WONCA Europe Council Meeting, 22.10.15., Istanbul.

**Core PCO for future WONCA Europe conferences??**

Traditionally organizers of WONCA Europe conferences use “local” PCOs (Professional Conference Organizers) in the practical arrangement of the conferences.

There have been suggestions of making a contract with a core PCO that could do this job for several years disregarding different locations of the conferences. In Council meeting in Lisbon 2014 there was a very brief discussion in the Conference Committee regarding this item – and EB decided to address the question once more – and start a discussion in Council – and in the Conference Committee.

If we should follow this suggestion it would be WONCA Europe that would make a contract with a core PCO.

**Some possible pros for a Core PCO:**

* learning from conference to conference is easier
* having the same system for registration, abstract submission and handling
* database of participants can easily be reused (ownership by WONCA Europe)
* database of / interaction with sponsors and exhibitors might be easier
* possible to build longlasting partnerships with sponsors and exhibitors
* WONCA Europe can focus on visions and strategy for conference
* a core PCO might be possible to negotiate better conditions at different venues
* reuse of material from year to year would diminish expenditures
* it might provide a more stable running of conferences and ensuring better income to local organisers and to WONCA Europe
* it should diminish workload on local Host Organizing Committee – and on Scientific Committee
* and….
* and…

**Some possible cons for a Core PCO:**

* a more distant European PCO might weaken the local organizers commitment and engagement in the conference
* it might be difficult to encourage national colleges to give a bid for a conference, as the situation might seem “out of control” by the local Host Organizing Committee
* less flexibility to national wishes from the local Host Organizing Committee
* if the conference is organized by a Core PCO local organizers might feel less ownership of the conference
* and…
* and…

**Proposal:**

1. **Hearing viewpoints from Council**
2. **Discussion to continue in the Conference Committee**

Roar Maagaard.