

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



**Post Congress Seminar of the
European Region of WCPT
on physiotherapy education
6th November 2004 - Estoril, Portugal**

Report

The European Region of WCPT arranged a Post Congress Seminar on physiotherapy education for delegates from the Member Organisations in Estoril, Portugal on 6th November 2004.

The aim of the seminar was to analyse the conclusions of the European Congress on Physiotherapy Education and discuss the implications for further work to be developed by the Working Groups of the European Region of WCPT.

A total of 36 delegates from 21 Member Organisations were present. (Annex 1)

The Chairman of the European Region of WCPT welcomed the delegates to the meeting and presented the agenda. (Annex 2)

The seminar was divided into three main points:

1. Presentation of the main conclusions of the Congress.
2. Discussion of the conclusions in discussion groups.
3. Presentation of the reports from the discussion groups.

1. Presentation of the main conclusions of the Congress

Nina Holten presented the following summary conclusions of the European Congress on physiotherapy education. These conclusions were drafted by Marie Donaghy, as Chair of the Scientific Board of the Congress and Nina Holten, as member of the ER - WCPT Working Group on education matters:

FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPANTS:

- High quality platform papers and posters
- Exciting things happening in education and innovation in E - learning courses, however very little E - learning presentations were offered in Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for post qualification
- Links between education/clinical education in practise are evident; it is encouraging to see that we do not need to establish bridges/links there
- Organisation & friendliness of students very good
- Keynotes, plenaries, symposium topics were relevant and the quality was good

KEYPOINTS FROM KEYNOTES, PLENARIES & SYMPOSIUMS:

The Congress was highly relevant.

There is a need to focus on structures that facilitate:

- Lifelong Learning opportunities
- Joint degrees
- Allow entry into education system at all points in adult life
- Need for cohesion and innovation to allow for diversity
- Need for trust in each other's systems

Aim of the Bologna Process is not to make all programmes alike, but to use common structures that facilitate cohesion and allow for diversity.

Flexible and transparent systems using Education Credit Transfer System (ECTS) and Diploma Supplement

SPECIALISATION:

- One model may be too rigid. Model for Questionnaire is OK
- Continue to talk about what is required for delivery of health, prevention, promotion and changing roles and responsibilities across Europe
- Need for specific competencies to be identified and linked to specialist areas – “what is unique to physiotherapy in each speciality – knowledge, practice, cognition”
- Identify why specialisation in certain areas are needed – complex interactions

BENCHMARKING:

Positive response to this felt to be a useful tool but needs to:

- Be highlighted to Quality Assurance Agencies (QAA) in each country
- Be taken into Higher Education Institutions (HEI's) to inform curriculum
- Be accepted by EU Commission
- Be seen to be one tool (among others) to facilitate a common platform of learning

QUALITY AND STANDARDS:

Need to have level and programme descriptions and qualification frameworks that articulate High School and Higher Education University programmes with activities of Life Long Learning (LLL) and Continued Professional Development (CDP). Many countries have Quality Assurance systems but only a small percentage of Higher Education Institutions are engaged in all the recommended activities (ENQA – European Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education) and they are not so extensive to capture all LLL.

Qualification frameworks can be different to meet in-country needs but should be able to be articulated against the European Physiotherapy Benchmark Statement (EPBS).

RESEARCH:

Obvious change and movement in Evidence based practice (EBP)
Catherine Shepard & Kari Bø: key messages:

- Educate students / physiotherapists to ask good research questions
- Need to identify best methods for physiotherapy research
- Encourage diversity of methodologies
- Use blended approach quantitative/qualitative
- Be aware of limitations of meta-analysis

Not stay limited to medical or biomedical models only, but rather use the bio-psychosocial model, and other relevant models.

REFLEXIONS FOR FUTURE CONGRESS:

In future, plan joint conferences with other education networks, rather than invite to pre or post-conferences – in order to enhance mutual respect.

Regarding the number of countries involved (35), and bearing in mind that the majority does not have English as the first language, we must be aware of the language and terminology problems, and show respect for the effort made to share views and cultural values.

An evaluation form should be distributed to all participants attending the Congress.

2. Discussion of the conclusions in groups

After the presentation of Nina Holten, the Chairman put forward the following questions to be answered by the discussion groups:

- Question 1: Do you agree with the summary conclusions of the Congress?
- Question 2: How could these conclusions influence the future activities of the working groups, as decided by the General Meeting (Cyprus 2004)

The delegates were invited to distribute themselves into three discussion groups. The discussion groups were chaired by:

1. Group A: Nina Holten and Dagmar Pavlu
2. Group B: Graham Pope and Regina Jetzinger (Sigrún Knútsdóttir and Eckhardt Boehle)
3. Group C: Antonio Lopes and Eric Pastor

List of the delegates in each discussion group (Annex 3)

3. Presentation of the reports of the discussion groups.

The discussion groups did agree with the main conclusions made by Marie Donaghy and Nina Holten but in addition they emphasised the following:

Question 1: Do you agree with the summary conclusions of the Congress?

FEEDBACK ON THE CONGRESS:

- The Organisation of the Congress and of the students was good.
- The content of the congress and the level of quality of the presentations was variable but overall good
- There were too many concurrent presentations
- There was a necessity for introduction of the background and history of important items i.e.: ECTS and Benchmarking
- A Glossary of terms is needed (common language)
- There was a wish for more information on CPD and on courses and ways to do CPD “e-learning”. It was proposed to gather examples from different countries on CPD
- There was a wish for a dialogue on Cross-Boarder courses concerning level and standard, who should set the standards and control the quality and who should run such courses. A need for transparency was expressed

KEYPOINTS FROM KEYNOTES, PLENARIES & SYMPOSIUMS:

- A necessity to clarify JOINT degrees i.e. with other professions /disciplines or other countries was expressed
- The discussions at the congress focused on level of education but there were not discussions about competence and how competence links with migration of physiotherapists
- It was suggested that migration issues should be discussed in relation to competence in clinical work
- It was emphasised that Communication pathways were important such as Dialogue between the Member Organisations, educators and the authorities

SPECIALISATION:

- There is a necessity for a flexible framework
- It was noted that the Member Organisations had adopted the paper but a contact with the Governments was needed
- It was questioned if specialists recognised in one country would also be recognised as specialists in another country
- It was questioned if and how Specialisation would fit into the Bologna Process or if it needed to fit in
- Specialisation could be used as a basis for a questionnaire to Member Organisations

- Specialisation could be linked with career pathways

BENCHMARKING:

- The EPBS is a very useful tool, but it has not been transmitted to the authorities yet
- The EPBS needs to be seen as one tool among others to facilitate a common platform of learning and complementary tools must be developed to support it
- The EPBS needs to make connections to the QAA and HEI to ensure that the EPBS is introduced into the curricula of physiotherapy education
- It was proposed to add Physiotherapy Science into the EPBS
- The question was raised if there was a possibility of developing a Benchmark for teacher qualifications
- There is a need for evaluation of the EPBS, both internal and external
- Professional Organisations should look at which education programmes were using the EPBS

QUALITY AND STANDARDS:

- It was seen necessary to differentiate LLL from CPD
- LLL and CPD are different frameworks, but should be mapped across EPBS
- There should be recognition of both informal and formal learning
- Information gathering on LLL and CPD should be strengthened
- International Quality Assurance with minimum standards is important
- Quality Assurance should be promoted in all the European countries

RESEARCH:

- Randomised controlled Trials (RCTS) could be difficult but should be used
- Care should be taken when using Meta - analysis, researchers should “Go behind” and not stop doing Meta - analysis
- Good quality of RGS (Research and Graduate Studies)
- All research should be looked at critically
- Care should be taken with protocols when repeating RCT
- A range of research tools should be used
- Collaboration between different countries, to establish “networks” and to draw up an ER - WCPT “data base” was recommended
- A general interest in Evidence Based Practice (EBP) was noted

REFLEXIONS FOR FUTURE CONGRESS:

- Cooperation with other educational networks

GENERAL REMARKS:

- To use ECTS rather than length of study
- To aim for initial education at 240 ECTS
- Master's degrees should not be linked to the title of specialist as they may be accessible directly after initial education and do not guarantee professional experience. It may remove political / professional needs for PhDs
- To use the white paper providing rationale for 4 - year university education as reference to education policy
- Generally, the congress was a positive experience providing knowledge, sources of information and personal networking in the field of education to support developments at national level

Question 2: How could these conclusions influence the future activities of the working groups, as decided by the General Meeting (Cyprus 2004)?

EUROPEAN PHYSIOTHERAPY BENCHMARK STATEMENT (EPBS):

- Translation and adoption to reflect the national context and dissemination to the schools is necessary
- EPBS should be linked with other documents on quality
- Link with other educational networks i.e. ENPHE is important
- Reference should be made to "core-essential" competence rather than minimums
- Be critical and have good cooperation with MOs in relation to migration

EDUCATION POLICY UPDATE:

- Make a Questionnaire to MOs asking for points to change
- Give a period of 4 years at least for implementation and results

SPECIALISATION:

- To continue with the agreed action plan

QAA:

- To continue the work. The defined quality / level criteria were welcomed

LLL /CPD:

- To continue proposed work
- Draw up definitions on LLL and CPD
- Develop E-learning

RE-REGISTRATION:

- To continue proposed work

OTHER ISSUES ON EDUCATION:

- A preparation for practice in the liberal / independent sector must be included in the initial education
- Establish quality levels of teachers

ENLARGEMENT AND ACCESSION COUNTRIES:

- EU Matters WG must call for a meeting on enlargement involving enlargement organisations to identify issues

PROFESSIONAL ISSUES:

- Continue with quality and standards

WEBSITE AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION:

- ER-WCPT website must be more interactive. It will depend on the frequency and quality of information sent by MOs
- It was recommended to improve communications with MOs to gain information to publish on the website and to disseminate that information
- It was recommended to improve the presentation, colour, etc
- It was recommended to appoint a contact person within MOs or ask MOs for an internal circulation list for information
- It was recommended to have an internal policy with each MO about dissemination of information

GENERAL REMARKS:

- Ask the MOs if they use the adopted documents from the ER - WCPT, and if not, why not?
- There was a suggestion to gather information by other means than sending questionnaires, such as by contacts at meetings
- Be more pro-active / finding contact people

After the presentations from the discussion groups, Antonio Lopes, Chairman of the European Region of WCPT and the Chairman of the Education Working Group thanked the delegates for their contributions and recommendations and closed the seminar.

Post Congress Seminar for delegates from the Member Organisations**06.11.2004**

Hotel Palacio Estoril, Rua do Parque 2769-504 Estoril, Portugal on the 6th of November 2004 from 9.00 am to 4.30 pm

	Association	Name	Name	Name
1	Austria	Silvia Meriaux-Kratochvila	Regina Jetzinger	
2	Bulgaria	Tzena Panteva	Leyla Kraydjikova	
3	Croatia	Mirjana Grubišić	Iva Šklempa	Martina Radman
4	Cyprus	Iris Roussou		
5	Czech Republic	Maria Lorenzova	Vladimira Vackova	
6	Denmark	Annelene Jalving	Nina Holten	
7	Estonia	Hille Maas		
8	Finland	Canilla Wikstrom-Grotell	Heli Kangas	
9	France	Eric Pastor		
10	Germany	Bodo Schlag		
11	Greece	Nikolaos Strimpakos		
12	Hungary	Zsuzsa Gerencser		
13	Ireland	Emma Stokes		
14	Luxembourg	Thomes Guy		
15	Norway	Malene Hanenborg	Elis Engeseth	
16	Poland	Marek Kiljański		
17	Portugal	Isabel Guerra	Concepcao	
18	Slovenia	Sonja Hlebs	Gabrijela Gaber	
19	Spain	Ramon Fernandez Cervantes	Pedro Vergara Lozano	Miriam Barcia Seoana
20	Switzerland	Mischler Eugen	Kundert-Bauhart Annick	Sonia Souto Camba
21	United Kingdom	Grahame Pope	Jill Higgins	

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	Group A	Group B	Group C
1	Antonio Lopes	Nina Holten	Regina Jetzinger
2	Eric Pastor	Dagmar Pavlu	Eckhardt Boehle
3	Pedro Vergara Lozano	Vladimira Vackova	Sigrun Knutsdottir
4	Thomes Guy	Maria Lorenzova	Nikolaos Strimpakos
5	Tzena Panteva	Iris Roussou	Matina Radman
6	Kundert-Bauhart Annick	Bodo Schlag	Sonja Hlebs
7		Canilla Wikstrom-Grotell	Zsuzsa Gerencser
8		Mirjana Grubišić	Maria Conceicao
9		Leyla Kraydjikova	Emma Stokes
10		Silvia Meriaux-Kratochvila	Heli Kangas
11		Gabrijela Gaber	Hille Maas
12		Iva Šklempe	Grahame Pope
13		Mischler Eugen	Malene Hanenborg
14		Sonia Souto Camba	Annelene Jalving
15		Jill Higgins	Miriam Barcia Seoana
16		Elis Engeseth	Marek Kiljański
17			Ramon Fernandez
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