**IAPB**

**Regional Report**

**REGION: Europe**

**PERIOD OF REPORT: April 2019 – August 2019**

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

**Swiss Red Cross - Eye Care Program in Kyrgyzstan. (Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan)**Swiss Red Cross conducted a RAAB survey with a national partner in Kyrgyzstan in more cycles. Government of Kyrgyzstan has also support the survey. Local government would like to build in the results of the RAAB study into national health strategy. Swiss Red Cross asked the help of IAPB to support them how to guiding in policy questions with the government.

**European VISION 2020 Meeting & European Launch of WHO “World Report on Vision” next year in the Netherlands organized by VISION 2020 Netherlands together with IAPB Europe and European Society of Ophthalmology (SOE)**On 12 June 2020 – Vision 2020 Meeting will be in the Netherlands: Presentations on fireworks, myopia epidemics and eye screening with 300-400 guests (patient organizations, ophthalmologists, optometrists, decision makers of the government, minister of health). The focus is on Vision 2020 in the Netherlands, but it will be combined with a continental launch of *World Report on Vision* if it will be published.

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

**Firework eye injuries – achievements and plans**

* Working against fireworks is a great success in the Netherlands. It is on political agenda, they are dangerous, polluting, expensive and cost a lot of eyes.
* Germany started now their third survey on eye injuries, number of doctors who provide data on eye injuries is increasing. New article will be published in Ophthalmologe in December on Firework injuries. Survey on firework injuries in the Netherlands was extremely successful. To international database data were provided 425 reports from 25 countries. We have to put the firework problem to the European Parliament on the political agenda, because we can not solve it only in our country, it is a European Union issue.

**Myopia epidemics – What to do in IAPB?**

* Pathological high myopia is a problem for all countries. Patients’ families start to be aware, that tablet, phone, computer, and other near work addiction are real problem. Changing of behaviours is needed, particularly in the young children to avoid the early onset of myopia. The highest risk for high myopia has the early onset myopia, because it has more time for progression. The formation of a working group is started to write a European Myopia Management Guideline in the framework of SOE and IAPB and the first draft is under development.

**WHO plans and activities connected to European plans (World Report on Vision (WRV), ECSATs)**

* IAPB Europe is preparing for the launch of the World Report on Vision by WHO is coming hopefully this year.

**Joint board meeting of SOE Pilot Committee on Public Eye Health and IAPB Europe**

* At SOE Congress 13 June, 2018, Nice

**Public eye health related sessions at SOE Congress 2019 Nice**

* Public Eye Health Session (including Fireworks Session)
* Priorities for Eye Care Services in Central and Eastern Europe
1. **List any new evidence that has been created and disseminated in the reporting period**
* Antunica A et al. Prevalence of diabetic retinopathy in Dubrovnik-Neretva County. Cent Eur J Public Health. 2019;27:160-164.
* Jonas JB et al. Epidemiology and anatomy of myopia. Ophthalmologe 2019;116:499-508.
* Tóth G et al. Rural-urban disparities in the prevalence of diabetes and diabetic eye complications in Hungary. Spektrum Augenheilkd. 2019. In press.
1. **List any new challenges in the region that have created barriers to IAPB and/or its Members achieving its objectives in the region**
* Very few IAPB members are working actively in Europe. However the upcoming WRV of WHO and its European launches might open possibilities to work together with European IAPB members, also in Europe at national level.
* To find adequate financial and human resources to conduct surveys and to implement stronger presence in public media.
* To find contact with governments and decision-makers in order to take on strategy to a national level and start discussion on WRV.

August 2019 Janos Nemeth
 Chair of IAPB-Europe