



## MINUTES

### EAP Winter Meeting 2019 | Brussels, Belgium

Primary and Secondary Care Council

Saturday, 7 Dec 2019 | 08.00 – 09.30

**Chair of Primary Care Working Group: Péter Altorjai**

**Chair of Secondary Care Working Group: Károly Illy**

This winter meeting saw the very last occasion of having together both the primary and secondary care council meetings, due to the later unanimously accepted changes made to the statutes of the Academy. Chaired by Károly Illy (KI) from the secondary care council and Péter Altorjai (PA) from the primary care, the joint meeting again brought lively discussions to the floor.

The session started by PA, him giving details on the follow-up on developing a strategy on the quality of paediatric primary care first by introducing CHILDONOMICS. As agreed during Vilnius meeting, PA corresponded EUROCHILD, that is a 'network of organisations and individuals working in and across Europe to promote the rights and well-being of children and young people'. EUROCHILD has been hosting CHILDONOMICS, a framework for "measuring the long-term social and economic value of investing in children" led accidentally by a Hungarian senior policy analyst, child protection expert and sociologist, Mária Herczog. By discussing with her the situation of primary paediatric care all over Europe and some in the world, she agreed to help find a suitable economic approach on proofing paediatricians' superiority in this very field. As PA presented texts taken from its official website, next steps for CHILDONOMICS seem to be actually aligned with the primary care council's mission.

Next PA opened a discussion on corresponding and possible future participating in the work of the European Forum for Primary care. The next congress of this forum would take place in Ljubljana, Slovenia with the motto: Empowering Primary Care Through Diversity, could be possibly taken as an invitation for primary care paediatricians (PCPs) too. More on the correspondence with the Forum will be reported later.

There was also a short discussion on the evolution of primary care practice settings: from solo to practice communities and group practice models, the latter taken by many experts the survival setting for paediatric primary care, from many aspects. After a short review of well-known demographical papers, a proposal was accepted to compose a new demographical survey on primary paediatric care workforce in European countries with special focus on practice configuration, inviting ECPCP and MOCHA experts to the board.

A late 2019 fall WHO Europe paper, titled as 'Fast track to strong primary care' was presented to the audience, that failed to include paediatric workforce as a whole, particularly when bringing Spain as a good example to the table, where one of the strongest primary care paediatricians are all over Europe. An official statement was announced soon to be issued covering the real situation of Poland and Spain,



both countries mentioned in this the WHO paper. During the meeting all learnt that in Luxembourg newborns are not seen by primary care paediatricians due to workload problems anymore, but by family doctors. In order to alleviate workforce pressure - a severe shortage of general practitioners (GPs) - realised recently in the UK in general practice, physicians associates are recruited by vast numbers to these general practices, acute internal medicine wards and emergency departments, too. They are not listed as medical doctors, have shortened training in length, but with very similar tasks and responsibilities to physicians. During the discussions all agreed to collect more data from country delegates on both countries' specific situation and embed them to the final draft of the official comment back to WHO Europe, finally co-signed by ECPCP executives.

During the discussion part country delegates from Turkey, Ukraine, Slovenia and Norway gave insight to their different primary paediatric care settings. From Italy, one of the former presidents of EAP, Professor Alfred Tenore presented a few preliminary results from a yet unpublished study ('Molise') on comparing GP- versus PCP- based primary paediatric caretaking from brand new aspects.

Karoly Illy brought a 2015 Lancet paper 'Improving paediatric care in the community' to the audience for a thorough review of its strong arguments from the European Academy of Paediatrics.

The primary care meeting was closed by PA, with a short update on the follow-up of the statement on DDH by ICODE task force. Participants agreed to send the document with the written permission from the editorial board of the publisher to the soon-to-be-extended circle of national delegates and would ask for voting on endorsing in full consent of the paper during the general assembly of the Malta spring meeting 2020.