**Regional Report**

**REGION: Europe**

**PERIOD OF REPORT: September 2017 – September 2018**

1. **List any key outcomes from the region resulting from member work and advocacy**

* National media attention on television in prime time & in the major newspapers for avoidable blindness by **consumer firework**; at the same time publication of an opinion article on the public danger of consumer firework in one of the highest ranked serious newspapers (both by VISION 2020 The Netherlands). Twenty-five European countries sent back reports on firework injuries for the survey register. (The survey link: <https://www.congresdienst.nl/vuurwerk/INT/2017.php> )
* Paper is under review in a major scientific journal: Reducing avoidable visual impairment in elderly home healthcare patients by basic ophthalmologic screening. (Written by VISION 2020 The Netherlands)

1. **List any key outcomes from the region resulting from IAPB engagement and advocacy**

* IAPBs **ROP program in Romania**: It is now in its second year and has supported 4 regional workshops for NICU teams; facilitated the establishment of a national ROP Steering Committee; supported the review of 4 neonatal protocols and the drafting of updated ROP guidelines. Funded by Medicor.
* IAPB support **ROP program in Russia** – In December 2017 a team (3 neonatologists, 2 neonatal nurses) spent 2 weeks on a sponsored ROP observer-ship – 1 week at Homerton Hospital, London and 1 week at St Mary’s, Manchester. Funded by Eye Samaritans International.
* **Ukraine ROP Training, Teaching and Planning Trip** by Alan Richards, May 21-25, 02018. NICU units and pediatric ophthalmologist were visited in Lviv, Ternopil and Kyiv. Funded by Eye Samaritans.  
  Main accomplishments were:

• Meeting with Ukrainian Minister of Health   
• Visits to three major hospitals: Neonatal Unit, Regional Clinical Hospital, Lviv and National Children’s Hospital, "Ohmatdyt” in Kyiv.   
• Rounds with NICU team and teaching at each medical center   
• Donation of retinoscopes and teaching proper method of refraction: i.e. assessment of proper glasses prescription   
• National Neonatology Conference in Kiev to speak to 200 attendees

Upcoming:

* Eye Samaritans is sponsoring a neonatologist from London and an NICU nurse from Manchester to speak at the National Academy of Pediatric Meeting in Lviv, Ukraine in September 2018.

1. **List any key events that have occurred in the region (IAPB and Members)**

* The national Ophthalmological Society participates in the celebration of **World Sight Day** in 15 European countries.
* A successful campaign for the prevention of **firework eye injuries** was initiated by the President of SOE (European Society of Ophthalmology). The initiative was endorsed by the IAPB, ICO, AAO among others. ICO published position paper on consumer’s firework.
* VISION 2020 The Netherlands reported:
  + An official meeting of the **Dutch Parliament** held in April 2018 in The Hague on the danger of consumer firework (including avoidable blindness due to eye injuries).
* “Prevention of Blindness and Eye Health from European Perspective” **symposium** was held at WOC 2018 Barcelona with IAPB participation. Other Invited Symposium: Explosive SOE Session: Firework Related Eye Injuries
* **Joint meeting of the IAPB-Europe with SOE Pilot Committee on Public Eye Health** was organized in Barcelona during the WOC 2018 Barcelona with participation of the ICO.
  + National surveys should be started on firework eye injuries in every European countries.
  + ICO Position Paper should be translated to national languages and uploaded to homepages of the national ophthalmological societies.
  + Special session in the next SOE Congress and special section on SOE webpage on public eye health should be organized and written.
  + Questions about public eye health should be involved to national specification exams
  + Costs and budget of eye health care need to be calculated for several European countries
  + European guideline for myopia management is planned to be written.
* Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust reported:
  + The **Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting** (CHOGM) to be held in the United Kingdom in mid-April 2018 is a major opportunity to highlight vision and move it up the agenda of leaders from the 53 Commonwealth member countries.
* **WHO Report on Vision**
  + IAPB Europe participated in the discussion of the draft of World report on vision and submitted comments.
  + The Board of the SOE was informed about the upcoming launch in October.
* **IAPB Vision Atlas** will be published soon, after World Sight Day in 2018 and it was advertised among the Board members of the SOE
* **Editorial** article was written about “Preventing blindness and visual impairment in Europe: What we have to do?” by IAPB Europe and SOE. It was submitted for publication and it is under revision.
* IAPB Europe chair Janos Nemeth participated and hold keynote lecture on “IAPB: Global Challenge of Prevention and Treatment of Blindness” in the “Sight for Africa” 2018 Eye Health Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, 18-19 August, Beijing-Shenyang, China.
* **RAAB** survey inKyrgyzstan was conducted in 2017.

1. **List any new evidences that has been created and disseminated in the reporting period**

* A new **article** was published about the challenges of the implementation of the first Hungarian population based data collection on blindness, visual impairments and diabetes mellitus, the RAAB+DR survey:   
  Németh J et al. Feasibility of the rapid assessment of avoidable blindness with diabetic retinopathy module (RAAB+DR) in industrialized countries: challenges and lessons learned in Hungary. Ophthalmic Epidemiol 2018 Feb 12:17.
* An official Dutch **government report** on the danger of firework was published, acknowledging the urge for better eye protection in prevention of blindness at New Year’s Eve (VISION 2020 The Netherlands).
* **Newest epidemiological results** from Gutenberg Health Study (Mainz, Germany):
* Colijn JM et al. Prevalence of Age-Related Macular Degeneration in Europe: The Past and the Future. Ophthalmology 2017;124(12):1753-1764.
* Schuster AK et al. Refractive corneal and ocular residual astigmatism: distribution in a German population and age-dependency – the Gutenberg health study. Graefes Arch Clin Exp Ophthalmol 2017;256(2):445-446.
* **Germany – Bonn; Prof Holz:** Li JQ et al. *Retinal Diseases in Europe. Prevalence, incidence*

*and healthcare needs*. EURETINA 2017, 1-28.  
[www.euretina.org/downloads(EURETINA\_Retinal\_Diseases.pdf](http://www.euretina.org/downloads(EURETINA_Retinal_Diseases.pdf)

* Chakravarthy U, Biundo E, Saka RO, Fasser C, Bourne R, Little JA. The Economic Impact of Blindness in Europe. Ophthalmic Epidemiol. 2017; 24: 239-247.
* Shirley K, Chamney S, Satkurunathan P, McLoone S, McLoone E. Impact of healthcare strategies on patterns of peadiatric sight impairment in a developed population: 1984-2011. Eye (Lond). 2017; 31: 1537-1545.
* Sedeh FB, Scott DAR, Subhi Y, Sorensen TL. Prevalence of neovascular age-related macular degeneration and geographic atrophy in Denmark. Dan Med J. 2017; 64: pii: A5422.
* de Verdier K, Ulla E, Löfgren S, Fernell E. Children with blindness – major causes, developmental outcomes and implications for habilitation and educational support: a two-decade, Swedish population-based study. Acta Ophthalmol. 2018; 96: 295-300.
* Delcourt C et **European Eye Epidemiology Consortium**. The decreasing prevalence of non-refractive visual impairment in older Europeans: a meta-analysis of published and unpublished data. Ophthalmology 2018; 125: 1149-1159.

**Vision Loss Expert Group**

* Bourne RRA et al. Prevalence and causes of vision loss in high-income countries and in Eastern and Central Europe in 2015: magnitude, temporal trends and projections. Br J Ophthalmol 2018; 102: 575-585.
* Bourne RRA et al. Magnitude, temporal trends, and projections of the global prevalence of blindness and distance and near vision impairment: a systemic review and meta-analysis. Lancet Glob Health. 2017; 5: e888-e897.
* Flaxman SR et al. Global causes of blindness and distance vision impairment 1990-2020: a systematic review and meta-analysis. Lancet Glob Health. 2017; 5: e1221-1234.

1. **List any new challenges in the region that have created barriers to IAPB and/or its Members achieving its objectives in the region**

* Prevalence of diabetes and **diabetic retinopathy** is growing continuously.
* **Uncorrected refractive errors** are still a major problem and an important cause of avoidable blindness, especially in Central and Eastern Europe. Besides, a high increase of myopia and pathologic **myopia** in Europe are expected.
* Incidence of **retinopathy of prematurity (ROP)** is the higher in Eastern Europe than in any other part of the World. For this reason, perinatal management of infants and appropriate eye screening and therapy and also rehabilitation should be improved in Eastern Europe