

Ponta Delgada 31 May-1 June 2019



## MINUTES

*Ponta Delgada, Açores*

*Meeting: 31 May - 1 June 2019*

### 31 May

#### **Visit to the Geothermal Central of Pico Vermelho**

The section had a worksite visit of the geothermal power plant since the geothermal energy plays an important strategic and economic role in increasing the power self-sufficiency of the Azores. Geothermal resources are exploited in Ribeira Grande (Fogo Volcano) with the electrical production rate about 183 GWh that represented approximately 42% of the island of São Miguel and 23% of the total of the Azores. The Ribeira Grande Power Plant began operating in March 1994 and consists of four turbogenerators with a total capacity of 13 MV. The maximum temperature recorded in Ribeira Grande geothermal field is 245°C, at a depth of 1000 meters. New high-temperature geothermal fields are being discovered in the central part of the island of Terceira, as a result of the development of exploratory activities. (see *Annex 1*)

After the worksite visits we travelled to the Terra Nostra Park, where we had our lunch that was cooked by the energy collected by a dormant volcano.

After the lunch we continued our journey towards Ponta Delgada where we were welcomed by the host country.

#### **1. Welcomes**

The participants were greeted by Jorge Barroso Dias, who is the president of Portugal Society of Occupational Health. We are also grateful to the Portugal OM Association President, Dr. Ferreira Leal, for organising and joining the meeting.

Firstly we were presented with the challenges that public health faces due to specific geographic location of the islands and their population. The critical issues such as overload on medical services, managing the increasing costs of the medical services and logistic issues for the critically ill patients that need transfer to São Miguel island or mainland Portugal were stressed out.

The Portugal Society of Occupational Health has served to occupational medicine for 54 years. The society has 341 members and works within multidisciplinary approach. The occupational medicine as a speciality was created in 1979. The post-graduate training was implemented just recently by the government. The main focus of work of clinical work is oriented towards primary prevention due to the fact that occupational medicine is well integrated into public health. In recent time the main area of work is recognizing occupational

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diseases due to exposure to sun radiation and managing sleeping disorders amongst shift workers.

Gala dinner was served after the introduction of the host country.

### 1 June Section meeting (9:00-17:00)

Pedras do Mar Resort & Spa

#### 2. *Participants and apologies*

**PARTICIPANTS:** Alenka Škerjanc, president (Slovenia), Simon Bulterys, treasurer (Belgium), Kari Reijula (Finland), Thomas Kraus (Germany), Tom O'Connell (Ireland), Nicole Majery and Marc Jacoby (Luxemburg), Jolanta Walusiak Skorupa (Poland), Pedro Gustavo Reis (Portugal), Emil Vancu (Romania), Klaus Ernst Stadtmüller (Switzerland), Dick Spreeuwers (The Netherlands), Davor Romih (Slovenia).

**GUESTS:** Johannes Kallio (EJD), Jorge Dias (SPMT), Ferreira Leal (president of the College – Colegio de Medicina do Trabalho – Ordem dos Medicos).

**APOLOGIES:** Ferenc Kudász, secretary (Hungary), Károly Cseh (Hungary), Karl Hochgatterer (Austria), Georg Wultsch (Austria), Ole Carstensen (Denmark), Satu Rannisto (Finland), Orfanidis Moysis (Greece), Theodore Bazas (Greece), Fabriziomaria Gobba (Italy), Ivo Iavicoli (Italy), Marek Varga (Slovakia), Jelena Macan (Croatia), Milan Milošević (Croatia), Marie Cruz Rodriguez Jareño (Spain), Pedro Gonzales de Castro (Spain), Tor Erik Danielsen (Norway), Kristian Vetlesen (Norway), Milan Tuček (Czech Republic), Maja Eglīte (Latvia), Elena Pauncu (Romania), Nerys Williams (United Kingdom), Bernard Maillet (UEMS Central).

#### 3. *Minutes of the last meeting (Bilbao)*

The finalised draft was accepted with minor changes in Chapter 12. (See *Annex 2*)

#### 4. *Reports from meetings*

The president of UEMS OM has recently attended OM meeting in Minsk where she explained and promoted European Exam in OM. It is highly important to share the importance of high level of knowledge and also to market the exam since it is expensive to provide. The exam is open to the whole world not only to UEMS member states since the core-curriculum of OM training should once be harmonized all over the world. There are already some Universities in the European Union that are starting a process of adaptation of their curriculum. It was emphasized that attending and passing the examination itself is not a must but a proof of excellence as a quality mark.

The Netherlands delegate attended the OM meeting in Ancara, Turkey where key themes were promoting OM. The main conclusion of the meeting was that there is a continuous shift in occupational settings from occupational diseases to work related diseases. This ongoing trend consequently represents a challenge for compensation schemes for occupational diseases.

The Portugal delegate raised the question regarding observers at UEMS OM section meeting in order to establish communication with other stakeholders in OM.

#### 5. *Information from UEMS Central*

The President briefly informed that the new elections for the UEMS Board Members will take place in October 2020.

The UEMS OM Section should promote activities in the UEMS member states where no representatives are active through National medical associations. In future, the non-participant countries should be pointed-out on the UEMS OM web site. Minutes from the meetings

should be administered to these UEMS member states.

## **6. Section finances**

It was confirmed that all membership fee was paid for the year 2018 and the actual balance of the Section was OK, however actual bank situation for the future is not sufficient. New contributions for 2019 are about to start in June or July. Contributions of Sections to UEMS Central cover the expenses for the administration platform and the auditable financial system, TVA/VAT and bank costs.

## **7. Information on the website**

The new web site is now being moved from the old platform and CME system to a new platform called WordPress to an encrypted connection with a SLL certificate. The content should be organised in the most user friendly way. There should have been a written form of consent for the representatives whose personal data are being exposed (according to the GDPR). In order to secure all the details Ad hoc Working group was formed.

According to GDPR all e-mail addresses must be sent in blind copy only. All comments must be formed in short and understandable way to people who are concerned.

## **8. Finalization and adoption of the revised Statement on occupational diseases**

Since UEMS Brussels Board considered the paper too technical, the new, shorter one with UEMS focused aim was prepared. The new, shorter version was voted and adopted to be presented at the next UEMS Council meeting. (see *Annex 3*)

The first paper should be administered by delegates to bodies on national levels in order to address the aim and message of the Statement to other specialists who encounter with working population.

## **9. Feedback on the country information template**

The Country Information Template is considered to be too complicated and too technical for the majority of the representatives. Only three representatives managed to fill it out. In order to present national template on a website it is too complex and does not follow suggested intention. Therefore original goal should be revised and redirected to less complicated template in a way that would round up the initial purpose.

## **10. WGs Introductions given by the working group co-ordinators and**

### **11. WGs report back**

Following brief introduction WGs had separate discussions and provided initial results. Due to absences of the key members, WG3 was not active and the Ad-hoc Working group on the website was formed.

### **WG1**

Building an archive of multiple-choice questions is an ongoing task. The commitment to produce questions for the MCQ Bank is on high demand since the goal is to achieve 1000 questions (with a rate 100/questions per year). MCQ Bank should be kept in a secure and a safe place. It is mandatory to establish appeal process for the candidates. Proposed cost for exam should be 700 EUR per candidate. The first Exam date is set to be in 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020.

All UEMS OM representatives are asked to inform their competent bodies and trainees on this issue: <https://www.uems.eu/news-and-events/news/news-more/occupational-medicine-exam>

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It is of the utmost importance to market the Exam to the whole world. It was suggested that the European Examination in OM should be presented at the next ICOH meeting in Melbourne, Australia, 2021 as well as on other major international scientific meetings.

### **WG2**

The WG prioritized the need to promote our image amongst all the stakeholders that are involved in occupational safety and health. The group now focuses on the issue how to transmit the high specialized knowledge into working environments. On that behalf the language should be adapted to the focus group to whom the message is intended.

The WG will prepare a new document that will be presented at the next meeting.

### **Ad-hoc WG on the Web sites**

The WG prepared adaptations for the new website, which is not yet active. All personal data should be harmonized according to a GDPR.

## **12. Co-operations**

In August 2018, the eighteenth EASOM Summer School was held in Zagreb (Croatia), coinciding with its General Assembly, during which the Board of Management was renewed and a new Chairperson and Secretary appointed. Furthermore, along the years certain statements have become the basis for developing a strategic EASOM vision such as cooperation with national, European and global organizations (such as the EU, WHO, ICOH and ILO) with regard to the different aspects of education and training in OM.

No update on ETUI co-operation was given.

The European Junior Doctors (EJD) representative will gather the contact details for the national OM trainees' representative in order to promote European Exam in OM amongst junior doctors.

Please report any activities regarding EU-OSHA 2018-2019 Campaign: Healthy Workplaces Manage Dangerous Substances to our secretary. (see *Annex 4*)

## **13. CME (and related) events**

- EASOM Summer School – Occupational cancers, Latvia, (preliminary date: last weekend of August)
- XXXIV. International Congress of Occupational Medicine, Marianske Lazne (Marienbad), Czech, 24-25/September/2019
- 7<sup>th</sup> Croatian Congress on Occupational Health, Pula, Croatia, 9-13/Oct/2019
- 15<sup>th</sup> National Forum of Occupational Medicine & 2<sup>nd</sup> Lisbon International Forum on Occupational Health, Lisbon, 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2019
- 60. Jahrestagung der DGAUM, 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> March 2020 (DGAUM with ÖGA and SGARM)
- EASOM Summer School – topic yet to be determined, Belgrade 2020, (preliminary date: last weekend of August)

Scientific conferences can be announced in the Oxford Journal: Occupational Medicine by the help of the UK representative. Everyone is invited to send her information six months ahead.

## **14. Next meetings**

- 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> September 2019: Łodz (Poland)
- 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> May 2020: Luxembourg (Luxembourg)
- Autumn 2020: Amsterdam (Netherlands)

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- Spring 2021: OM section proposal Athens (Greece) – if possible
- Autumn 2021: Ljubljana (Slovenia)

**15. *Any other business***

- The document regarding Hepatitis B regulations is finalized – we ask a report from the Belgian representative.
- In Belgium there is a start of the PhD study regarding economical evaluation of periodical examinations in OM. The results should be set within few years.

**16. *End of the session meeting and Gala dinner***

The meeting closed at 17.00

The Section is grateful for the smooth organisation made by the Portugal delegate and his colleagues and for the host country's hospitality.

Alenka Škerjanc  
president

Davor Romih  
on behalf of the secretary