



IAPB Regional Report – Europe Region

Finally good news from Europe:

The IAPB Europe Regional Meeting 2012 took place in Prague, April 20th and 21st, 2012, hosted by the Prague Training Center (Dr. Ivo Kocur, Mrs. Renata Hajna).

Present:

Chair and co-chairs Europe, Peter Ackland and John Trevelyan (IAPB), Philip Albano (Lions Sight First), Stephen Bell (The Fred Hollows Foundation UK)

The meeting resulted in sending a proposal for the support of Prague Training Center and courses to Lions Sight First and The Fred Hollows Foundation UK. A positive reply came from Lions Sight First for the support of training courses in the Prague Training Center for the year 2012 with an option for extension. We are most grateful to Lions Sight First as the situation had become critical after withdrawal of CBM in 2011. This helps to continue running courses on different topics in eye care and Blindness Prevention / Vision 2020 in Prague for participants from Central and Eastern Europe. These courses are very popular, also because they help to establish cross country networks in the region.

Most important other activities:

- Data collection of eye care situation in relevant countries (last study meeting in Prague July 2011).
- Focus on the establishment of National Vision 2020 Programmes with an increasing number of countries in 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 difficult excess to eye care systems)
- standardization of training and medical education through ICO and SOE regarding duration, content and standard.

Action Plan:

The objectives of the action plan remain unchanged -

Priority target diseases:

Low Vision, ROP, Diabetic Retinopathy.

The Action plan needs to be reviewed because the last plan of 2007 has shown to be unrealistic. Targets in terms of personnel and fund raising / budget could not be met. The last Action Plan was produced just before the financial crisis in 2008.

Options for fund raising within Europe for IAPB work in Europe and in the developing world need to be explored and followed.

Focus countries:

Albania, Belarus, Mazedonia, Moldova, Serbia, Ukraine, Georgia, Armenia

Other activities:

The Fred Hollows Foundation has plans to work in Moldova in partnership with Help Age, focussing on diabetic retinopathy.

Prof. Dr. Volker Klauss (IAPB Chair Europe)

Below:

Appendix 1 – Briefing on VISION 2020 UK and the UK Vision Strategy

Appendix 2 – VISION 2020 Germany Network

Appendix 1

Briefing on VISION 2020 UK and the UK Vision Strategy

VISION 2020 UK was formed in 2002 and the UK Vision Strategy (UKVS) launched in 2008. VISION 2020 UK is undergoing some changes. Mike Brace, the CEO has retired after 10 years of sterling service and we have an Interim Chief Operations Officer, Anita Lightstone, who also leads the UK Vision Strategy Team. We are becoming 'incorporated' ie a legal entity in our own right with benefits that include a clear governance structure, public accountability and limitation of risk for trustees. We are aligning the VISION 2020 UK and UK Vision Strategy Teams in order to make more efficient use of resources and unite the members behind the UKVS. VISION 2020 UK continues to play a pivotal role in uniting the sector under a respected neutral banner. Our thanks go to RNIB and other partners for their on-going support of VISION 2020 (UK) Ltd and the UK Vision Strategy.

Working together as an effective partnership we have achieved:

- The introduction of an eye health and sight loss indicator for the public health outcomes framework in England. This indicator will track the rates of three major causes of sight loss (glaucoma, age related macular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy)
- The development of cross-sector 'Commissioning for Eye Care' guidance for service providers
- A draft UK Sight Loss Pathway, based on the principles of good practice to promote independence and autonomy for people with sight loss
- A Sight Loss and Vision Survey is underway to establish research priorities across the UK
- The Welsh Government has committed to link to the Vision Strategy in its new National Eye Care Plan
- The Department of Health in Northern Ireland has published a new strategy for addressing the needs of people with a physical or sensory disability
- In Scotland the £6.6m 'Electronic Referral Project' has been rolled out nationally.
- A 5-year review of the UK Vision Strategy is in progress

Strategic Outcomes of the UK Vision Strategy

1. Improving the eye health of the people of the UK
2. Eliminating avoidable sight loss and delivering excellent support for people with sight loss
3. Inclusion, participation and independence for people with sight loss

Nick Astbury, Chair VISION 2020 UK, August 2012

Appendix 2

Network Vision 2020 Germany

The Network Vision 2020 Germany has 8 partners:

1. Professional Association of ophthalmologists (BVA)
2. Christoffel-Blindenmission (CBM)
3. German Committee for the Prevention of Blindness (DKVB)
4. German Society of Ophthalmology (DOG)
5. German Society for the Blind and Visually Handicapped
6. Pro Retina
7. German Society of Blind and Visual Handicapped in Profession and University
8. Lions International Germany, Sight First

Vision 2020 Germany was founded in 2003 and has 3 sections:

1. Prevention of Blindness in Germany
2. Rehabilitation of Blind and Visually Handicapped in Germany
3. Blindness Prevention in Developing Countries

Each of the sections has or supports programmes and activities:

Section 1:

- World Sight Day
- Awareness campaigns to prevent blindness
- support of population based studies on prevalence and incidence of sight loss and blindness
- collaboration with the German Ministry of Health
- introduction of a blind registry
- examination and treatment of persons in homes for aged persons and handicapped

Section 2:

- Collaboration with various ministries
- data collection, examination of marginalized visually handicapped persons with poor access to eye care services

Section 3:

The member organizations of Vision 2020 Germany have contributed financial support to establish a unit for retinal surgery in Kitwe in Zambia.

Awareness campaigns in Collaboration with CBM and DKVB for the information of the German Public, also for fund raising.

The 8 members of Vision 2020 Germany meet twice a year.