

**Meeting of the Council  
of  
European Academy of Teachers in General Practice  
(EURACT)  
held in Zagreb, Croatia  
October 20 – 24, 1999**

**Present members:**

Prof. Jan Heyrman, Belgium, President  
Dr. Adam Windak, Poland, Secretary  
Dr. Athanasios Simeonidis, Greece, Treasurer  
Dr. Justin Allen, United Kingdom, EB member  
Dr. Igor Švab, Slovenia, EB member  
Dr. Okay Basak, Turkey  
Prof. Harry Crebolder, The Netherlands  
Dr. Dolores Forés, Spain  
Dr. Bernard Gay, France  
Dr. Mårten Kvist, Finland, WHO - Sarajevo  
Dr. Margus Lember, Estonia  
Prof. Gernot Lorenz, Germany  
Dr. Ivar Østergaard, Denmark  
Dr. Gertraud Rothe, Austria  
Prof. Květoslav Šipr, Czech Republic  
Dr. Dag Søvik, Norway  
Dr. János Szabó, Hungary  
Prof. Paula Vainiomäki, Finland  
Dr. Mladenka Vrcic-Keglevic, Croatia  
Dr. Yonah Yaphe, Israel  
Dr. Egle Žebiene, Lithuania

**Absent members:**

Dr. Gio Batta Gottardi, Italy  
Dr. Michael Boland, Liason officer WONCA&WHO  
Dr. Graham Buckley, Liason officer AMEE  
Dr. Owen Clarke, Ireland  
Dr. Eva Jurgová, Slovakia  
Dr. Anna Källkvist, Sweden  
Dr. Adrian Restian, Romania  
Dr Philip Sciortino, Malta  
Prof. Chris van Weel, President ESGP/FM (invited member)

## **PROGRAM OF THE MEETING**

### **Wednesday 20 October 1999**

- Executive Board Meeting

#### **Introductory session**

- Official opening of the meeting
- Reports from Council members

### **Thursday 21 October 1999**

#### **Session 1: Welcome speeches + Business meeting**

- New members to be approved
- Report from Cracow
- Treasurer's report
- Preparative documents
- Affiliated networks
- Involvement of trainees

#### **Session 2: Small group discussions**

- EURACT Website development: <http://www.euract.org>
- Landscape of teaching organisations - documents
- New working style options

### **Friday 22 October 1999**

- Workshop: Continuing Medical Education and Quality Improvement

#### **Session 3: Small group working**

- Academisation Task Force
- Vocational Training Task Force
- Basic Medical Education Task Force

### **Session 4: Small group working**

- Landscape evaluation group
- Core Book group
- Trainees involvement group
- EURACT finances group

<b>Saturday 23 October 1999</b>
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### **Session 5: Small group working**

- EURACT publicity group
- Vocational training Task Force

### **Session 6: Closing plenary session**

- New working style
- Future meetings and conferences
- EUROPREV
- Task Forces reports
- Working Groups reports
- Other businesses
- Evaluation of the meeting
  
- Executive Board Meeting

## **REPORT OF THE MEETING**

**Wednesday 20 October 1999**

### **Introductory session**

- Official opening of the meeting

It was introduced by Professor Jan Heyrman who outlined his plans for the meeting, and proposed a timetable. He suggested that some of the new proposals for working in council should be tried and evaluated at this meeting, and there was to be a debate on a paper on new working on proposals on the second day. There would be time for small group discussions as well as task force meetings. One of his proposals was to spend time during the second day in three groups considering specific areas of activity in the current work. These groups were to consider:

- The Landscape survey
- The web site
- Proposal for new working arrangements for EURACT council

These groups would then reconvene in plenary session to feedback the chief areas of discussion, but there would also be a full written report from the group leaders.

The other types of new group working were briefly discussed - these are in the "New Working Style" document.

- Reports from council members

There were no new council members at this meeting and therefore there was no extended presentation. Paper copies of country records were distributed and there was 15 minutes reading time followed by a question and answer session.

**Thursday 21 October 1999**

## **Session 1: Welcome speeches + Business meeting**

- Welcome speeches

Prof. A. Budak, director of “A. Stampar” School of Public Health, welcomed all the members present at the session. Prof. M. Simunic, a member of the original Leeuwenhorst Group, spoke about the history of the Group, the reasons for its creation, its achievements, problems and solutions. Both speakers wished the EURACT Council members a fruitful meeting. Prof. Heyrman replied to the welcome speeches.

- New members to be approved

Lists of new members from all the countries had been sent to Agnes Goethuys before the meeting. All the application forms were available during the meeting. The Council approved new members. The complete list is attached to the report. Dr. Justin Allen presented the problem of two doctors from Beirut, who applied for EURACT membership. As Beirut does not belong to the European WONCA region, only associate membership can be offered to them. It was noted however, that for the future more precise definition of European WONCA region would be needed.

- Report from Cracow

Prof. Harry Crebolder was astonished to read in the report that EURACT decided to work on the ESGP/FM priority which said that “All doctors after graduation should have some training experience in general practice”. According to him this is too far reaching an idea. Prof. Heyrman explained that it is the choice of the ESGP/FM and since it is purely educational issue EURACT should work on it. Dr. Justin Allen responded that it is important and achievable. Denmark already has such a solution applied. Dr. Ivar Østergaard briefly described this process, saying that all the doctors have to spend at least half a year in GP office in Denmark. Prof. Gernot Lorenz, Prof. Paula Vainiomäki and Dr. Dag Søvik briefly discussed their experience in this field. Prof. Jan Heyrman noticed that in such situation there could be a shortage of places for GPs. The report was approved without any other comments.

- Treasurer's report

Dr. Athanasios Simeonidis presented possible new ways for membership fee collection. The Website could be one of the solutions. Payment in cash by all the national representatives would be also an option. There are however several other problems. Firstly there is not enough information about the money kept by national representatives. Secondly we do not spend enough of the money that we have. Prof. Gernot Lorenz proposed to put the whole list of members on the Website and to follow money (fee) flow in that way. Dr Sakis Simeonidis and Dr. Igor Svab said that law does not allow this. The list could be used for commercial reasons, so to do this we would need permission from everybody. It was decided to leave the issue for the discussion of the financial group and the Executive Board. A final decision on this was postponed to Israel.

- Preparative documents

Documents distributed to Council members before the meeting were considered at this point of the agenda. Only controversial issues were discussed.

Prof. Paula Vainiomäki said that she is not in the position to take a lead of the scientific committee for WONCA conference in Tampere 2001 and also she does not want to do it. The host organising committee will need to find another candidate for this position. There are also substantial misunderstandings about the formula of the conference. WONCA Europe wants to have another network conference, as it was in Majorca this year. The organising committee is in favour of other options. This issue certainly needs clarification. Since Prof. Vainiomäki has definitely resigned and no new candidate appeared the issue is going to be decided by the Executive Board.

Dr. Justin Allen raised the issue of our legal registration described by dr. Marten Kvist in his letter. Prof. Jan Heyrman explained that we are not registered separately as an organisation by any court in Europe. We are regarded at present as a part of WONCA Europe, and probably do not need legal registration in Luxembourg. It would be too costly and too bureaucratic. It was decided to stick to the current internal regulations of EURACT. It was also confirmed

that for greater transparency we would ask for an external audit of our activities (EURACT member – not Council member).

- Affiliated networks

Collaboration with the affiliated networks doesn't seem to be very easy. Dr. Bernardine Wanrooj, as a representative of the cancer-teaching network couldn't attend the EURACT meeting in Zagreb, due to the financial problems. Hopefully these problems will be overcome and she will be present in Israel.

Short five-minutes presentations

- Dr Justin Allen: A network meeting (EURACT, EQuIP and EGPRW) on national level in the UK was considered. It was realised however, that there are still very different styles of work of these organisations. Efforts to establish some links (e.g. exchange of reports) are necessary. Some Council members described the situation in their countries. In Israel and Croatia (small countries) they work together. In Spain for example it is difficult to collaborate due to many reasons, e.g. teachers and researchers are dependent on different bodies (ministries). Prof. Harry Crebolder stressed that although problems exist, sufficient ways of communication are needed.
- Prof. Gernot Lorenz said that all the countries could organise conferences following the network scheme tried out during Majorca conference.
- Prof. Jan Heyrman raised the issue of trainees' involvement in the work of EURACT. He formulated this issue as a question to the whole Council. Dr. Ivar Østergaard responded that it is needed, but we have to ask trainees themselves about their preferences and expectations. Prof. Gernot Lorenz proposed to fund a grant for trainees to prepare presentation on this subject for one of the meetings. Dr. Justin Allen proposed the idea of a European trainee conference. Nothing was decided, but the issue was considered worthwhile of further discussion, so the decision was made to create small discussion group for this purpose.
- Teaching the teachers. There is a good course developed in this area, but there are problems with financing and the place, where such a course could be organised. Dr. Ivar Østergaard said that in his opinion the course had great value and it should be continued.

According to him financing of the course is very important problem, but solution should be found. Dr. Athanasios Simeonidies described the Greek experiences in this field. Money was the first problem. Limited interest within one country was the second one. This was especially true in view of the existing barrier (English as the teaching language). Rearrangement of the course in a distance learning form would perhaps solve some of the obstacles. It was decided to consider this issue further during a small group discussion on one of the subsequent days.

## **Session 2: Small group discussions**

Three groups worked in parallel during this session. Below are the bullet points presented for each of the groups. Full text of the reports is available as an annexe to this report.

- Website Development

The following issues were discussed:

- list of members (ethics, privacy)
- publicity leaflet (benefits of membership – must be included)
- teaching on-line (the new idea)
- discussion group (exchange of information)
- historical documents and abstracts – can be put on Website on the low cost

- Landscape of Teaching Institutions - Document

- Efforts to get answers from the non-respondents will be completed by January 1, 2000. Information from some large countries is still missing (Italy, Sweden)
- There will be 3 products
  - Short article in the communication section of EJGP
  - Booklet publication by EURACT
  - Scientific article in one of the international journals
- An attempt to identify models of GP education in Europe



- New Working Style Options

Basic proposals are as follows:

- To continue with two Council meetings per year
- Change the work of the task forces according to following rules
  - clear purpose, clear business plan with budget, timetable and outcome
  - external members outside of the Council
  - each Council member only in one TF
  - Saturday sessions at meetings, possibly with invited experts
- More small group working time

**Friday 19 March 1999**

### **Session 3: Small group working**

Sessions 3, 4 & 5 were run according to the new working style options. Main task forces are free to appoint task sub-groups to deal with certain problems. For each task force a chairperson should be appointed. Clear objectives, a timetable, a budget, lists of activities, and of internal or external experts should be established. An annual progress report will be also required. For the purpose of the report of the meeting all the groups have to prepare short reports with activities, responsible persons and deadlines.

During this session the following groups have been working:

- Academisation Task Force
- Vocational Training Task Force
- Basic Medical Education Task Force

The full report from each group is available in Annex 3 to this report.

### **Session 4: Small group working**

During this session the following groups have been working:

- Landscape evaluation group
- Core Book group

- Trainees involvement group
- EURACT finances group

Full reports from each group are available in Annex 3 to this report.

### **Saturday 23 October 1999**

#### **Session 5: Small group working**

During this session following groups have been working:

- EURACT publicity group
- Vocational training Task Force

Full reports from each group are available in Annex 3 to this report.

#### **Session 6: Closing Plenary Session**

- New Working Style

Dr. Justin Allen described the changes proposed by the group, which discussed the issue during the previous day. The main changes are that the difference between Task Forces and Working Groups will be introduced, working groups having a continuing function. More time will be allocated to this kind of session instead of plenary sessions. This is described in more detail in the report of the working group. The Council approved the new working style.

- New Meetings and Conferences

The following schedule for the EURACT Council meetings was established:

- Israel, 29<sup>th</sup> March to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2000 (Attention: possible change to March 1-5, 2000!)
- Turkey, 25<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> October 2000
- Hungary, Spring 2001
- Spain, Autumn 2001

Other important meetings:

- Vienna, 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> July 2000 (WONCA Europe)
- Durban, 10<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> May 2001 (WONCA World)
- Tampere, 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> June 2001 (WONCA Europe & Open Network Conference)

- EUROPREV

Dr. Dolores Fores asked, on behalf of the organisers, for EURACT patronage of a conference on teaching GPs to deal with smoking cessation and alcohol reduction. Dolores is involved in the organisation of the conference. The conference is going to take place in autumn 2000. The proposal was accepted.

- Task Forces Reports

Task Force leaders have presented short reports from the work of the groups. Full reports – see Annex 2. The bullet points were as follows:

***Basic Medical Education TF***

- New objectives
  - Policy papers
  - Books & literature
  - pre-clinical teaching
  - clinical teaching
  - teaching the trainer
- New projects
  - house keeping
  - key-papers on BME
  - Igor's report
  - evolution of BME

### ***Academisation TF***

- Survey of university departments in Europe will be repeated next year
- European Blueprint on basic medical education and possible contribution of general practice
  - discussion of the project with educationalists
  - draft of the project
  - final decision before January 1, 2000
- Ideal Department of General Practice
  - Goal: to identify desired features of GP departments
  - Method: Delphi technique
  - Time: to be decided in the future
- Scenario for European consulting in the field of GP education
  - Prof. Marten Kvist will identify his needs as WHO consultant.

### ***Vocational Training TF***

The following subtask groups have been decided some time ago and the results are as follows:

1. Selection of hospital post
  - Report/statement ready for printing
2. Content & assessment of hospital posts
  - Project: Evaluation of quality of hospital training of GPs
3. Selection of GP trainers
  - Statement development
  - Background questionnaire (just review)
4. Day release courses
  - Survey of the state of art

- Reports of Working Groups

Chairmen of the working groups have presented short bullet point reports from the work of the groups. These were as follows:

***Core Book Group***

Typology of books – overview of European books will be done according to the following scheme:

1. Author(s)
  - GPs or other
2. Relevance
  - BME/VT/CME Clinical fields
3. Attractiveness
  - Case or problem oriented
  - Overview
  - translation / price
4. Content
  - List of contents

**CORE CONTENT OF GP/FM**

- Educational prevalence

Research

Epidemiology

Education

Doctor-patient relationship

Quality Assessment

Family Medicine

- Clinical fields

5. Virtual EURACT book

- a) recommendation of chapters or subjects with links to the authors
- b) questionnaire to national representatives + 2 experts

### ***Landscape***

There remains a problem with non-respondents (Switzerland, Sweden). This is going to be clarified and the final draft version will be ready for comments in Israel. It will be internal document in the first instance, and the further publication policy will be decided later.

### ***Trainees involvement***

- Trainee conference – there is such conference in UK. Maybe trainees would be interested in international conference to establish their needs. Dr. Justin Allen is going to approach British trainees to explore this issue. Prof. Jan Heyrman will do the same in Belgium.
- Exchange – this would be possible if trainees really want it.
- Training – different institutions can exchange trainees between themselves (usually only two partners can be involved).
- There will be attempt to involve trainees in work of our task forces.
- A review of existing trainee organisations would be helpful.
- Maybe in the future there should be a place for trainees' representatives in the Council of EURACT.

### ***Publicity***

- The website is a success. Possibilities for further development were discussed. Review is needed and must be done by all Council members. Historical documents will be also put on the Website. They should be sent to dr. Yonah Yaphe, who will scan them. Then dr. Igor Svab and dr. Justin Allen will edit them.
- Journal articles. Prof. Jan Heyrman will report new working style of the conference. There will be a report on Website and this Council meeting. Plus to that there will be an overview from three countries. At the beginning Lithuania, Belgium and Austria are selected.
- EURACT presentation booklet. All the comments should be sent to dr. Igor Svab before November.
- Distance learning by Website. This new idea is going to be explored in the future.