

Annual EURIPA Report for WONCA Europe Executive Meeting

Malaga 2010

Introduction

2009-10 has been an exciting and productive year for EURIPA. We held our first European Rural Health Forum and welcomed old and new members to the EURIPA fold. We are constantly enlarging our network and we have embarked on a plan to develop a EURIPA European Rural Health Strategy, which we hope to publish in 2012. (<http://www.euripa.org/>)

Composition Executive

Main Executive

John Wynn-Jones	UK (President)
Christos Lionis	Greece (Editor Journal)
Jose Lopez Abuin	Spain
Jose Banque Vidiella	Spain
Marios Chaiziarsenis	Greece
Agnes Simek	Hungary
Claudio Carosino	Italy (EGPRN Representative)
Gunta Ticmane	Latvia
Elizabeth Swensen	Norway
Christina Galvao	Portugal
Zsuasanna Farkas-pall	Romania
Hakan Yaman	Turkey (EURACT Representative)
Jane Randall-Smith	UK (Honorary Secretary)

Co-opted Members

Andreas Rinnerberger	Vasco de Gama
Jose Bueno	EQUIP
Hans Hannich	IAAMRH (International Assoc Agricultural Medicine and Rural Health)

Meetings

EURIPA held its first Invitational European Rural Health Forum in Palma, Majorca, May 14th-16th. The meeting involved 65 rural health experts from 25 European countries who participated in thematic workshops and discussions on research, quality, education and policy-development for rural health care. The organizer's aim was to ensure that the meeting was as interactive as possible and in addition to the workshops, the programme consisted of Keynotes, plenaries, special interest group meetings and a poster walk.

Following ten successful years, the EURIPA Executive believed that the time was right to reevaluate EURIPA's new, higher profile role and decided in June 2008 at its meeting in Budapest to hold a European rural health experts' meeting in 2010. Majorca was seen as a fitting place to meet with the remit to start the development of a rural health strategy for Europe.

A list of generic recommendations was compiled and submitted to the delegates in final plenary session for approval. The Forum determined that this discussion paper will form the basis for a future Rural Health Strategy for Europe and

EURIPA has been tasked with its development through a series of meetings over the next 2 years.

We aim to run a programme at Malaga and in 2 meetings next year with the aim of developing

My forum was well received by all those who attended. Delegates unanimously voted to hold a 2nd Forum in Romania in May 2011. The EURIPA Executive has been tasked with developing a credible, achievable and sustainable strategy for Europe. EURIPA is happy to take this on and it believes that it has embarked on a unique project, which will have a lasting impact on the provision of healthcare in rural Europe. The organizers aim to run programmes at the 2 next Wonca–Europe conferences and in Romania to ensure that all those who wish to engage with the process can.

<http://www.institutodesaludrural.org/>

See Appendix 1 for full report and recommendations

Achievements/Projects

EURIPA's main project for the next 2 years will be the development of its European Rural Health Strategy. The findings from the Majorca meeting will be discussed in our collective meetings over this period. Our aim is to work on the research recommendations in the plenary session in Malaga, followed by work on the Quality issues in our 2nd Rural Health Forum in Romania (May 2011). Following further work on Education and Policy Development at the 2011 European Wonca Conference and the 3rd Rural Health Forum, the final policy will be published at the Wonca European Conference 2012.

Collaborations

EURIPA sees itself as a truly cross-cutting network which must work with other WONCA Europe networks and special interest groups to ensure that the needs of Europe's Rural Health Workforce is met irrespective of isolation and access problems. We have ensured that we have co-opted executive members from the other networks who can work with us and report back to their respective organizations. We will achieve much more through collective and collaborative work than we can through working in isolation.

Future plans

Our main aims over the next 2 years are to

1. Expand our network
2. Develop our European Rural Health Strategy
3. Run annual Rural Health Forum meetings across Europe. The next meeting will be held in Romania (May 2011)

Sponsor policy

EURIPA believes in ethical sponsorship. Its members would prefer to conduct its affairs without having to rely on sponsorship but it is pragmatic in its approach. The lack of sustainable and substantial core funding necessitates the need to obtain certain funds to assist in the running of meetings and projects.

EURIPA is in the process of developing a sponsorship policy. The principles of the draft policy are:

- All sponsorship and other arrangements involving EURIPA and the

Pharmaceutical Industry are conducted in a proper, open and transparent manner

- Any material personal and financial interests EURIPA members may have in the Pharmaceutical Industry are declared, formally recorded and available for public scrutiny
- All material gifts and benefits received by from the Pharmaceutical Industry are declared formally recorded and available for public scrutiny.
- The level of Sponsorship should be reasonable in level and subordinate to the main scientific and educational objective of the meeting
- Where possible sponsorship should be sought from more than one organisation
- Sponsoring organisations must not actively promote their products during the formal (educational and scientific) part of the meeting. Any promotion must be informal and low key and should be outside the main meeting hall.

Conclusions

2009-10 has been another successful year for EURIPA. It is our intention that we now increase our profile by contributing to policy development in individual countries and across Europe.

Dr John Wynn-Jones
President EURIPA 2010