHO-Europe Regional Committee, at the 2nd Meeting of WHO's Intergovernmental Working Group on

Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property, at the meeting of WHO's Intergovernmental Working Group on sharing of influenza virus samples and on the implementation of the International Health Regulations.

Further information on [www.eu2007.pt](http://www.eu2007.pt)

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## WHO collaboration with European Commission on Health

The World Health Organization Director General, Dr Margaret Chan, visited the European Commission on 12 June and met its President, Mr. Barroso, and the Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection, Markos Kyprianou, to discuss about the health consequences of climate change, and the global health security. This was a good opportunity for the European

Commission and WHO to discuss on strategic health priorities, and the actions to be taken in partnership to improve health at EU and global level.

For further information:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/783&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

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## Quality Assurance Processes in Physiotherapy Education

In order to assist Member Organisations in developing, promoting and maintaining high quality physiotherapy education the Education Working Group of the ER-WCPT is undertaking to collect information on the processes used to quality assure both the courses and their delivery. Whilst all providers of education will be striving to provide a high quality education

experience, it is of importance that good practices are shared, not least as the Bologna process has a greater impact on education levels and delivery across Europe.

In the Bologna Declaration (1999) the European Ministers of Education committed themselves to establish the



European Higher Education Area by 2010. This Declaration encourages co-operation in quality assurance of higher education across Europe with a view to developing comparable criteria and methodologies. Other important goals agreed in Bologna are easily comparable degrees, a system based on two main degree cycles (subsequently a third cycle has been included), a common European system of credits and mobility of students and teachers.

In 2001 the European Ministers of Education meeting in Prague invited the European Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) to collaborate in establishing a common framework of reference for quality assurance, which would directly work towards the establishment of the European quality assurance framework by 2010. Two years later, in Berlin, the Ministers recommended ENQA to contribute even more directly to the European quality assurance process. In the Berlin Communiqué ENQA received a double mandate from the Ministers to explore ways of ensuring an adequate peer review system for national quality assurance agencies and to develop an agreed set of standards, procedures and guidelines on quality assurance.

In the Bergen meeting of May 2005 the European Ministers of Education adopted the "Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area" drafted by ENQA

(<http://www.enqa.eu/files/>). The Ministers committed themselves to introducing the proposed model for peer review of quality assurance agencies on a national basis. They also welcomed the principle of a European register of quality assurance agencies based on national review and asked that the practicalities of its implementation would be further developed by ENQA.

The Education WG would be keen for MOs to share examples of how physiotherapy education is quality assured in their own country. In particular we would welcome feedback on whether the ENQA guidelines have been or are being adopted/applied within their country.

It would be helpful to hear what processes are being applied

- By independent Quality Assurance bodies, in particular how frequently: for example in England an independent QA body, the Quality Assurance Agency carries out external reviews every 5 years
- By the MOs themselves: for example the MO may undertake some monitoring of the programme content and its delivery
- And by the education institutes; many HEIs have internal Quality Assurance monitoring systems such as student evaluation of teaching, and use of external examiners

It is hoped that the Education Working Group receive more examples of quality assurance practice to share with colleagues. The use of such examples will help inform a guidance document to be produced for use by the MOs in meeting the future requirements of the Bologna process.

For further information on this work, to inform the group of the adoption of the ENQA guidelines, or to forward examples of good practice please contact Grahame Pope, e-mail:

[Grahame.Pope@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Grahame.Pope@nottingham.ac.uk)

In order to gather information on Quality Assurance measures in Physiotherapy Education as was recommended by the 2006 GM, the Education WG agreed the following activities for the next WG meeting:

- To prepare an article to stimulate the MOs discussion on Quality Assurance for the July 2007 Region's newsletter. This article would be also based on MOs example about how the accreditation was being in their countries in order to stimulate and to give ideas to them on how getting involved on it.

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## Bologna Summit Outcomes

The Higher Education Ministers from the 45 European countries participating in the Bologna Process, met in London on 17-18 May 2007, to review the progresses made since the Bergen meeting in 2005. The result is that there have been good progresses in relation to: 3 cycle degree system (Bachelor, Master and Doctorate); quality assurance; recognition of degrees and study periods; and, strengthening links between higher education and research sectors. However, some students unions

believe that the European governments are only implementing the higher education reforms that fit their national agenda, and are urging the Member States to implement the commitments of the Bologna process, to create a European Area of Higher Education by 2010.

For further information:

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/bologna/index.cfm?fuseaction=content.view&CategoryID=23>

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## Lifelong Learning projects Website

A new website has been launched in order to facilitate projects under the EU Lifelong Learning Programme 2007-2013, and to provide information about the projects (existing ones or proposals) and potential partners. This website is intended for education and training experts.

For further information

<http://www.lifelonglearning.info/cgi-bin/master.pl?accion=inicio>



## European Commission consultation on Health Strategy

The European Commission published on 1 June 2007 a report on the results of the consultation to the EU Health Strategy, which received more than 150 contributions.

In its summary of the consultation, the European Commission acknowledges many of the contributions made by the health community. The general points made by the contributors to this consultation are listed below:

- Support to the cross-border nature of health. An approach which emphasizes the idea of "health in all policies" and supports the EU engagement in global issues. Several contributors also mentioned the need to coordinate with other international organisations such as the World Health Organisation.
- Definition of the objectives of the Strategy in the short and long term. Setting objectives was considered to be of major importance for the health strategy.
- Involving stakeholders in the drafting

of the health strategy and in other policy initiatives in the health field.

- Called for enhanced coordination at the EU and national level. Member States have to link their actions to the actions at EU level but they also have to develop a sense of ownership of the strategy.
- Use of the Open Method of Coordination to achieve the objectives set out by the EU Health Strategy. Some contributors also suggested a European level structure to oversee the implementation of the strategy.
- Stressed the need to improve health information to support the health strategy and called for the development of common data.

Taking these positions into account, the Commission will adopt the new health strategy later this year.

For further information

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_overview/strategy/results\\_consultation\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_overview/strategy/results_consultation_en.htm)

## European Commission is asked to take action on health services

The European Parliament adopted, on 23 May 2007, the report on 'The consequences of excluding health services from the Directive on Services in the Internal Market', from which the controversial amendment 172 of Toine Manders (ALDE) asking to reintroduce health services into the Services Directive (to which ER-WCPT and other Healthcare organisations reacted) was excluded. The call for a separate Directive on Health Services was also rejected and the

European Commission is asked to propose appropriate tools to codify the European Court of Justice case law on EU citizens' right to seek healthcare in other Member States, with costs covered by their own health system. For further information:

For further information

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress\\_page/056-6868-141-05-21-909-20070516IPR06770-21-05-2007-2007-false/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/056-6868-141-05-21-909-20070516IPR06770-21-05-2007-2007-false/default_en.htm)

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## Good practice exchange in Europe – new website

This new service to the professional community of eHealth, eGovernment and eInclusion practitioners is expected to be an interactive initiative that empowers its users to discuss and influence open government, policy-making and the way public administrations operate and deliver services. ePractice.eu's mission is to create

a dynamic community of practitioners, driven by a participative approach, which enables capacity building through proactive dissemination, exchange and assessment of good practice in eHealth, eGovernment and eInclusion.

For further information: [www.epractice.eu](http://www.epractice.eu)

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### 2nd European Congress on Physiotherapy Education

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

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