

**EUROPEAN REGION OF THE
WORLD CONFEDERATION FOR
PHYSICAL THERAPY**



**Professional Issues
WG Report
2006
European Region
of the WCPT**

Introduction

The main objective of this Report is to give a short general overview of the activities of the Professional Issues Working Group of the European Region of the WCPT within the period from January 2006 until December 2006.

The main objectives of the Professional Issues working group are:

- consider issues relating to Extended Scope of Practice for the Physiotherapy Profession and
- review of Evidence Based Practice in Europe and consider proposals.

Members of the working group

Members of the working group **until the General Meeting** in May 2006 were:

Chairman:

Dagmar Pavlů (Executive Committee European Region of WCPT)

Members:

Miriam Barcia (Spain)
Natalie Beswetherick (UK)
Malene Haneborg (Norway)
Philip van der Wees (The Netherlands)
Martin Weidinger (Austria)

After the General Meeting in May 2006 the members of the group were newly appointed by the Executive Committee for a two year term. Members of the group are:

Chairman:

Dagmar Pavlů (Executive Committee European Region of WCPT)

Members:

Miriam Barcia (Spain)
Natalie Beswetherick (UK)
Malene Haneborg (Norway)
Philip van der Wees (The Netherlands)
Dieter Hollerwöger (Austria)

Meetings

In the year 2006 the working group had the following meetings:

- 27 January - 29 January 2006 in Vienna, Austria
- 29 September – 1 October 2006 in Oslo, Norway

Activities

Activities in the period January – May 2006

The General Meeting of the European Region, in May 2004, approved the following terms of reference for the working group for the period 2004 – 2006:

- Further work on Health promotion and disease prevention
- Update of information on implementation of European Core Standards
- Establish a database of member organizations generating guidelines
- Development of further work on the implementation of the Framework for Clinical Guideline Development in Physiotherapy
- Collect data on Health economics
- Collect data on ICF and the Bone and Joint Decade

The Professional Issues Working Group has **finished in the period January – May 2006 all recommended activities**. The **results have been presented on the General meeting** of the European Region of WCPT in May 2006 in Sibenik (Croatia), where also three members of working group have attended. Results in detail are contents of the Report of the Professional Issues working Groups of the WCPT for the years 2004-2006.

Activities in the period June - December 2006

General meeting 2006 approved the following terms of reference for the working group for the period 2006 – 2008. The **activities** and the distribution of the predominant responsibility are as follows:

- Further work to develop the Network on health promotion and healthy life styles – Miriam Barcia and Malene Haneborg
- Involvement with WHO activities on this matter
- Reviewing the European Core Standards and Service Standards – Natalie Beswetherick and Miriam Barcia
- Keeping updated the data base on Clinical Guidelines and Multidisciplinary Guidelines: - Philip van der Wees, Natalie Beswetherick and Dieter Hollerwoeger
- Information Paper on Implementation of Guidelines
- Procedures for Adopting existing foreign Guidelines
- Comparison of Audit Tools used in Clinical Guidelines
- (Priority) Promoting the development of Clinical Guidelines in the ER-WCPT – Philip van der Wees, Natalie Beswetherick and Dieter Hollerwoeger
- Guide to develop clinical guidelines (mapping the activities of the MOs on this matter)
- Explore core competencies of the Physiotherapy Profession in the ER-WCPT taking account of the Physiotherapy Benchmark Statement and the work to identify similarities and differences as part of the Common Platform agenda – Dagmar Pavlu and Natalie Beswetherick
- (Priority) Gather information on Continuous Professional Development activities within the Member Organisations in collaboration with the Education Matters Working Group – Malene Haneborg, Dagmar Pavlu and Miriam Barcia

- Monitor the developments in re-registration, re-certification in all the ER-WCPT countries in collaboration with the Education Matters Working Group Malene Haneborg, Dagmar Pavlu and Miriam Barcia
- Promotion of the field of the physiotherapist activities, also dealing with political issues related to it. – Dieter Hollerwoeger and all.

Invitational conference Clinical Guidelines

The Professional Issues Working group of the European Region of WCPT organised on 10 of November 2006 an invitational conference about clinical guidelines in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. The conference was held during the annual congress of the Royal Dutch Society for Physical Therapy (KNGF). On November 11 an international program about challenges for the future in physiotherapy was part of the congress theme. Around 50 representatives of 27 Member Organisations of the European Region of WCPT were present.

The **objectives of the conference** were:

- To strengthen the existing network on Clinical Guidelines developers in the European region of WCPT.
- To facilitate involvement of Member Organisations of WCPT in multi-disciplinary guideline development within their country.
- To promote adaptation of existing (international) guidelines for national or local use.

The most important **conclusions** of the conference are:

- multi-disciplinary guidelines, as general 'mother' guideline for all health care professionals are useful instruments to describe the full range of care and to stimulate collaboration between professionals,
- physiotherapy specific guidelines are very useful to support and guide daily physiotherapy practice,
- implementation of guidelines is still a major issue in most countries, because to change professional behaviour towards evidence-based practice requires much effort.

Closing remarks

All these activities of the professional issues working group are very meritorious, but I want especially point out the excellent work of Philip van der Wees and Natalie Beswetherick on the clinical guidelines in the year 2006.

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

Dagmar Pavlu

Chairman Professional Issues Working Group