



To: All members organisations of EUSUHM

Leuven, 1st March 2005

Dear colleagues,

In times where regular mailings and printed publications are gradually being replaced by electronic communication, EUSUHM couldn't wait any longer to take an "E-initiative". This first E-Newsletter aims at informing EUSUHM member organizations and their members about the Youth Health Care for infants, young children, adolescents and students in Europe.

With this brief two- to three-page E-communications we would also like to keep you informed about all future EUSUHM activities and initiatives.

In addition, this ENewsletter ought to be an open platform for exchange of ideas and practical experiences between our members. Therefore, feel free to provide us with all information you wish to share with your European colleagues involved in Youth Health Care.

It is our great pleasure to provide you with this first EUSUHM Newsletter "new style".

We would like to stimulate the spreading of this E-Newsletter to all your members. Only then EUSUHM and its activities will become broadly known by professionals in preschool, school and student health care in Europe.

Please don't hesitate to contact the secretary of EUSUHM (natalie.ceulemans@med.kuleuven.ac.be) whenever you need any information about EUSUHM, or any help in spreading this E-Newsletter in particular. Also in case you would like to share information with your European colleagues, Ms Natalie Ceulemans is the person to be contacted. She will arrange the spreading of this information.

We wish you many reading pleasure,

Mojca Juricic and Marina Kuzman, Editors

Karel Hoppenbrouwers, President



Editorial

*Mojca Juricic and Marina Kuzman
Editors of the EUSUHM Newsletter*

In times where regular mailings and printed publications are gradually being replaced by electronic communication, EUSUHM couldn't wait any longer to take an "E-initiative". This first E-Newsletter aims at informing EUSUHM member organizations and their members about the Youth Health Care for infants, young children, adolescents and students in Europe. With these brief one- or two-page E-communications we would also like to keep you informed about all future EUSUHM activities and initiatives. In addition, this E-Newsletter ought to be an open platform for exchange of ideas and practical experiences between our members. Therefore, feel free to provide us with all information you wish to share with your European colleagues involved in Youth Health Care.



News from the EUSUHM Executive Committee

*Karel Hoppenbrouwers
President of EUSUHM*

Since the last EUSUHM Congress in Ljubljana, your Executive Committee (EC) has been very active. On the occasion of the General Assembly meetings in Ljubljana (September 2003) and Helsinki (June 2004) the EC was charged with the task to elaborate new initiatives aiming at increasing the quality of Youth Health Care in Europe.

Priority had to be given to:

- (1) the elaboration of, and support for, postgraduate training programs for school- and student-doctors;
- (2) the development of evidence-based guidelines for Youth Health Care; and
- (3) the consolidation of the organization of school and student health care in the European region.

Last but not least, attracting new organizations for EUSUHM-membership in order to develop EUSUHM into a real European organization representing

Youth Health Care in the wider European Region, was considered to be of extreme importance.

A huge task, indeed, for these pitiable members of the EC.



Kari and Karel at the wheel of EUSUHM: an "old-timer" with a magnificent future? (Picture taken on the occasion of the General Assembly, Helsinki, June 2004)

What has been achieved since that famous September 2003?

*Karel Hoppenbrouwers
President of EUSUHM*

During the last two years, the EC has succeeded in using international meetings and congresses, in which some of the EC members participated, as an excellent opportunity for EC-meetings. This resulted in at least four EC-meetings with only limited use of EUSUHM resources.

In the near future you'll find the minutes of these EC-meetings on our website (www.eusuhm.org).

Postgraduate education programs

In accordance to the first of the above mentioned EUSUHM priorities, the EUSUHM EC co-organized a workshop regarding "Postgraduate Education in Youth Health Care in Europe", which was held in Zagreb on 24-26 April 2004, on the initiative of the University of Zagreb (Prof. Vesna Juresa). The postgraduate education programs of the eight countries, which were represented in this workshop, were presented and compared with each other. Similarities and differences were being discussed, aiming at defining a common European quality standard for postgraduate education programs in Youth Health Care. To complete the overall picture of the different postgraduate education programs, which are in place in Europe, it was decided to collect additional information by sending an extensive written questionnaire to the organizers of those education programs. The outcome of this workshop and questionnaire will be discussed and presented in detail on the occasion of the coming EUSUHM Congress in Dubrovnik.

European Guidelines Youth Health Care

The Department of Youth Health Care of the Catholic University of Leuven and the Flemish Society of Youth Health Care, in collaboration with their Croatian and Slovenian partners (including EUSUHM) submitted two study-projects aiming at the development of "Guidelines for Youth Health Care". The Flemish Government selected both projects for subsidizing during a 2-year period, starting in January 2005. Both initiatives ought to be considered as so-called "twin-projects", in preparation of the development of a first *European Guideline for Youth Health Care*. On the occasion of two introductory workshops, which will take place in Zagreb and Ljubljana on 11 and 12 March 2005 respectively, the "Prevention of Overweight and Obesity in Young Schoolchildren" will be put forward as the subject of preference for guideline development. Again, the Dubrovnik Congress will be the first occasion to present the outline and objectives of these co-operation projects.



Contact with member organizations

In order to strengthen the relations between EUSUHM member organizations and the EC and in preparation of the General Assembly meeting in Helsinki (June 2004), Karel Hoppenbrouwers had a meeting with the newly elected president of the Dutch Association of Youth Health Care (Dr. Wike Lijs).

At the beginning of September 2004 he attended a meeting in Berlin together with the representatives of the School Health Services of almost all German States ("Länder").

On both occasions the future of EUSUHM and the expectations and involvement of the respective member organizations were thoroughly discussed. Karel would like to thank both organizations for their hospitality; he expresses his intention to contact and visit the other member organizations in the near future.

New member organizations

In 2005, EUSUHM takes great pleasure in welcoming two new member organizations.

In the autumn of 2004 the "Nationale Fachgruppe Schulärzte" of the Swiss Society of Public Health applied for EUSUHM-membership, which was accepted without any hesitation by the EC on its meeting on 4 December 2004. Dr. Susanne Stronski Huwiler, who is the head of the School Health Service of Zürich, will represent her organization in the EUSUHM General Assembly.

In the same period, also the *University Student Health Services of Norway* applied for EUSUHM-membership. Again with a lot of enthusiasm, the EC accepted this organization as a new member during the same EC meeting. Dr. Cecilie Daae, being the director of the Student Health Service of Oslo, will represent her Service and the other Norwegian Student Health Services in the EUSUHM General Assembly.

Both new member organizations are kindly invited to present themselves on the occasion of the next meeting of the General Assembly, to be held in Dubrovnik in October 2005.



EUSUHM – an umbrella for the development of preschool, school and student health care in Europe

Kari Pylkkänen
Vice-President of EUSUHM

EUSUHM must serve as an umbrella for preschool, school and student health care in Europe in two ways: (1) it must serve as an information center and (2) as a protective shield.

EUSUHM as Information Center

EUSUHM is essential for collecting and spreading information related to Youth Health Care. Congresses are the scientific base for this purpose. But they are not sufficient. We need a better understanding, not only of the scientific basis for good practice, but also increasingly of the best systems on organizing care. For this purpose EUSUHM needs to develop its skills in consultation and lobbying for better preschool, school and student health care systems.

EUSUHM as a protective shield

EUSUHM must grow into an umbrella under which an extended data bank on preschool, school and student health issues can be found and developed; a EUSUHM-umbrella against the rain of the changing health care storms. Health care systems are under constant change in Europe. Issues of cost-containment, globalization, increasing cost of medical technology and changing legal frameworks in health care have created a stormy environment for health plans. The new EU-countries are radically changing their health care traditions. The EU debates the future role of health services in the proposed Service EU-Directive. Health markets are changing.

What happens to the small specialty areas like preschool, school and student health services?

They are - and will continue to be - under constant pressure. Professionals working in these fields need to learn from each other. It is essential to develop our organizational skills in order to have a status for developing our services from inside, using the experience for best practices gained in different countries. The alternative is to leave our professional area for storms from outside, resulting in radical changes of our working environment without having had any impact on its restructuring.

This is another reason why EUSUHM must develop in terms of a protecting umbrella for preschool, school and university health services. I'd like to vision EUSUHM as a center for organizational consultation and lobbying for good health care of the childhood, adolescent and young adult populations. We need to develop quality standards and external audits in our field. We need to confront the health politicians across the boarders. This is a hard job, but it must be done if we want to accomplish good health for young people in the future.

The Nordic experience – 12th Student Health Congress 2004

Finland organized the 12th Nordic Student Health Congress in Helsinki at the beginning of September 2004. More than 200 participants - which is a record number - from Finland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark attended the Congress. The high participation number reflected the needs experienced by these professionals in student health care to share their information, understanding and experience with foreign colleagues.

For the first time in history the Nordic Student Health Congress has been addressed by the President of EUSUHM. Karel Hoppenbrouwers' speech was warmly welcomed by the Nordic participants, most of whom had never attended EUSUHM congresses. The need for more sharing of information at a European level was widely discussed. Marina Kuzman and Vesna Juresic (both representing the Croatian Society for School and University Medicine, and the



organizers of the coming EUSUHM Congress) kindly invited the Nordic colleagues to the Dubrovnik Congress. What we need to do is to work towards a common goal. I am looking forward to seeing more than ever preschool, school and student health professionals in the next EUSUHM Congress in Dubrovnik October 2005.



News from the EUSUHM Congress 2005

*Marina Kuzman and Vesna Juresa
On behalf of the organizers of the Congress*

13th Congress of the European Union for School and University Health and Medicine: Healthy Youth - Investment for the Future

Dubrovnik, Croatia, 12 – 15 October 2005
www.13congress-eusuhm.org

All preparatory activities for the Congress are at the full speed. We are extremely pleased that all members of the International Organizing Committee as well as all colleagues from Croatian Organizing Committee willingly dedicate their time and efforts to make things going on and to contribute with the ideas how to make the whole event highly professional and enjoyable at the same time.

We tried to reach the most important people in the field of the health care of children and youth and persuade them to join us and to share with us their knowledge and experience. We do expect interesting presentations, vivid discussions and creative learning. The main topics will be: (1) demographic trends and their implications for youth health policy; (2) from demands to meeting the needs of the young populations; (3) school-based health care programs: the actual picture and future prospects. Up to now there is an exceptional list of keynote and invited speakers, amongst others: Babill Stray Pedersen, Veikko Aalberg, Pierre van Damme, Remy Hira Sing, Anthony Morgan, Vivian Barnekow Rassmussen, Andrej Marušič, Paul de Cock, Stephan Van den Broucke - and the list has not been closed yet.

All their names you will be very soon reading in the second announcement, that is going to be printed actually. Do not forget that the abstract deadline has been shifted to the 1st of May. And, do not forget that Dubrovnik is one of the most beautiful places at the Mediterranean area and that an attractive social program will be organized for participants and accompanying persons.

Just as Karel Hoppenbrouwers said: "The EUSUHM Congress 2005 in Dubrovnik will be a challenging meeting place for all professionals being involved in the promotion of a healthier youth in Europe". Be there, and take the opportunity to share ideas and challenges with your European colleagues.



News from other international meetings that might be of interest for EUSUHM members

55th Wissenschaftlicher Kongress der Bundesverbände der Ärzte und Zahnärzte des Öffentlichen Gesundheitsdienstes

Location: Bamberg, Germany, 14-16 April 2005

Organizer: Bundesverbände der Ärzte und Zahnärzte des Öffentlichen Gesundheitsdienstes in Deutschland

Information: www.aerzte.dbb.de



8th World Congress of the International Association of Adolescent Health (IAAH)

Location: Lisbon, Portugal, 11-14 May 2005

Organizer: IAAH

Information: www.iaah.org



23rd Congress of the European Society of Pediatric Infectious Diseases (ESPID)

Location: Valencia, Spain, 18-20 May 2005

Organizer: ESPID

Information: www.espid.org



EuTEACH Summer School, European Training in Effective Adolescent Care and Health

Location: University of Lausanne, Switzerland, 11-15 July 2005

Organizer: EuTEACH

Information: Prof. P.-A. Michaud, euteach@chuv.ch



4th Slovenian Congress on School and University Medicine with international participation - Healthy Youth our Future

Location: Maribor, Slovenia, September 16-17, 2005

Organizer: The Slovenian Society of School and University Medical Doctors Slovene Medical Association

Information: M.V. Tuljak (tel: 05 6635035) or L.

Radolli (leon.radolli@zd-mb.si)

Submission of themes-abstracts- articles:

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13th European Conference on Public Health

Location: Graz, Austria, 10-12 November 2005

Organizer: The European Public Health Association (EUPHA)

Information: www.EUPHA.org



Information to be included in the next issue of the E-Newsletter or suggestions for amelioration?

Contact the editors:

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Youth Health Care in pictures: "The Heart"



Painted by Robert Müller - 5 year old

Part of the exhibition of the project, entitled "the heart", organized by the Berliner "Jugendgesundheitsdienst Wittenau" with the collaboration of schoolchildren, and coordinated by Dr. Helmut Hoffmann.

More information about this and former projects of Helmut Hoffmann, will be available in the next E-Newsletter.