



EUROPEAN REGION

World Confederation
for Physical Therapy

European Region of the WCPT (ER-WCPT)





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for Physical Therapy

ER-WCPT

- Established in September 1998 through the merger of two European organisations:
 - The Standing Liaison Committee of Physiotherapists of the EU (SLCP)
 - The WCPT Europe (the Regional organisation of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy)





ER-WCPT

- An organisation of professional associations of physiotherapists from 36 countries which must be members of the WCPT.
- Non-profit organisation
- Non-governmental
- Independent Organisation funded by Member Organisations (MOs) subscription fees.





ER-WCPT

- A strong single representative organisation representing 150.000 physical therapists
(these are individual members of the MOs of the ER-WCPT)
- The voice of physiotherapy to the European and EU authorities
- Office and secretariat based in Brussels



EU – The European Union

UE - 17

Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom.

UE - 10

UE-8: Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovenia, Slovak Republic.

UE-2: Romania and Bulgaria.

For the nationals of these countries, the free complete movement of the persons came into effect on June 1st, 2007. There are no more transitory provisions with regard to them.

EFTA - European Free Trade Area

Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway.

The nationals of these countries are subjected to the same rules as those applicable to the citizens of countries of the UE - 17.

THIRD COUNTRIES

All other countries of the international community.



EU Member States and
EFTA - European Free Trade Area : Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway.

Candidate Countries



- Croatia
- The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- Turkey

Potential candidates



- [Albania](#)
- [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#)
- [Kosovo under UN Security Council Resolution 1244](#)
- [Montenegro](#)
- [Serbia](#)
- [Iceland](#)



ER-WCPT – Main objectives

- Encourage high standards of physical therapy research, education and practice
- Support the exchange of information between WCPT regions and member organisations
- Collaborate with national and international organisations
- Influence EU policy and advocate for the profession at EU level



ER-WCPT Decision making

General Meeting of Regional Member Organisations

- Meets every two years
- Policy direction
- Core Standards, Service Standards

Executive Committee (EC) by election at GM - 4 year mandates

- Chairman
- 1st Vice Chairman
- 2nd Vice-Chairman
- Treasurer
- Regional representative of the WCPT

Permanent representation by a paid General Secretary



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ER-WCPT Decision making

- Decisions within policy set by General Meeting
- Annual and 2 year plans implemented by EC
- Working Groups (established 1999)
 - Education Working Group
 - Professional Issues Working Group
 - EU Matters Working Group
 - Specific Task Forces (i.e. Common Platform)
- Working Groups recommend activities for approval by the General Meeting
- Annual reports by chairs of Working Groups to the Member Organisations.



Education Working Group

Main objectives:

- Promote the development of physiotherapy
- Improve the quality of physiotherapy education and practice in Europe
- Promote the reciprocity of the recognition of physiotherapy qualifications
- Promote education as an important tool to promote free movement and the right of establishment of physiotherapists in Europe
- Education Policy Statement



Education Working Group - Related activities

- Policy Statement on physiotherapy education (Bologna process)
- European Physiotherapy Benchmark Statement, follow up implementation
- Project on specialisation
- Education issues for Member Organisations involved in the EU-enlargement
- Quality assurance measures and activities
- Activities on Continuous Professional Development (CPD)
- Cooperation with European Network of Physiotherapy Higher Education (ENPHE)
- Organising European Congresses on Physiotherapy Education



Professional Issues Working Group

Main objectives:

- Consider issues of Extended Scope of Practice for the physiotherapy profession
- Promote Evidence Based Practice (EBP) in Europe and consider proposals.



Professional Issues Working Group – Related activities

- Network on health promotion and healthy life styles; reflecting WHO activities on this matter
- Consider Clinical and Multidisciplinary Guidelines:
 - Monitor procedures for adopting existing foreign Guidelines
 - Participate in Guidelines International Network (GIN)
 - Conference on Clinical Guidelines (2010)
 - Promote collaboration in Clinical Guidelines development (evidence).
- Follow up the activities on Continuous Professional Development within the MO's
- Monitor developments in re-registration, re-certification
- Promote the role and position of the physiotherapists in Europe.



EU Working Group

Maintain a high profile of EU matters within the ER-WCPT

- Review EU Directives relevant to physiotherapists
- Examine all issues in relation to free migration under the General Directives of the EU
- and recommend action.
- Clarify the procedures and requirements of migration
- Examine EU initiatives on Health Policy and the implications for physiotherapy practice and make recommendations.
- Consider the implications of enlargement in the EU
- Maintain liaison with the EU authorities
- Advise the Executive Committee on publication of information on EU matters
- Consider views of all MO's of the ER-WCPT with appropriate representation on the WG



EU Working Group – Related activities

- **Legislation and Directives in the EU**
 - Monitor EU Legislation development relevant to the physiotherapy profession and respond proactively eg.
EU Cross Border Health Care Directive (Health Service Directive)
- **Migration issues**
 - Promote implementation of the Directive of Professional qualifications
 - Promote implementation of the Migration Policy at national level
 - Monitor migration statistics for physiotherapists in the EU
 - Facilitate migration for physiotherapists



EU Working Group – Related activities

- **Health issues in the EU**
 - Be proactive in the field of health issues in the EU
 - Promote the implementation of the Health Policy Statement of the ER-WCPT
 - Liaise with other health professionals and organisations at EU level
- **Enlargement of the EU**
 - Provide general information about enlargement of the EU
 - Assist Member Organisations **with** their specific needs in relation to the EU accession
 - Map the prospective EU countries if they are not in the WCPT
 - Encourage networking among MO's



NETWORKING

- Within the European Region of the WCPT
- Designed to strengthen collaboration between Member Organisations
- Mutual benefit and development of the participating Member Organisations.
- Collaboration in accordance with the needs and wishes of the partners



The ER-WCPT Website

www.physio-europe.org

- News and publications
 - WCPT e-updates
 - Newsletters of the European Region of the WCPT
 - Press releases
 - Announcements of the General Meetings
 - Congresses and events
- Login to a protected part of the website for Member Organisations



www.physio-europe.org

- Members
 - Information on the Member Organisations and countries
 - Information on migration procedures
 - How to register abroad
- EU Migration in general
 - EU and EEA country information on migration
 - Directives and their explanation
 - Statistics
 - Common platform information



www.physio-europe.org

- Education
 - Benchmark statement
 - Education policy
 - Education-links
 - Specialisation
 - Bologna Process
 - Continuous Professional Development
 - Evidence Based Physiotherapy
 - Systems of qualification



www.physio-europe.org

- ER-WCPT Database
 - Clinical Guidelines
 - <http://www.physio-europe.org/index.php?action=118>
 - Network on prevention and promotion
 - <http://www.physio-europe.org/index.php?action=120>
 - IMI
 - <http://www.physio-europe.org/index.php?action=126>
- Policies
 - <http://www.physio-europe.org/index.php?action=20>

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World Physical Therapy
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16th International WCPT Congress
20-23 June 2011 Amsterdam Holland
www.wcpt.org/congress



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