



EUROPEAN REGION

World Confederation
for Physical Therapy

Report of the Education Matters Working Group of the ER-WCPT for the year 2008

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

Introduction

The main objectives of the Education Matters Working Group are to promote the quality of physiotherapy education in Europe and to contribute to facilitate the reciprocity of recognition of physiotherapy qualifications.

The activity of the year 2008 can be divided in two periods, in reference to the General Meeting (GM), held in Greece, in May 2008.

At the GM we have had the opportunity to present the results of the work developed from 2006 to 2008, and it was rewarding to see that all the recommendations proposed to the GM were approved. In this report we will only summarise the main results of the GM, and highlight the mandate received for a new cycle of activity.

Two members of the group have changed in July 2008.

Members of the Working Group:

- appointed in July 2006:

- António Lopes, Chairman (*Executive Committee European Region of WCPT*)
- Nina Holten (Denmark)
- Charlotte Hager-Ross (Sweden)
- Grahame Pope (UK)
- Emil Igelsbock (Austria)
- Sonia Souto (Spain)

- appointed in July 2008:

- António Lopes, Chairman (*Executive Committee European Region of WCPT*)
- Nina Holten (Denmark)
- Charlotte Hager-Ross (Sweden)
- Grahame Pope (UK)
- Sonia Souto (Spain)
- Camilla Wikström-Grotell (Finland)
- Emil Igelsbock (Austria) – Appointed for the 3rd Education Congress planned to be held in Wien, Austria, in 2012.

The General Secretary of the European Region of WCPT, David Gorria, worked with the group and attended the meetings in 2008.

Meetings:

- 17-20 January 2008, Madrid, Spain,
- 24 -25 October 2008, Wien, Austria

Activities from January to May 2008

During the first half of the year the WG concluded the projects, and prepared the documentation to be submitted to the Executive Committee in order to be presented to the General Meeting.

At the GM the following documents were adopted:

- Informative paper on Systems of Qualification
- Revised Education Policy Statement
- Report on the home page of the Member Organisations and recommendations to them
- Report on the follow up on the implementation of the European Physiotherapy Benchmark statement in the Europe Region
- Guide presentation to use and facilitate the access to the Benchmark Statement
- Document on Quality Assurance Guidance
- Report on Quality Assurance in Physiotherapy Education
- Monitoring report on Specialisation for Physiotherapists
- ER-WCPT Glossary of Terms

Terms of reference for the period 2008 - 2010

The terms of reference of the working group for the period of 2008 – 2010 were agreed at the General Meeting 2008 as follows:

- Follow up the implementation of the European Physiotherapy Benchmark Statement. To renew the EPBS with emphasis on physiotherapy specific knowledge, skills and competence as well as on the independence of the profession and its knowledge development
- Updating of the Policy Statement on Physiotherapy Education since Education is evolving quickly due to the Bologna Process
- Continuation of the Project on Specialisation
- Address education issues for Member Organisations involved in the Enlargement process and cooperate with the EU Matters Working Group in Accession facilitating;
Monitoring and reacting to issues as they arise from enlargement
- Identify information to be included on the website under the button of education relating to basic education, post basic education, and research

- Gather information on quality assurance measures in Physiotherapy education and monitor the involvement of the Member Organisations in quality assurance activities
- Follow up the activities on Continuous Professional Development within the Member Organisations, and continue to monitor developments in re-registration, re-certification in collaboration with the Professional Issues Working Group
- Monitor the developments in re-registration, re-certification in all the ER-WCPT countries, in collaboration with the Professional Issues WG
- Continue facilitating closer links and cooperation with ENPHE.
- Monitor and promote the use of Evidence Based Practice in Physiotherapy education at all levels (Life Long Learning) and support efforts to embed EBP in clinical practice
- Contribute to the completion of the 2nd European Congress on Physiotherapy Education
- Prepare the 3rd European Congress on Physiotherapy Education to take place in 2012.
- To complete the Pain in the back project and make recommendations for its implementation.
- Maintain Glossary of key terms of the ER-WCPT to reflect all the documents produced by the Region
- Identify issues related to research in Physiotherapy that might be addressed by the ER-WCPT
- To investigate the relationships between MO's, the education providers, and their practice providers/partners

Activities after Junes 2008

Overview of “projects” and distribution of responsibilities

The working group met for the first time, in this period, in Wien, Austria, from the 24th to the 25th of October 2008.

The projects have been distributed to the members of the working group.

Considering that some of the projects are interlinked and need some coordination to avoid duplication of work, the various projects were grouped regarding their connections.

The Education WG also chose members for each item and a responsible person (underlined) on each as follows:

Group A – Grahame Pope

- Follow up the implementation of the European Physiotherapy Benchmark Statement – Camilla Wikstrom, Grahame Pope and Sonia Souto
- To renew the EPBS with emphasis on physiotherapy specific knowledge, skills and competence as well as on the independence of the profession and its knowledge development – Make a first proposal

for the next WG meeting – Camilla Wikstrom, Grahame Pope and Sonia Souto

- Updating of the Policy Statement on Physiotherapy Education since Education is evolving quickly due to the Bologna Process – Grahame Pope and Antonio Lopes
- Monitor education and research developments in Physiotherapy within the European Higher Education Area and European Research Area (EHEA/ERA) and their relationship to other world areas – Camilla Wikstrom and Antonio Lopes
- Identify issues related to research in Physiotherapy that might be addressed by the ER-WCPT / Formulate policy recommendations regarding the role of ER-WCPT in promoting and supporting physiotherapy research, research careers and development of the profession – Charlotte Hager-Ross, Grahame Pope and Antonio Lopes
- Gather information on quality assurance measures in Physiotherapy education and monitor the involvement of the Member Organisations in quality assurance activities – Grahame Pope, Charlotte Hager Ross and Camilla Wikstrom
- Monitor and promote the use of Evidence Based Practice in Physiotherapy education at all levels (Life Long Learning) and support efforts to embed EBP in clinical practice – collaborate with the PI WG. Charlotte Hager-Ross, Camilla Wikstrom, Sonia Souto and Grahame Pope
- To investigate the relationships between MO's, the education providers, and their practice providers/partners – Antonio Lopes, Nina Holten, Grahame Pope and Camilla Wikstrom

Group B – Nina Holten and Emil Igelsböck

- Follow up the activities on Continuous Professional Development within the Member Organisations, and continue to monitor developments in re-registration, re-certification in collaboration with the Professional Issues Working Group
- Monitor the developments in re-registration, re-certification in all the ER-WCPT countries, in collaboration with the Professional Issues WG
- EQF and non formal and informal education validation
- Continuation of the Project on Specialisation

Group C – Antonio Lopes

- Address education issues for Member Organisations involved in the Enlargement process and cooperate with the EU Matters Working Group in Accession facilitating;
Monitoring and reacting to issues as they arise from enlargement

Group D – Sonia Souto

- Identify information to be included on the website under the button of education relating to basic education, post basic education, and research – Sonia Souto
- To create a button on the ER-WCPT website for the Education Congresses – Charlotte Hager Ross and Emil Igelsböck
- Maintain Glossary of key terms of the ER-WCPT to reflect all the documents produced by the Region – Sonia Souto

Group E – Antonio Lopes

- Common Platform and Internal Market Information (IMI) project – collaborate with the EU WG on Educational issues with implications for migration of PTs within Europe. (Activities / Delivery of services)

Group F – Antonio Lopes

- Continue facilitating closer links and cooperation with ENPHE. – Antonio Lopes, Nina Holten, Grahame Pope and Camilla Wikstrom

Group G – Emil Igelsböck

- Contribute to the completion of the 2nd European Congress on Physiotherapy Education – Nina Holten and Charlotte Hager Ross
- Prepare the 3rd European Congress on Physiotherapy Education to take place in 2012 – Emil Igelsböck

Group H – All WG Members

- To complete the Pain in the back project and make recommendations for its implementation.

Group I – All WG Members

- To explore the possibility of a European Master programme - Education

Date and place of next WG´s meetings

The Education WG has planned to meet:

- 27-28 February 2009, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 4 - 5 September 2009, Wien, Austria.
- 14 - 17 January 2010, in Portugal.

Closing remarks

The working group has dedicated most of the effort to fulfil the priority activities decided by the Executive Committee, and we recognise that the main objectives have proven to be achieved at the General Meeting in May 2008.

As chairman of the group I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the members of the working group, and to the General Secretary David Gorriá, for their work, commitment and friendship, and stress my pleasure to work with this team.

After the first meeting of the new working group, I only can be sure of the continuity and improvement of the work assigned to this group, which will be presented to the General Meeting in 2010.

António Lopes

Chairman of the Education Matters Working Group of the Europe Region of the WCPT
