EAHP – update report
February 2018

European Statements on Hospital Pharmacy and Self-Assessment tool

Implementation of the statements has continued to move forward with the self-assessment tool (SAT) and Statement Implementation Learning Collaborative Centres (SILCC) being launched during the Gothenburg congress. We have 6 hospitals already signed up as SILCC Hosts! Be sure to stop by the EAHP booth to learn more.

A second meeting with the ambassadors was held in October 2017. In addition, EAHP held a training course for ambassadors on leadership and advocacy in January 2018. The Ambassadors found the course most helpful and requested that EAHP provide another course but over a period of 2 to 2½ days in order to gain more knowledge as after the January course, all realized that so much more could be learned. EAHP will be adding a proposed budget to the GA for approval.

Many thanks to the project team, national ambassadors and members for the dedication to this project!

Surveys

The Survey Working Group have reviewed the final results of the 2017 survey and a presentation will be given during the Tuesday’ members’ meeting in Gothenburg. We will have the first comparison reports as the same sections of the statements survey in fall 2015 were repeated last year. Members will receive their survey results during the GA. The 2018 Survey will open in Fall.

Student internship programme

The last year has seen many students interested in the internship programme, however, the shortage of hospitals willing to take interns has continued to hamper the programme. To address this issue, the EPSA interns will be promoting the programme during the congress at the EAHP booth. The web site has been updated and Nenad Miljkovic will be giving a presentation during the EPSA congress promoting the hospital pharmacy profession.

Common Training Framework

A number of CTF (conference call) meetings took place between October 2017 and January 2018. In addition, the Labour Mobility Report was launched on 31st January 2018 which contains the results of our survey that investigated the attitudes and perspectives of hospital pharmacists on labour mobility. The launch event was attended by the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine, ECCO, EPSA and the European Commission. EAHP decided on a small-scale event in the office, since hosting the event in the European Parliament was not possible and hosting near the Parliament was too expensive.

Since MEP Mairead McGuinness could unfortunately not host our launch event, JP, PH and SK met with her after the launch. Before meeting us, she was not aware of the activities of hospital pharmacists. EAHP will provide her with a question on mobility that could be asked by MEP McGuinness through the official channels of the Parliament.
During the launch event, the European Commission hinted at the fact that the application of the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation (EBVS) was unsuccessful. We should get in touch with EBVS to learn more about the status of their application. Moreover, EAHP will pursue a meeting with policy officers from ECCO member associations to see if other associations are interested in the creation of a CTF. This meeting could also be joined by the representative of the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine who is very keen on receiving support and input from EAHP.

CTF WG1 is identifying a new chair. CTF WG2 will be closed. The members will receive a thank you letter and a certificate. CTF WG3 has been tasked with outreach to national member associations. The working group members are currently setting up calls with representatives of our national member associations to discuss CTF. First results are expected by early April. CTF WG4 held a face-to-face meeting in March to develop a scenario mapping. It was agreed that the mapping activity should be carried out for all countries since the framework was modified in accordance with the comments received during the Delphi consultation.

**Falsified Medicines Directive (FMD)**

EAHP attended several meetings last year. The European Medicines Verification Organisation (EMVO) is discussing a number of different topics at the moment including the slow on-boarding of on-boarding partners (OBPs), the on-boarding of National Medicines Verification Organisations (NMVOs), budget issues and the need of additional staff members, reporting to national competent authorities (NCAs) and the hospital sector.

IQVIA has carried out an analysis for EFPIA and Medicines for Europe. This analysis determined that there are 2292 OBPs instead of over 2500 as initially expected. There are 3 steps for OPB on-boarding: (1) signing the Partnership Agreement, (2) undergoing a legitimacy check and (3) being granted access to the production environment (i.e. the part of the system that you need to be connected to for the uploading of serial numbers). Out of the 265 companies that have signed the Partnership Agreement, only 4 have advanced to the production environment. Due to the lack of cooperation – and also due to the lack of funding sources – EMVO raised the on-boarding fee for OBPs on 15 January 2018 by 50%. On 12th January EMVO announced that end of June 2018 should be considered as the very last opportunity to on-board timely for OBPs.

Also pointed out was that on-boarding of the NMVOs is progressing slowly. Out of the 32 countries, only 12 have signed a cooperation agreement with EMVO, 1 country is currently negotiating an agreement on the cooperation agreement and 7 countries are in general cooperation agreement negotiations with EMVO. In the 12 remaining countries the NMVO is not yet founded. Go-live dates – meaning dates for the connection of the NMVO system to the European hub – have been determined for 14 countries. These countries will be connected by the beginning of April 2018.

The activities of the hospital sector, including the meetings in September 2017 and January 2018 were of particular interest to EFPIA. Francois Bouvy (EFPIA) has mentioned several times that EFPIA is collecting legal opinions in relation to the failure of operations, i.e. opinions on what happens if (1) marketing authorisation holders are not ready; (2) wholesalers are not ready; (3) community pharmacy is not ready and (4) the hospital sector including hospital pharmacy is not ready by 9th February 2019.

EMVO sent letters to NCAs and NMVOs to ask for their assistance in getting the hospital sector ready. No reply was received. EAHP needs to provide the Commission formally with information on our activities.

EAHP will continue to do its part in preparing for the April deadline.
**Medicines Shortages**

EAHP will be conducting a second survey on medicines shortages since the last one done in 2014 was successful and is often cited and referred to by other European associations and industry alike. The survey will launch on Monday, 19 March and we ask that all members circulate and attempt to receive as many responses as possible. We will also hold a press conference at the end of the year or at the beginning of 2018 to disseminate the results.

The EMA and HMA did not advance their shortage project. (Kristin Raudsepp, Director General, Estonian State Agency of Medicines and chair of one of the task force groups indicated that the task force is currently still “finding” itself. However, the members have already discussed the possibility to reach out to stakeholders.

**Antimicrobial resistance**

EAHP was active during the European Antibiotic Awareness Day (EAAD) 2017 and EAHP’s contributions – i.e. an intervention by Petr Horak during the event and a video pledge by Joan Peppard. Our member associations were encouraged to share information about the hospital toolkit and to participate in the EAAD 2017 discussion on Twitter. Our Twitter reach in November was extremely good.

The activities of the thematic network on AMR (lead by EPHA) adopted a call for action on AMR. EAHP endorsed this call for action. The topic is currently very high on the agenda of the European Commission. There are two consultations ongoing at the moment – one for the public (including healthcare professional organisations) and one for invited experts. EAHP is participating in both the public and the expert consultation. The Commission (DG ENVI) invited healthcare professional organisations for a meeting on 6th February.

The Board plans to organise a meeting with the European Commission in April or May to present EAHP’s activities to them. At the moment, the Commission only knows EAHP in relation to FMD. DG SANTE could be visited but also DG Connect in relation to eHealth.

EAHP will be presenting an update on the AMR position paper for approval by the General Assembly which would provide us on the one hand with the opportunity to expand our statement on antimicrobial stewardship. On the other hand, we could align our paper with the current priorities of the European Commission. The update should be considered since AMR is one of EAHP’s main priorities.

**eHealth, mHealth and medicines barcoding**

Activity has been low in the area of barcoding, medical devices and eHealth/mHealth in the past four months. EAHP was approached by the European Commission in fall 2017. The policy officer responsible for the Medical Devices Regulation was interested in meeting with us.

Concerning eHealth and mHealth, a reply to the European Commission public consultation on digital innovation in health and care was submitted. The policy communication which was planned to be published by the end of 2017 as a result of this consultation was not yet released. It will most likely be published in spring/early summer.

In relation to eHealth Week, SK highlighted that no information has been published yet by the European Commission. The official website of eHealth week advertises the HIMSS Europe 18 & Health 2.0 Conference, which will take place from 27th to 29th May in Spain close to Barcelona.
HIMSS has been the official organiser of the past eHealth weeks. The biggest development in eHealth is the Digital Health Society initiative by ECH Alliance. This initiative requires active participation by the signatories. This should be presented to EAHP’s members to obtain their opinion. In case members would like to be active, EAHP could endorse the Declaration.

**Medicines access and regulation (including HTA and biosimilars)**

EAHP has passed the EMA eligibility check for 2018 and can continue to participate in the healthcare professional working group. Furthermore, the mandate of Adamos Hadjipanayis (European Academy of Paediatrics) has been extended.

In relation to biosimilars, the Commission is organising an event on Biosimilar Medicines which will be held on 14th September 2018. EAHP is participating in the organisation of the procurement session. In addition, we are giving input to the education session. The focus of the event will lie on oncology.

During the last Board meeting it was decided to start the development of a Procurement Position Paper. The field of procurement is quite large, wherefore we need to agree on a direction for our position paper. The paper could focus on the role of hospital pharmacists. The European Commission published a draft legislative proposal concerning HTA on 31st of January. The HTA Network Pillar that EAHP is involved in is currently exchanging views.

**EJHP/BMJ - summary, report and budget**

All journal articles are now linked to the Statements. Membership and subscriptions have increased.

There is currently a back log of articles approved for publication with a significant delay in being published. Around 80 articles are awaiting print. The possibility of an extra edition was discussed, however, the BMJ staff advised against this since it could cause problems for our indexation. Alternatively, we could publish the majority of the articles in an online journal. The inclusion of a few extra online articles per print issue was also discussed and will be investigated by BMJ.

Unfortunately, the EJHP was not accepted for Medx Indexing and BMJ will look into appealing this decision as the reasons given were only technical.

The inclusion of additional online content per issue could increase our online traffic and provide for more advertising. At the moment our online traffic is very low in comparison to the number of subscribers. The de-prescribing issue brought the most online traffic. The editorial board has been completely refreshed and the associate editors are now doing a very significant piece of the work. Phil Wiffen, the Editor-in-Chief will also be refreshing the advisory board.

The EJHP is still looking for peer reviewers and members are encouraged to get involved.

The journal stayed this year under the agreed budget. The next budget is calculated very conservatively and thus includes all potential risks that could materialise. The risks include higher costs for stamps and paper and decreasing subscription numbers. If all risks materialise we are looking at costs in the range of 185,000 Euro. There is a considerable shortage of paper world-wide.
Congress

The 24th Congress of the EAHP will take place in Barcelona, Spain and the scientific programme has already been completed with the SC members seeking speakers for the programme. The exhibition was opened to industry this week and sales have begun.

Future congress venues continue to be researched and Copenhagen as well as Geneva have been actively bidding.

2018 Academy Seminar update

EAHP will be holding 2 seminars which run in parallel. One will focus on Therapeutic drug monitoring as a tool for therapy optimization, while the other one will discuss Medicines Shortages – Coping and Unravelling Supply Chain disruptions. The second seminar will be on Medicines shortages and will target advanced hospital pharmacists.

Synergy Masterclasses

The first Synergy Masterclass will take place from 5-6 October 2018 in Brussels. The venue has been contracted and registration will open next week. The topic is Leadership and Management and a grant was secured from Amgen for 2 years with the next masterclass taking place in 2019 with the topic of Procurement, tendering.

General Assembly

The 2019 GA will be held in Edinburgh and EAHP is currently looking for members interested in hosting the GA in 2020 and 2021. If your association is interested in hosting future GA’s, please let us know so we can begin our hotel research as soon as possible.

EAHP Staff

As discussed during the last GA, we have hired a Policy Assistant, Jordi Mallarach to assist Stephanie as the policy workload has increased significantly. In addition, the contract of Gonzalo Marzal Lopez was extended for 2 years since the Implementation project has been so successful and further work is needed for the SAT and SILCC projects. He is also assisting with the CTF. The EAHP staff names and roles may viewed on the web site at: http://www.eahp.eu/about-us/staff.

Finances

As of the February board meeting the finances are in line with the GA approved budget with few exceptions but we will have a clear report for members by 1 May 2018 when all GA documents are uploaded to the web site. Overall, EAHP will realise a positive result instead of the projected loss. Congress sponsorship sales are stable with three platinum partners (Amgen, Bayer & Pfizer) and two corporate partners (Omnicell and MSD). Registration income is as usual, the key to reach the congress result needed.

The board reviewed the member project proposal received from Estonia and agreed to allocate the grant money to their continued project.