

Minutes of meeting of IEA Europe / EEF board

Sunday 7th August 2011 12.30 – 15.30

Edinburgh International Conference Centre

In attendance; Robert West (chair), Ellen), Ellen Aagaard Nohr (Denmark), Tapio Luostarinen (Finland), Eva Grill (Germany), Valeria Fano (Italy), Maurice Zeegers (Netherlands), Katarzyna Szamotulska (Poland), Henrique Barros (Portugal), Alberto Ruano (Spain), Christoph Junker (Switzerland), David Batty (UK) (item 14a), Jorn Olsen (past president) (item 14a), Charles Florey (Webmaster),.

1. Apologies; Adele Seniori, Matthias Egger, Hans-Werner Hense
 2. Welcome new members; Ellen Aagaard Nohr, Eva Grill, Valeria Fano,
 3. Minutes of last meeting; 6 November 2010 Florence approved
 4. Matters arising; none
 5. Report from chair; Reminder of constitution regarding membership of board, member of IEA and officer of national society.
Attended council in Beirut; European J Epidemiology (see 16 below).
Member organising committee of WCE Edinburgh; European regional workshop (see 15)
Search for host society and venue for 2012 conference; Germany, ADELFF (Brussels), Spain, Denmark, Finland, UK, Portugal, Switzerland.
Regular teleconference with HB, HWH and MZ to advance business particularly –
 hosts for 2012 and 2013
 joint membership
 newsletter / website
- 14 (a) Future conferences 2013 Denmark offered venue at Aarhus or Copenhagen for hosting of 2013 European conference as part of the Nordic countries meeting. Proposal to incorporate theme with plenary contribution, collaboration with WHO (European office) and workshop on ‘Role of epidemiology in reducing burden of chronic disease globally’ with aim of writing a position paper – for international community.
Board approved proposal but wished assurance that conference would include ‘open’ sessions / would not be exclusively dedicated to or dominated by this theme. Conference to include a Nordic day.
Denmark to discuss venue with fellow Nordic countries. Spain requested consultation over dates so as not to clash with Spanish / Portuguese language international conference planned for Granada, including S American countries. Preferred dates for Granada late September or October and for Aarhus August.

Preference for 50/50 commitment of national host society and IEA EEF as general arrangement was discussed and supported by board.
Action EAN, JO

6. Report from secretary (HB); Apologies for lack of progress with newsletter, agreed handover of responsibility for that to MZ.
Expressed desirability of continuing sequence of European regional conferences
Offered hosting and organising EUROEPI 2012 (see 14b)

- 7 Report from vice-chair (MZ): Arranged connections for teleconference discussions with chair, secretary and past-chair
Advised preference for distributing newsletter electronically
Expressed regret at absence of secretarial support for taking minutes of board meetings

8. Report from EYE; none

9. Reports from national societies; **Denmark**; New board and new chair seek to re-establish contact with EEF. Strong desire to collaborate closely with EEF and EU activity. Offer to take lead in hosting EUROEPI 2013 with Nordic countries colleagues and EEF board (see also 14a).
Finland; 150 members, 20 IEA. Research contest for young epidemiologists. International course on causal inference methods. Nordic countries congress in Iceland. Proposed revisions of statistics act, potentially affecting unbiased conduct of population based research, delayed.
Germany; Relatively young society emerged from German society for medical informatics and biostatistics (GMDS) some 6 years ago, membership 600 and growing quickly, based on active working groups. Strong scholarship system, plans to expand in German speaking countries Austria Switzerland in scientific activities.
Italy; 400 members mostly in north, new website, discussing issues of data privacy (see 15)
Netherlands; 25 years old, visitation of masters courses, benchmarking teaching / training programmes, perusing joint membership, considering joining with Dutch speaking Belgium
Poland; New president, more interest in environmental epidemiology, two national meetings since Warsaw but low attendance, submitting summary or closing account for EUROEPI 2009
Portugal; Rebuilt website, meeting on surveys, offer hosting EUROEPI 2012 (see also 14b)
Spain; Spanish Society of Epidemiology (SEE), 1000 members, professional secretariat, monthly newsletter, discussions of Spanish public health laws, national congress in collaboration with Spanish Society of Health Policy and Administration October 2011 in Madrid, 800-1000 delegates expected, October 2012 in Santander, 2013 in Granada in collaboration with SESPAS and Iberoamerican Epidemiology Societies including Brazil and Portugal.

