



EUROPEAN REGION

World Confederation
for Physical Therapy

Report of the Professional Issues Working Group of the ER-WCPT for the period 2008 – 2010 to the General Meeting 2010

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European Region of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy (WCPT) Professional Issues WG

Introduction:

The main objectives of the Professional Issues Working Group have been:

- Develop guidance on Health Promotion and Healthy Lifestyles
- Activities around guideline creation and dissemination
- CPD development in conjunction with the Education Matters Working Group
- The Staying Clean project.

Members

After the General Meeting in May 2008 the following members were appointed to serve on the Professional Issues Working Group by the Executive Committee.

The members of the group:

- Sarah Bazin, First Vice Chairman of the European Region of WCPT as chairman of the Working Group
- Natalie Beswetherick, UK
- Malene Haneborg, Norway
- Dieter Hollerwoeger, Austria
- Daniel Paguessorhaye, France
- Philip van der Wees, The Netherlands
- David Gorria, General Secretary

Terms of reference and activities

The Professional Issues Working Group recommended the following actions for the period 2008 – 2010 that were approved by the General Meeting in Athens in May 2008.

Members of the Working Group agreed to lead on specific activities as follows:

1. Further work to develop the Network on health promotion and healthy life styles. – Malene Haneborg, Philip van der Wees and Natalie Beswetherick.

2. Keeping the database on Clinical Guidelines and Multidisciplinary Guidelines updated: - Philip van der Wees.
 - Monitor the procedures for Adopting existing foreign Guidelines
 - To participate in the GIN
 - To prepare a 2nd Conference on Clinical Guidelines in December 2010
 - Promote further collaboration in Clinical Guideline development, especially in collecting the evidence.

3. 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 Education Matters Working Group – Malene Haneborg.

4. Promoting the role and position of the physiotherapists in Europe - Dieter Steiner.

5. To complete the Staying Clean project as planned and make recommendations for its implementation. – Philip van der Wees and the PI WG members.

Meetings

In the years 2008 - 2010, the Working Group held four meetings:

- 11-12 October 2008 in Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 31 January - 1 February 2009 in Toulouse, France
- 9-11 October 2009 in Vienna, Austria
- 5-7 February 2010 in Oslo, Norway

Activities for the period 2008 - 2010

1. Further work to develop the Network on Health Promotion and Healthy Life Styles

1.1. Develop the Network on Health Promotion and of healthy life styles

At the 2008 GM a report of the activities undertaken to develop the database–network on health promotion and healthy life styles, within the ER-WCPT MOs was presented. The report highlighted articles on Health Promotion published by the MOs of ER-WCPT and the updated database where twenty-eight MOs detailed their involvement in specific projects.

During in the period 2008-2010 the Professional Issues Working Group (PIWG) have worked on four objectives in relation to the Network on Health Promotion and Healthy Life Styles:

- To develop a document “Keep Active – Keep Healthy” based on the Norwegian Associations’ document “Fysick Aktivitet”
- To continue further work on the development of the Network on Health promotion and Healthy Life styles
- To continue gathering and updating information from the Member Organisations
- To use the database of the Network sharing the information of the projects.

The Norwegian booklet “Fysick Aktivitet” was translated into English and used as a basis for the development of the “Keep Active – Keep Healthy” document. A literature search has been undertaken and information on disease prevention and health promotion activities and papers across Europe has been included.

At its meeting in Oslo in February 2010 the working group reviewed the document and agreed some changes and further references to be included. The final document was presented to the Executive Committee Meeting before being presented for discussion at the General Meeting in Berlin.

The Professional Issues WG discussion session will be around the content of the document and MOs will be asked for further examples of work within their countries for inclusion.

2. Keeping the database on Clinical Guidelines and Multidisciplinary Guidelines updated

2.1 Evidence based practice and clinical guidelines are essential components of the policy of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy (WCPT).

One of the goals of the European Region of WCPT is to create an up to date overview of physiotherapy and multi-professional guideline development within the European Region. The Professional Issues Working Group has collected information related to guideline development within the MOs of ER-WCPT.

The network of contacts within the Europe Region was used to create the overview. A first outline was created by the Professional Issues WG based on available information via websites and sent to contacts which are known for their involvement in physiotherapy-specific guideline development. Those contacted were asked to collaborate on three areas:

1. To advise on refining the outline and structure of the overview (database)
2. To provide data on the guideline programme in their own country
3. To help identifying additional guideline programmes in the Europe Region.

In addition to physiotherapy-specific guideline programmes, the involvement of Member Organisations in multi-professional guideline development was explored. The contact persons were asked to provide information.

A separate report on this activity is presented to the meeting.

2.2 Participation in the International GIN Conference

The 6th International GIN Conference took place in Lisbon, Portugal, on 1-4 November 2009. The ER-WCPT together with the Portuguese Association had submitted two abstracts for presentation and these were accepted; they detailed the participation of Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) and Nurses in multi-disciplinary guideline development and integration of evidence and recommendations related to AHP and Nursing activities within multi-disciplinary guidelines.

Philip van der Wees, with the support of ER-WCPT and the German Association, had stood for election to the Board of the Guidelines International Executive Committee as the first non-medic. We were all delighted when he was elected. He is setting up an AHP and Nursing reference group to take forward the work on guidelines related to GIN.

The 7th International GIN Conference will take place in Chicago, USA, in August 2011.

2.3 To prepare a second Clinical Guideline Conference in 2010

An invitational Conference on Clinical Guidelines will take place on 2 December 2010 in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, as part of the Dutch Congress. Philip will make a presentation to the General Meeting on the programme for the Conference.

2.4 Promote further collaboration in Clinical Guideline development, especially in collecting the evidence

MOs had been contacted and further information collected on guideline development within the MOs. The updated database for the period 2008-10 will be presented at the General Meeting and MOs asked for further input.

3. Follow up the activities on Continuous Professional Development within the MOs, and to continue to monitor developments in re-registration, re-certification in collaboration with the Education Matters Working Group

A series of meetings and discussions between the Education Working Group representative Nina Holten and the Professional Issues WG representative Malene Haneborg have been taking place since May 2008. They have written to all the MOs and based on fifteen responses they have updated and revised the Informative Paper with recommendations on Continuous Professional Development, which will be presented to the General Meeting.

4. Promoting the role and position of the physiotherapists in Europe

4.1 Dieter Steiner wrote to MOs asking for information around the promotion of the role and position of Physiotherapists within their countries. Unfortunately the response to this request was very poor, but following the launch of the European Commission funded ER-WCPT guidelines on “Staying Clean” and “Pain in the Back” information was collected from MOs on activities and documents and this is now available on the ER-WCPT website.

5. To complete the Staying Clean project as planned and make recommendations for its implementation

5.1 The EU Commission funded project “Staying Clean - A Guided Exercise Programme for Stopping Smoking” was led by Philip van de Wees and the Dutch Association on behalf of the Working Group and the Executive, with collaboration from MOs.

The “Staying Clean” project and the “Pain in the Back - Avoiding back pain in children and teenagers” were presented at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, on 21 – 24 April 2009.

An exhibition of the work of Physiotherapists within the MOs supported the presentation and leaflets, CDs containing the two projects, information from the ER-WCPT and material on health promotion and prevention from the following organisations: Austria, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Norway, Spain and the United Kingdom were distributed.

The Executive Committee and colleagues from the Working Groups and Member Organisations were at the exhibition presenting the projects, advising and informing on the role of Physiotherapy in health promotion.

Closing remarks

During the two-year period 2008-2010 the Professional Issues Working Group has completed the remit agreed at the General Meeting in 2008.

Members of the Professional Issues Working Group have been involved not only in the activities obtained from GM 2008 but also in the EU Project – part B Staying Clean.

Many of the activities of the Professional Working Group are ongoing and will be recommended to be continued for the next two years period.

As chairman I would like to express my sincere thanks to the working group members, as well as to the ER-WCPT Secretary David Gorria for their active participation and support.

Sarah Bazin

Chairman of the Professional Issues Working Group of the European Region of the WCPT