**IAPB**

**Regional Report**

**REGION: Europe**

**PERIOD OF REPORT: October 2017 – March 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 of VISION 2020 Netherlands on the public danger of consumer firework in one of the highest ranked serious newspapers (VISION 2020 The Netherlands).
* UNESCO United Kingdom has nominated the Commonwealth Eye Health Consortium’s **Open Education** online eye health training courses as their submission for the UNESCO Prize for the use of Information and Communication Technologies for Education 2017 (Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust).
* Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust reported: Six eye health professionals from Cameroon, Dominica, India, Malawi, Malaysia and Saint Lucia have **started to study** at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine for their MSc in Community Eye Health.
* S. Fyodorov Eye Microsurgery Federal State Institution reported: Performed **operations** annually (about 850.000 operations) increased 5% last year.

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 of 3 (neonatologisty, 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.

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 ICO, AAO and IAPB, among others.
* VISION 2020 The Netherlands reported:
  + The patron of VISION 2020 Netherlands opened the **Vision 2017 Congress**, the 12th International Conference of the International Society for Low Vision Research and Rehabilitation. The main theme was: *“Low vision rehabilitation: a global right”*. One thousand attendees came to the Hague.
  + An official meeting of the **Dutch Parliament** will be 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** will be held at WOC 2018 Barcelona with IAPB participation.
* 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.
  + The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust UK is working with other eye health organisations under the banner “**Vision for the Commonwealth**” to encourage Commonwealth leaders to commit to vision for everyone, everywhere, and for each country to take one significant step towards that goal by the next CHOGM in 2020.  The Commonwealth member countries in Europe are Cyprus, Malta and the United Kingdom.

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

* The research group of the University of Bonn leaded by Professor Holz published a straightforward **EURETINA booklet on retinal diseases** in Europe, summarizing the most important disease and public eye health facts and also the possible provisions and actions needed to reduce blindness and visual impairments in Europe.: Li JQ et al. *Retinal Diseases in Europe. Prevalence, incidence and healthcare needs*. EURETINA 2017, 1-28.
* A new **article** was published about the results 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 industrialised 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.

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 still 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.