**IAPB**

**Regional Report**

**REGION: Europe**

**PERIOD OF REPORT: October 2019 – March 2020**

1. **List any key outcomes from the region resulting from IAPB engagement and advocacy**
* Joint organization of the Continental Launch of WHO WRV. (See more details below: in Point 4. Upcoming European meetings.)
* Joint work with European Ophthalmological Society (SOE): Firework eye injuries, myopia. (See more details below in Point 5.)
* Organisation symposiums (See more details below in Point 4.)
1. **List any key outcomes from the region resulting from member work and advocacy**
* **Clearly** launched an animation made by comedians Grace Cambell and Loyiso Gola aimed at getting Commonwealth nations to get “Glasses in Classes”. “Glasses in Classes” campaign is urging schools across the world to get on board and hold a lesson focused on vision.
* **L’Occinate** “Union for Vision 10by20” programme aimed to give 10 million people access to eye care services by 2020. **L’Occinate** has renewed its partnership with UNICEF in 2020 for another three years and extended it internationally to prevent childhood blindness worldwide.
* **L’Occinate** “Caring For Sight” 2020-2021 Call for projects : The Foundation has previously launched a call for projects to fight avoidable blindness and encourages **L’Occinate**’s offices worldwide to participate by identifying and supporting local organizations with eye care projects.
* **Swiss Red Cross - Eye Care Program in Kyrgyzstan**

A RAAB survey was conducted with a national partner and the Government in Kyrgyzstan in more cycles. Local government would like to build in the results of the RAAB study in national health strategy. The first article about the results has been published (see at the end).

The main conclusions were as follows:

* Lower prevalence of blindness than expected.
* Majority of causes blindness are avoidable causes.
* High proportion of glaucoma blindness.
* Cataract surgical coverage was high
1. **List any new key challenges in the region (political, environmental, economical, etc) that have created barriers to IAPB and/or its Members achieving its objectives in the region**
* **Coronavirus** (COVID-19) pandemic is a huge burden for European countries, people, health care and economy.
* COVID19 pandemic greatly reduced the possibilities of advocacy for the WHO WRV.
* COVID19 pandemic is expected to cause delay and or cancellations of the Continental European Launch and many of the planned country launches.
* Finding support against avoidable blindness in political, economic and social environment.
* To find financial support to enhance diabetic retinopathy screening coverage
1. **List any key events that have occurred in the region (IAPB and Members)**
* **Clearly** together with **IAPB** and members of the United Nations (UN) Friends of Vision group organised the UN launch of the World Report on Vision and a sight screening event in the UN where over 500 people received eye screening. Representatives from all over the world (including Ireland, Belgium, Germany, United Kingdom, Greece and Italy) had attended this event.
* **Clearly** hosted “Vision for the Commonwealth” at St James’s Palace with HRH The Countess of Wessex aimed at Commonwealth nations calling on them to get sight tests and affordable access to treatment to all schools in the Commonwealth by 2030. This event was attended by the three European nations in the Commonwealth (Cyprus, Malta & the UK). This event was shared by the Royal Family twitter account and was shared widely on social media.
* **L’Occinate** event “Race For Vision” 2020 Edition: All employees and customers are encouraged to run, cycle or simply walk using **L’occinate’s** application to reach 1 000 000 km and unlock 500 000 euros dedicated to support eye care programmes.
* **European meetings, presentations in the last year**
* WHO Symposium: Priorities for Eye Care Services in Central and Eastern Europe at SOE Congress 2019, Nice – organized by Ivo Kocur
* SOE Symposium: Public Eye Health Session (including Fireworks session) at SOE Congress 2019, Nice – organized by Jan Tjeerd de Faber and Janos Nemeth
* ICO Symposium: International Ophthalmology in the European Region at SOE Congress 2019, Nice – organized by Peter Wiedemann
* “Vision 2020 and Education” Public Eye Health Session in the Congress of the South-East European Ophthalmological Society (SEEOS) 2019 in Pristina, Kosovo – organized by Petja Vassileva, Janos Nemeth, Slobodanka Latinovic.
* **Upcoming European meetings**
* On the 12 June 2020 **European VISION 2020 Meeting** **& European** **Launch of WHO “World report on vision”** in the Stevens Church, Radboud University, Nijmegen, The Netherlands.
Presentations on epidemiology of visual impairments and the connected European tasks, The Netherlands examples of good practice: fireworks, myopia, eye screenings and visual rehabilitation.
* Further **National Launches of WHO “World Report on Vision”** are planned in Europe during 2020:
in Austria, France, Germany, Kyrgyzstan, UK, Russia, Hungary.
1. **List any new evidence that has been created and disseminated in the reporting period**
* **World Report on Vision (WRV)** was released on the World Sight Day (08.10.2020) by WHO, with recommendations.
* The WHO Executive Board approved a resolution on ‘Integrated People Centred Eye Care’ in an effort to tackle the rising numbers of people living with vision impairment and blindness. The resolution will be in the agenda of the 73rd **World Health Assembly**. The resolution is supported by many countries, and also some from Europe, namely: Austria, Finland, Israel, Montenegro, Poland, Turkey.
* **WHO** promotes the Eye Care Service Assessment Tool (ECSAT), which has been used now in almost 70 countries worldwide. Namely in Europe: Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Serbia, Russia, Bulgaria.
* **Firework eye injuries**

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. Survey on firework injuries in The Netherlands survey was really successful. To international database data were provided 425 reports from 25 countries. Firework injuries are a global problem, also for the European Union due to lack of boarders and free flow of goods.

* **Myopia**

SOE Board decided to produce a guideline for ophthalmologists how to manage myopia. SOE concentrates to the adaptation of the IOVS myopia white papers for Europe. The first draft of the guideline is ready and will be distributed to the invited experts in March. SOE is searching now for more partners for this project.

* **Important publications**

# Müller B et al. Findings from a Rapid Assessment of Avoidable Blindness (RAAB) in the Southwest Region of Kyrgyzstan. Ophthalmic Epidemiol. 2020;27:141-147.

# Mirza E. The Frequency and Causes of blindness in a rural region of Central Anatolia of Turkey. Eurasian J Med. 2019;51:242-246.

# Li et al. Prevalence, incidence and future projection of diabetic eye disease in Europe: a systematic review and meta-analysis. Eur J Epidemiol. 2019 Sep 12.

# Siersma V et al. Visual impairment and mortality in patients with type 2 diabetes. BMJ Open Diabetes Res Care. 2019;7:e000638.

# Striber N et al. Visual impairment in children with cerebral palsy: Croatian population-based study for birth years 2003-2008. Croat Med J. 2019;60:414-420.

# Schakel W et al. Understanding fatigue in adults with visual impairment: A path analysis study of sociodemographic, psychological and health-related factors. PLoS One 2019;14:e0224340.

# Tadic V et al. An Age- and Stage-Appropriate Patient-Reported Outcome Measure of Vision-Related Quality of Life of Children and Young People with Visual Impairment. Ophthalmology 2020;127:249-260.

# Wolfram C et al. The Prevalence of Visual Impairment in the Adult Population. Dtsch Arztebl Int. 2019;116:289-295.

# Jackson SE et al. Association of Perceived Discrimination With Emotional Well-being in Older Adults With Visual Impairment. JAMA Ophthalmol. 2019;137:825-832.

# Tóth G et al. Rural-urban disparities in the prevalence of diabetes and diabetic eye complications in Hungary. Spektrum Augenheilkd. 2019. Doi:10.1007/s00717-019-00433-6.

Sándor G et al. Cataract blindness in Hungary. Int J Ophthalmol. 2020 in press.

Pék A et al. Relationship between diabetes mellitus and cataract in Hungary. Int J Ophthalmol. 2020 in press.

March 2020

Janos Nemeth
 Chair of IAPB-Europe