



ANNUAL REPORT 2012
(October 2011 – September 2012)

The EuroPharm Forum's mission

The EuroPharm Forum is the European forum of national pharmaceutical associations in Europe. Our aim is to respond to the needs of the EuroPharm Forum's members, the WHO and FIP by creating activity in networking, knowledge-sharing and implementation in pharmacy practice.

Executive Committee

At the 2011 General Assembly, Arijana Meštrović (CRO) was elected.

The Executive Committee consists of:

- President ThFJ (Dick) Tromp (NET)
- Vice President Hankó Balázs (HUN)
- Treasurer Lidija Petrusevska-Tozi (MKD)
- Arijana Meštrović (CRO)
- Carin Svensson (SWE)
- Kaidi Sarv (EST)
- Frans van der Vaart (NET)

Nina Sautenkova (representing the WHO, Europe) is invited to all meetings in the Executive Committee.

The Professional Secretary is Kirsten Holme Christensen.

The Executive Committee has conducted four ordinary meetings and one virtual meeting.

The Management Team (President and Professional Secretary) has met three times.



Upper row from left: Hankó Balázs, Kirsten Holme, Frans van der Vaart, Dick Tromp

Lower row from left: Nina Sautenkova, Arijana Meštrović, Lidija Petrusevska-Tozi, Kaidi Sarv (Carin Svensson not present)

Auditor

Mehmet Serif Boyaci (TUR)

Secretariat

Kirsten Holme Christensen, Professional Secretary, Denmark

Pharmakon, Danish College of Pharmacy Practice

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Member Countries as per January 2012

Croatia

Denmark

Estonia

Finland

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Georgia

Hungary

Norway

Portugal

Republic of Moldova

Romania

Serbia

Slovenia

Sweden

The Netherlands

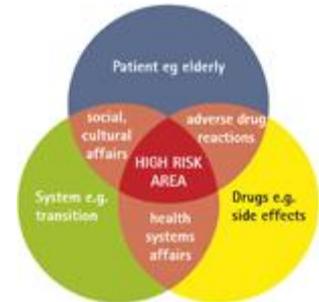
Turkey

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Activities

The EuroPharm Forum held its 20th Annual Meeting and Conference in Ohrid, Macedonia FYROM on 14-15 October this year. The Conference was arranged together with the Pharmaceutical Chamber of Macedonia FYROM. The theme of the Conference was Medication Safety Matters. The Conference focused on the safety issues that occur when drugs are used, and on the challenges we face to secure patients the best possible outcome from the use of their medicines.



Delegates at the 2011 General Assembly



Pharmacy in Skopje

The Pharmaceutical Chamber of Macedonia proposed a project plan for implementing GPP in Macedonia. The Executive Committee decided to support this project with funds and with technical advice. The project also received funds from the WHO. At the FIP Centennial Congress, a workshop arranged by the Community Pharmacy Section will inform about this project and the progress in implementing GPP in Macedonia.

The collaboration with the European Forum for Primary Care resulted in an invitation to arrange a workshop at the annual meeting this September in Gothenburg.



The theme of the workshop was multimorbidity and collaboration. We opened the workshop with two short presentations, first introducing the challenges with multimorbidity and collaboration, then presenting an overview of pharmacist's role within medication review. For the interactive workshop, we chose to focus on four discussion themes: Complementarity, Communication, Collaboration and Competence (the four C's). The workshop was attended by GP's, nurses, researchers and representatives from the WHO.

There was a lively debate on the four C's in primary care. From the debate, it was evident that the skills of pharmacists are not well known by other primary healthcare workers, and it was expressed that pharmacy is a shop, and the pharmacist a grocer that aims to profit most from the patient.

The EDQM (European Directorate for the Quality of medicines and Health Care) works on pharmaceutical care and pharmacy indicators. The EuroPharm Forum has been invited to take part in this work and participated in meetings.



As a result of this collaboration, the EuroPharm Forum is now mentioned as a member of the Pharmaceutical Care Indicator WP. This means that we contribute to discussions and papers with knowledge on pharmacy practise, and also we can bring to EDQM attention the importance of the daily pharmaceutical care practices in the community pharmacies.



Janelle Sobotka

In October, along with the EuroPharm Forum General Assembly we organise a presentation by the President of the American Pharmacists Association, Professor and Endowed Chair, Department of Pharmacy Practice at Ohio Northern University Jenelle Sobotka.

She will present her view on how a profession stays professional in a commercially driven marked. The outcomes of this presentation were not known at the printing of this report, but can be found on the EuroPharm Forum's website.

The EuroPharm Forum was asked by FIP to appoint two delegates to the FIP Congress in Amsterdam, the Netherlands to receive the FIP travel grant. We received 5 applications and suggested the following to FIP: Ms Elena Chitan, Rep. of Moldova and Prof. Nafija Serdarevic, Bosnia & Herzegovina.



In order to inform about the EuroPharm Forum's activities and participate in relevant meetings, the Secretariat participated in the FIP Congress 2012. We presented the EuroPharm Forum's activities on a poster in the showcase for the fora.

Members of the Executive Committee have participated in meetings in:

- the PCNE in Lisbon, Portugal in October 2011
- the ESPC in Lisbon, Portugal in October 2011
- the European Patients Forum in October 2011 in Bucarest, Romania
- the Prague Workshop WHPA "Call to Action" on counterfeit medicines, November 2011
- the Third International Conference for Improving Use of Medicines, Antalya in November 2011
- the Danish Consumer Council in Copenhagen, Denmark in December 2011
- the EPSA in Brussels, Belgium in March 2012
- the WHO, Regional Office for Europe in Copenhagen, Denmark in March 2012 when the MoU was renewed
- the AphA in New Orleans, USA in March 2012
- the EAHP in Milan, Italy in March 2012
- the EDQM in Maastricht, Netherlands in April 2012
- the FIP in Huizen, Netherlands in July 2012 where FIP CEO and General Secretary Mr. Ton Hoek received an award (Officer in the order of Oranje-Nassau)
- the EFPC in Gothenburg, Sweden in September 2012
- the WHO 62nd Regional Committee meeting in Malta in September 2012
- the FIP Round table discussion in Amsterdam, Netherlands in October 2012
- the FIP Centennial Congress in Amsterdam, Netherlands in October 2012

As a consequence of the tight financial situation of the EuroPharm Forum, we have managed to get sponsorship for 10,000 €. These funds come from a Dutch wholesaler (Brocacef Groothandel) and should be used for a specific purpose. This arrangement came to effect based on suggestions from the General Assembly and is the EuroPharm Forum's first attempt to get sponsorships. As we are well aware of the WHO's strict policy on sponsorship, we shall secure to use the money on activities to which the WHO is not directly linked.

Members

At the 2011 General Assembly, a strong mandate was given by the delegates to the Executive Committee to approach FIP and seek a closer relationship. The Executive Committee therefore sent an invitation to FIP to discuss the EuroPharm Forum's situation. The FIP replied that such a discussion was already scheduled for the 2013 FIP Congress, and that it was not possible for FIP to speed up due to the heavy workload put by the Centennial Conference.

The Pharmaceutical Association of Serbia has announced the withdrawal of their membership by 22nd December 2011 to be accepted by the General Assembly 2012.

Observers

The EuroPharm Forum was invited to participate in the written consultation on the new European Policy for Health, Health 2020. The main comment from our part was a suggestion to include "safe" when mentioning the rational use of medicines.

At a signing ceremony in Copenhagen on 8 March 2012, Regional Director Zsuzsanna Jakab met with EuroPharm Forum President Dick Tromp to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

It is the second MoU between the two organisations as the first was signed in 2009. The Executive Committee of the EuroPharm Forum considers this an important milestone.



Zsusanna Jakab and Dick Tromp

At the signing, Regional Director Zsuzsanna Jakab praised the close relationship with the EuroPharm Forum and emphasised that the pharmaceutical area is among the most developing areas in health care.

EuroPharm Forum President Dick Tromp highlighted the important documents the WHO develops, with a special emphasis on Health 2020 and the Tallinn document on Health systems. He communicated his satisfaction that the EuroPharm Forum had been consulted about these documents.

The important element of the 2012 MoU is the agreement to develop a common plan of action in the area of Non-Communicable Diseases as well as in the area of antimicrobial resistance. Based on Good Pharmacy Practice (GPP), the actions will be focused on implementation in order to improve patient outcomes.



From left: Nina Sautenkova, Hans Kluge, Zsuzsanna Jabab, Dick Tromp, Kirsten Holme, and Lisbeth Lindhardt

During the last year, the European Association of Hospital Pharmacists (EAHP), the European Society of Clinical Pharmacy (ESCP) and the EuroPharm Forum have tried to establish an agreement of collaboration between the three organisations. This was not successful.

The EAHP and the EuroPharm Forum did, however, proceed and have established a statement of collaboration. In the agreement is stated: ...A first focal point for the collaboration will be a project identifying the challenges in the communication between community and hospital pharmacy. The results will be used as an offspring for activities that will ease the communication between primary and secondary pharmacy... At the moment the two organisations are discussing how to proceed with this project.



Communication

The EuroPharm Forum website has been updated and maintained.

The Observatory has so far not been the place where people upload information. The statistics show that during the first half year of 2012, the Observatory was visited by 700 absolute unique visitors. People mainly find the Observatory through Google using search words like pharmaceutical care. Apart from information in Newsflashes, posters for EFPC and FIP, we have not marked the Observatory.

The members of the EuroPharm Forum have contributed in updating the Country Database. The Country Database has comprised information on members' pharmacy practice activities since 2002.

During the last period, we have issued 5 Newsflashes. With the Newsflashes, we inform our members and contacts on relevant issues.



Annex

Memorandum of Understanding for Collaboration between the World Health Organisation, Regional Office for Europe, and the EuroPharm Forum 2012

Memorandum of Understanding
for Collaboration between the World Health Organisation,
Regional Office for Europe and the EuroPharm Forum
2012-2015

This Memorandum of Understanding for Collaboration establishes a framework for co-operation between the WHO Regional Office for Europe and the EuroPharm Forum to develop and implement joint initiatives to support the implementation of WHO policies in the European Region.

Background

The WHO Regional Office for Europe supports the Member States in developing and sustaining national health policies, health systems and public health programmes; in working to identify, prevent and overcome potential threats to health; in anticipating future challenges; and in advocating public health. The WHO Regional Office for Europe recognises pharmacists as an essential component within any health system, and therefore a vital contributor to the work for a better health.

The work of the WHO Regional Office for Europe is currently guided by the following main health policy developments: "The new European policy for health – Health 2020: vision, values, main directions and approaches", "Summary interim report on implementation of the Tallinn Charter" and "Action plan for implementation of the European Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases 2012–2016", "Action plan to prevent and combat multidrug- and extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis in the WHO European Region", "European strategic action plan on antibiotic resistance".

The mission of the EuroPharm Forum is to focus on promoting and improving people's health in Europe, based on the policies and strategies set by the WHO. The EuroPharm Forum also follows the policies of International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) to enhance regional implementation. The EuroPharm Forum's activities are based on WHO and FIP documents on the Role of the Pharmacist, on Good Pharmacy Practice and on Pharmaceutical Care concepts. The EuroPharm Forum's strategic options and activities are reflected in: network activities, knowledge centre facilities and implementation tools.

This Memorandum of Understanding details and describes the collaboration between the WHO Regional Office for Europe and the EuroPharm Forum.

Collaboration

Within the above mentioned scopes, the collaboration between the WHO Regional Office for Europe and the EuroPharm Forum is defined in a mutual understanding.

The WHO Regional Office for Europe and the EuroPharm Forum aim to achieve the following goals:

1. The WHO Regional Office for Europe will be informed about and involved in the EuroPharm Forum's various activities.
2. The EuroPharm Forum will be informed about and involved in the WHO Regional Office for Europe's relevant strategies and activities in the various departments.
3. The EuroPharm Forum will support the relevant activities of the WHO Regional Office for Europe.
4. The WHO Regional Office for Europe will, subject to internal clearance, support the EuroPharm Forum's relevant activities, provided these activities are in line with WHO policies and priorities.
5. A representative from the WHO Regional Office for Europe will be invited to participate in the EuroPharm Forum's meetings as an observer.
6. A representative from the EuroPharm Forum will be invited to the WHO Regional Office for Europe's meetings whenever pharmacy issues are on the table.
7. The collaboration will be reviewed every second year or as appropriate.
8. There are no financial obligations between the two collaborating partners.
9. A plan of action will be defined and updated regularly.

Plan of Action

The first elements to be developed in the plan of action are focused on the implementation of activities in the areas of Non Communicable Diseases and also in the area of communicable diseases particularly with regards to antimicrobial resistance and multidrug resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) by the intervention of the pharmacist. Using the principles of Good Pharmacy Practice the above focus areas should be developed to educate all health care professionals in particular pharmacists to support the implementation of related health programmes to improve patient outcomes.

EuroPharm Forum will support implementation of WHO strategies through enhancing the area of pharmaceutical care and consequently result in better prevention and treatment outcomes around a people centred approach.

In all actions priorities need to be set and a concrete plan has to be developed before July 2012.

Conditions

The WHO Regional Office for Europe or the EuroPharm Forum may, at any given time, terminate the collaboration established in this Memorandum of Understanding. Should a party wish to terminate the collaboration, a 3-months' notice in writing shall be given.

The WHO emblem and name may not be used, unless there is prior written approval by the WHO Regional Office for Europe, on a case-by-case basis, for joint activities of WHO and EuroPharm Forum.

This Memorandum of Understanding will be evaluated every second year and enters into force upon signature by both parties.

Any dispute relating to the interpretation or application of this Memorandum of Understanding shall, unless amicably settled, be subject to conciliation. In the event of failure of the latter, the dispute shall be settled by arbitration. The arbitration shall be conducted in accordance with the modalities to be agreed upon by the parties or, in the absence of agreement, in accordance with the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules. The parties shall accept the arbitral award as final.

Copenhagen, 8/3/ 2012


Zsuzsanna Jakab
Regional Director
WHO Regional Office for Europe


Dr Dick Tromp
President
EuroPharm Forum