

Ref: Agenda item RC62 5(a) Policy & technical topics: Health 2020: a European policy framework supporting action across government and society for health and well-being

There is strong research evidence that physiotherapy is both clinically and cost effective in optimising health across the life span and in the management of non-communicable diseases.

Physiotherapists represent a coherent and united voice in civil society in Europe through the work of the European Region of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy [ER-WCPT]. Creating capacity within the professional community of physiotherapists improves the standard of education and practice and ultimately the quality of the health service received by patients/clients. The World Confederation for Physical Therapy [www.wcpt.org] is the sole international representative organisation of physiotherapists worldwide and its European Region [<http://www.physio-europe.org>] has member organisations in 38 of the 53 member states of the European Region of WHO.

The ER-WCPT welcomes the policy framework and the opportunity to work with WHO Europe as a collaborative partner in supporting the aims of Health 2020. It will communicate the aims of Health 2020 to its member organisations and urge them to become active partners in their national collective efforts to implement the priority areas particularly where physiotherapists have a key role such as health throughout the life course and tackling NCD's.



EUROPEAN REGION

World Confederation
for Physical Therapy

<http://www.physio-europe.org>

Where the profession of physiotherapy is developing in the 15 other member states, the ER-WCPT urges governments to recognize the potential for physiotherapists to contribute to the task of implementing Health 2020, as autonomous practitioners and key members of the interdisciplinary health care team. Physiotherapists can contribute in a significant way to health promotion and disease prevention. WCPT has developed internationally accepted standards and guidelines for the practice of physiotherapy and reviews and accredits entry-level education programmes in countries where the profession is developing its capacity.

ER-WCPT welcomes opportunities to work with governments on the implementation of the Health 2020 and where relevant in the development of the profession of physiotherapy.

Statement delivered on behalf of the European Region of WCPT by Dr. Emma K. Stokes, Vice President WCPT and Mr. John Xerri de Caro, President, Malta Association of Physiotherapists.

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