



# NEWSLETTER

## 10<sup>th</sup> FRAF National Congress of Physical Therapy in Romania

The 10th National Congress with International participation of the Romanian Federation for Physiotherapy entitled: "PHYSIOTHERAPY BETWEEN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND PRACTICAL APPROACH" took place on 2 – 4 October 2014, in Bucharest, Romania.

The Education Matters WG held its meeting in Bucharest previous to the congress in order to support the Romanian association with presentations. The ER-WCPT representatives presented the different physiotherapy systems throughout Europe and the process for the recognition of the title and the practice in other EU countries. The Region also expressed its support to improve the Romanian national curricula and the representatives had a meeting with delegates from the Romanian Universities and national authorities with this regard.



Member Organisations and members of the ER-WCPT Working Groups that are willing to collaborate and to support the association at national level, please contact the secretariat.

## Working Groups, summary and planned next steps after their first meeting for the period 2014 - 2016

Following the 9th General Meeting, the European Region sets its focus on the activities for the period 2014 – 2016 according to the Region Strategic Plan and its objectives. Three of the four WGs of the ER-WCPT held their first meetings as follows:

- EU Matters WG, 10 – 14 September 2014, in Malta
- Professional Issues WG, 25 – 27 September 2014, in Brussels, Belgium
- Education Matters WG, 1 – 3 October 2014, in Bucharest, Romania

The WGs discussed the work programme and agreed activities and deliverables for each activity to be presented to the MOs at the 2016 GM. Each WG agreed a distribution of responsibilities among its members. The secretariat has circulated the detailed time plans among the Mos.

The second meeting of the WGs are scheduled as follows:

### January 2015

15 – 17 EU Matters WG in Vienna, Austria

29 – 31 Professional Issues WG in Vienna, Austria

### February 2015

20 – 21 Education Matters WG in London, the UK



## EU Institutions: New agenda of the European Commission

Jean-Claude Juncker, the new President of the European Commission, has presented his political guidelines for the new mandate. The leading priorities will focus on supporting job creation policies and measures. In this optic, the President Juncker called for a substantial reduction of the regulatory burden for SMEs, key drivers of European economic growth. Finally, closely connected to the economic priorities, the necessity to strength European energy independence, to redefine a talent-oriented immigration policy and to reinforce the social aspect of the European Union have been identified as important priorities of the new European Commission agenda.

## Lithuanian Commissioner, Vytenis Andriukaitis, designated for Health and Food Safety

Mr. Vytenis Andriukaitis, former Health Minister of Lithuania, is the new European Commissioner for the Health Policy and Food Safety portfolio.

After his hearing in the Parliament Committee and the confirmation vote of the College of Commissioners the European Parliament in the last plenary of Strasbourg, the new commissioner will take office on 1st November 2014.

In his hearing at European Parliament's Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) Committee, Vytenis Andriukaitis said that "supporting universal health coverage, strengthening primary care, improving quality and safety, promoting e-health" would be among his priorities.

The new commissioner also said that the EU would not

lower its safety standards as result of negotiations over the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), after MEPs expressed concern the EU would loosen its rules on, for example, the use of hormones or antibiotics in livestock. These rules currently limit or even ban some US exports to the Union.

He also underlined that health and food can play a crucial role in promoting economic recovery, and that spending on health is an investment in line with the Commission's Health for Growth agenda.

On public health, Andriukaitis said that his priorities are 'promotion, prevention, protection', with a focus on prevention to reduce costs and keep citizens in good health. The Commissioner highlighted the burdens placed on health systems by chronic diseases such as cancer, with early screening an important way to treat citizens sooner, thereby improving outcomes.

## Modernising access to professions - IMPORTANT - Possible contact from the National Authorities to the Mos

The ER-WCPT secretariat, with the support of the EU Matters WG, has been communicating directly with DG Internal Market of the EU Commission with regards to the implementation and developments related to Directive 2005/36/EC on Professional Qualifications.

The ER-WCPT has been informed that the EU Commission will be looking in further details if there are any "regulatory national restrictions to access to the profession" used in the context of the mutual evaluation exercise under Article 59 of Directive 2005/36/EC.

In further terms, the EU Commission would like to check if at national level "all the requirements under national law restricting the access to a profession or its pursuit to the holders of a specific professional qualification,

including the use of professional titles and the professional activities allowed under such title, should be examined in order to verify their compatibility with the principles enumerated below:

- Requirements must be neither directly nor indirectly discriminatory on the basis of nationality or residence;
- Requirements must be justified by overriding reasons of general interest;
- Requirements must be suitable for securing the attainment of the objective pursued and must not go beyond what is necessary to attain that objective."

A practical example could refer to unnecessary



bureaucratic procedures and processes that impede the recognition process to facilitate mobility across the Member States. Examples of such bureaucratic processes could include compulsory registration with a professional body in the host Member State for which a fee is required, or requirements which are not usually required within that member state for its nationals. But a good example of evaluation procedure could be a members' fee to the professional body to support evaluation procedures for CPD portfolio of the professionals.

The ER-WCPT would like to alert the MOs that there is this activity going on and that you might be asked to support this initiative at national level, via the competent authorities. This request has been already forwarded to the MOs of France, Denmark and Belgium and we feel that the MOs should be prepared to submit such feedback and point out what we do understand as a barrier and what it is not a barrier as refers to patient safety and high standards of practice.

As previously explained to the EU Commission we do feel that this exercise will be able to pin point unnecessary bureaucratic procedures without and avoid the exclusion of evaluation procedures that guarantee high standards of practice, quality of care and patient safety. e.g. CPD portfolio evaluation procedures.

Via this communication we would like to alert the MOs of this assessment procedure initiated by the EU Commission and also supported by the national commitment. This procedure is a window of opportunity to the MOs to be able to outline to the national competent authorities/EU Commission if there are evaluation procedures that should be improved and also safeguard existing quality procedures to prevent them from being classified as unnecessary bureaucratic procedures.

Should any MO receive this request and should you need the support of ER-WCPT secretariat to present your position, kindly feel free to contact us so that we can support accordingly.

Furthermore, the EU Commission is organising events at National level related to this Directive. A workshop already took place in Warsaw, Poland on 17 October 2014. This stakeholder workshop focused on the reforms undertaken so far in different EU countries on

the question of access to professions. Participants were consulted on the mutual evaluation of regulated professions: assessing the impact of current regulation on the recognition of professional qualifications, looking at labour force characteristics, and presenting a methodology to assess the impact that reforming access to professions have on employment, service quality and prices. The workshop was also used to present the first results of mutual evaluation across the EU.

Roland Paillex, the President of the Swiss Association and also member of the Professional Issues WG, attended the workshop on behalf of the ER-WCPT and reported about some topics discussed as follows:

- The negative impacts of licenses as barriers to labour mobility (inter states but also intra state), restricting also employment due to their high prices in some cases.
- The need of evidence-based policy-making on the topic of regulation to assess the positive and negative aspects.
- Barriers restricting access to regulated professions. Sometimes, in higher education, long duration of mandatory traineeships delayed the transition to the labour market and the professional experience gained before graduation isn't recognised.
- The costs of traineeships and exams are considered as barriers.
- The recent amendments covered in the new directive are considered insufficient and the regulation must be proportional and rational.

Next planned events on this topic by the EU Commission are:

- Berlin, 14 November 2014
- Rome, 1 December 2014
- Athens, January 2015 (tbc)

For further information:

[http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/forum/2014/event/s/professional-qualifications/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/forum/2014/event/s/professional-qualifications/index_en.htm)

The ER-WCPT will continue communication with the EU Commission on this topic and will attend the conferences that are going to be organised with this regard.



## 64th Session of the WHO Regional Committee meeting for Europe

The ER-WCPT, through its Chairman, Sarah Bazin, and a representative from the Danish Association, Karen Langvad, participated in the sixty-fourth session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe that took place in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 15 - 18 September 2014. There were delegates from 53 Member States in the WHO European Region who met to discuss and agree on issues relating to public health in the Region, as well as the management and organization of WHO Europe.

The European Region of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy presented two oral statements about:

1 - The European child and adolescent health strategy 2015-2020

2 - Health 2020

<http://www.euro.who.int/en/about-us/governance/regional-committee-for-europe/64th-session/multimedia/videos>

For further information:

<http://www.euro.who.int/en/about-us/governance/regional-committee-for-europe/64th-session>

## Nutrition and physical activity - EU related actions

The ER-WCPT Chairman, Sarah Bazin, and the General Secretary, David Gorriá, attended the last plenary meeting of the European Platform for Action on Diet, Physical Activity and Health, held in Brussels on 25 September 2014

The reports of the meeting and presentations are available on:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/nutrition\\_physical\\_activity/events/ev\\_20140925\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/nutrition_physical_activity/events/ev_20140925_en.htm)

The 2014 annual report of this platform has been also published and is available on:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/nutrition\\_physical\\_activity/key\\_documents/index\\_en.htm#anchor0](http://ec.europa.eu/health/nutrition_physical_activity/key_documents/index_en.htm#anchor0)

The EU Council conclusions on nutrition and physical activity have also been published and are available on:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/nutrition\\_physical\\_activity/key\\_documents/index\\_en.htm#anchor1](http://ec.europa.eu/health/nutrition_physical_activity/key_documents/index_en.htm#anchor1)

## Future EU Agenda on Patient Safety and Quality of Care

The independent Expert Panel that advises the Commission on matters related to "effective ways of investing in health" has adopted its opinion on the Future EU Agenda on Quality of Health Care with a special emphasis on Patient Safety.

In its opinion, the Expert Panel identified a subset of commonly accepted dimensions of quality and safety applicable to all health services. These should be prioritised at EU level in order to improve the quality of health care. Regardless of the level of health care provided, all services have to be effective, safe, appropriate, patient-centred, efficient and equitable.

On the information needed to assess quality and safety of health care in the EU, the Expert Panel highlight a subset of indicators potentially suitable to quantify these quality and safety core dimensions.

In addition, the Expert Panel acknowledges that the European Commission could play a crucial role in

boosting actions to be taken at EU level aimed at improving the quality of health care and the safety of patients. The actions proposed cover:

- the use of a comprehensive conceptual framework in relation to quality and safety;
- development of guidelines and the inter-professional sharing of good practices;
- funding research on quality and safety;
- economic issues related to the defined quality dimensions;
- education and training for the new roles of both patients and health professionals;
- information technology and information systems significant for health quality and safety;
- quality and safety aspects of the burden of chronic diseases and inequalities in health;
- the HTA network, and increasing attention to Health System Impact Assessment.

This opinion was requested by the Commission's



Health and Consumers Directorate General. It was subject to a public consultation, which ran from 1 August to 21 September 2014. Overall, the 174 contributions received agreed with the opinion and provided additional elements, where necessary. This opinion, as all advice given by the Expert Panel, is non-binding.

The ER-WCPT, through its EU Matters WG and also with the support of Austrian and Portuguese colleagues, responded to the above-mentioned public consultation.

## EU - Working together for longer healthier lives

The European Commission has realised a video on the importance of active and healthy ageing and targets a larger public.

In 30 years' time, there will be 150 million older people living in the EU. Society is ageing. But making sure golden years are happier and healthier is not just down to the individual, it's also down to the whole society, public and private sectors together. Improving the quality of life of older people is a priority for the European Commission.

The European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing is committed, throughout Europe in this sense. This video refers to its action. The ER-WCPT is part of this partnership.

The video can be found on the following YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R0ip9ZLRdZU>

<http://www.liverpool2016.com/liverpool>



**ADVANCING PHYSIOTHERAPY:**  
*Demonstrating Value and Impact*

**4<sup>th</sup> European  
Congress**  
on physiotherapy education