



**Newsletter of the Vasco da Gama Movement  
Wonca Europe working group for young and future general practitioners**

**Number 3**

**January 2006**

**Dear young doctors and GP-trainees,**

This is the third newsletter of the Wonca Europe working group for young and future GP's. We have met many of you during the WONCA Europe conference in Kos, September 2005 and hopefully we will see you again in Florence 27-30 August 2006! You will find a report of the Kos' meeting on the third page of this newsletter. Firstly we would like to inform you about two important issues: the new organisational structure of Vasco da Gama and the revised statement of intent.

**Organisational structure**

The core group of Vasco da Gama Movement met in January 2006 in London and recognised that the current organisational model causes some distress among those who are not presently involved in the VdGM coregroup, fearing not to be included.

To move forward, it is important to have a well-structured organisation.

**What is going to change ?**

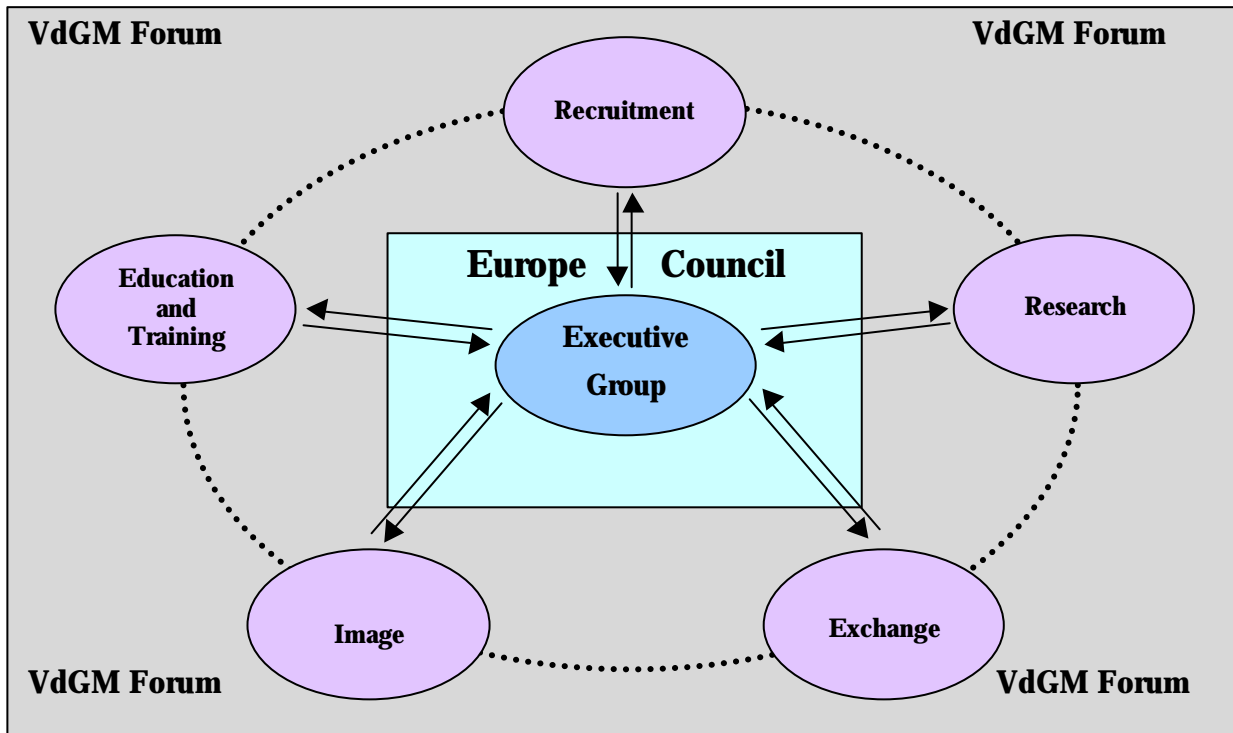
The previously presented pyramid organisational structure will be replaced by a new satellite model: less hierarchy and more cooperation. The VdGM Europe Council will be the ruling body of this model. Each WONCA Europe member country will be asked to appoint or elect one national delegate for the VdGM Europe Council. This means that the VdGM Europe Council will consist of a maximum of 36 members. This council will meet annually during the WONCA Europe Conference.

**Executive Group**

The Executive Group will be elected from the VdGM Europe council. Every member in the Executive Group will stay for a maximum of three years. National delegates of the VdGM Europe Council can apply for any position in the Executive Group that will be available and motivate their interest. Elections will be held during the Europe Council Meeting in Paris 2007.

## Theme Groups

VdGM has six theme groups: Research, Education and Training, Recruitment, Exchange, Organisational Structure and Image. These theme groups will be open to every eligible participant to contribute. Each theme group has a liaison person from the Executive Group to report progress and status of these theme groups to the VdGM Europe Council and VdGM Executive Group.



For the time being the VdGM core group will proceed as interim Executive Group until a formal board of Executive members is being installed in Paris 2007. We propose that at the first elections half of the VdGM core group will resign and the other half will continue for another year to pass on relevant issues and provide continuity.

## The Statement of intent

The first statement of intent that was made in 2005 has been evaluated and revised according to priorities. Vasco da Gama movement has the following aims and objectives.

- A. Providing a forum, support and information for trainees and young GPs through access to WONCA Europe regional conferences and pre-conferences.
  - a1. By means of co-organising a preconference meeting during the WONCA Europe regional conferences and pre-conferences
- B. Establishing a communication network between European trainees and young GPs and identifying their concerns, doubts and needs and helping to address them.
  - b1. By means of writing and publishing newsletters concerning the movement for national

- b2. By collaborating with national colleges and associations in general practice and stimulating the formation of national representation of young and future GPs.
- b3. By collaborating with international organisations of general practice and the representation of the movement at international meetings.

C. Improving the quality of training programmes for general practice.

- c1. By establishing a central information database on training programmes for general practice.
- c2. By setting up quality standards.

### **Report Pre-conference meeting Vasco da Gama Movement**

The second pre-conference meeting for Junior Doctors in general practice/family medicine took place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of September 2005 in Kos - Greece, preceding the 11<sup>th</sup> WONCA Europe conference. It was hosted by the Greek Association of General Practitioners and organised by the Vasco da Gama Movement in collaboration with the 2005 WONCA Europe Conference Host Organising Committee under the aegis of WONCA Europe.

All countries, members of WONCA Europe, were invited to send a delegation of two members to the conference. The Greek HOC generously hosted the pre-conference meeting and offered a reduced registration fee for Junior Doctors to the main conference. The national colleges were asked to sponsor the accommodation and travelling expenses for their participants.

18 European countries responded positively to the invitational letter and each sent 1-2 participants to the pre-conference meeting. In addition Greece was represented by 18 delegates. Consequently a total of 52 participants from 19 countries were nominated this year.

The delegates were distributed in groups of 10-11 participants, each guided by two experienced facilitators – one board member of the European Academy of Teachers (EURACT) and one Greek GP/FM teacher. Every group started on beforehand working in internet discussion groups where they introduced themselves and shortly presented their national health care system and educational system. There was an exchange of documents relevant for preparing the pre-conference meeting.

The pre-conference meeting consisted of workshops with a short introduction to the theme, interactive sessions in the groups and plenary presentations and discussions of the results.

Themes for the pre-conference meeting this year were:

- *Implementation of the EURACT document: The Educational Agenda of GP/FM.*

The aim was to promote the concept of good educational guidelines outlined by the Agenda of GP/FM. Issues in the application of the Agenda were discussed from the users' point of view.

- *Recruitment issues in GP/FM career.*

The aim was to reflect on the positive aspects of working as a GP, and based on these reflections develop strategies to improve recruitment to the profession in the future.

- *The Vasco da Gama Movement.*

The aim was to introduce the VdGM to the participants, to encourage new ideas and views on VdGM development as well as to discuss the role of the movement. The pre-conference opened with an introductory presentation and ended with the first VdGM General Meeting, open to all interested. The General Meeting supported the VdGM development and the core group of 11 delegates from Amsterdam were mandated. Specific themegroups were stated and interested participants volunteered to join the groups.

Conclusions and selected items from the pre-conference meeting were presented in three workshops at the main conference, attracting the young and future GPs who could not attend the pre-conference,

teachers in GP/FM and all participants with interest in the issues of education, recruitment and VdGM development.

After the unique initiative of the Dutch College of General Practitioners who generously hosted the first invitational pre-conference for Junior Doctors in GP/FM in Amsterdam 2004 and the successful follow-up in Kos, we are expecting this to be a yearly gathering of delegates from all the European Colleges, Academies and Associations in GP/FM, members of WONCA Europe. We are right now in the process of planning the next pre-conference in Florence 2006, and hope for this to be as great a success as the two we already have experienced.

### **Contact Information Vasco da Gama Movement**

WONCA Europe working group for young and future general practitioners

### **VdGM Interim Executive group**



#### **Postal address**

Vasco da Gama Movement  
Secretariat, I. van der Heijden  
Huisartsopleiding UM, Deb 1  
PO box 616  
6200 MD Maastricht  
the Netherlands  
[VDGM@HAG.unimaas.nl](mailto:VDGM@HAG.unimaas.nl)

#### **Chairman**

Birgit Morre Pedersen  
Denmark  
[BMP@dadlnet.dk](mailto:BMP@dadlnet.dk)

<b>Secretary</b>	Ingrid van der Heijden the Netherlands <a href="mailto:I.vanderHeijden@HAG.unimaas.nl">I.vanderHeijden@HAG.unimaas.nl</a>
<b>Preconference manager 2006</b>	Joao Carlos Portugal <a href="mailto:Joao.Carlos@netcabo.pt">Joao.Carlos@netcabo.pt</a>
<b>Preconference manager 2007</b>	Stijn Festraets Belgium <a href="mailto:Stijn.Festraets@telenet.be">Stijn.Festraets@telenet.be</a>
<b>Themegroups liaison persons Research</b>	Frank Peters Germany <a href="mailto:Frank.Peters@med.uni_heidelberg.de">Frank.Peters@med.uni_heidelberg.de</a>
<b>Education and Training</b>	Majid Jalil United Kingdom <a href="mailto:MajidJalil@hotmail.com">MajidJalil@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Exchange</b>	Fatma Goksin Cihan Turkey <a href="mailto:GoksinCihan@yahoo.com">GoksinCihan@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Recruitment</b>	Monica Knutsen Norway <a href="mailto:Monica.Knutsen@ntnu.no">Monica.Knutsen@ntnu.no</a>
<b>Image</b>	Erik Teunissen The Netherlands <a href="mailto:erikteunissen2003@yahoo.com">erikteunissen2003@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Executive group member:</b>	Dimitris Karanasios Greece <a href="mailto:DimKargp@otenet.gr">DimKargp@otenet.gr</a>
	Donata Kurpas Poland <a href="mailto:DKurpas@hotmail.com">DKurpas@hotmail.com</a>
	Monica Novac Romania <a href="mailto:Monica_Novac@yahoo.com">Monica_Novac@yahoo.com</a>