



International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
MARCH 28-29 , 2012**

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IAPB REGIONAL UPDATES – EUROPE

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**EUROPE PROGRESS REPORT OCT 2011 - MAR 2012**

IAPB Europe is still working with a budget of less than 10 % of the initially proposed budget – before the economic crises. At present there are no NGO activities in Eastern Europe as CBM has also terminated the support for the Prague Training Centre.

Investigations are on the way with a number of NGOs, including Fred Hollows Foundation UK, for an involvement in Eastern Europe regarding disease related country support and support for the Prague Training Course.

**Most important activities:**

- Training Centre in Prague;
- Organizing courses in VISION 2020 / Community Health and disease related topics;
- Data collection of eye care situation in relevant countries: published studies, prevalence and incidence of blindness and service situation (study meeting in Prague July 2011).

Major focus is on the establishment of national VISION 2020 programmes with an increasing number of countries and West and East having established programmes in the recent past.

**Challenges in Central and Eastern Europe:**

- Extension of eye care programmes to distant and poorer parts of the countries (about 30 % of population have very difficult access to eye care systems);
- Standardization of training and medical education through ICO and SOE regarding duration, contents and standard.

**The objectives of the Action Plan remain unchanged:**

Priority target diseases: low vision, ROP, diabetic retinopathy.

Greatest challenge: To increase budgets to expand structure and activities of Prague Training Centre.