International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness

EUROPE PROGRESS REPORT OCT 2012 - MAR 2013

IAPB Europe is still getting very limited support from NGOs and is working with a small budget and manpower. As we will probably not receive significant financial support in the near future, these limiting factors should be considered when planning our programme and activities.

Significant achievements:
- The development of the IAPB Europe Action Plan 2013-2017 is under way following a strategic meeting in Budapest last February.
- The European Coalition for Eye Health was established with the participation of IAPB Europe to raise the profile of vision and eye health and preventing visual impairment in Europe.
- Courses in VISION 2020 are going to be organised to coincide with European Congresses (i.e. SOE, SEEOS, BSOS).
- Training Centre in Prague achieved financial support from Lions Clubs International for organizing training courses this year with a possible extension to the next year.

Key issues:
- Organizing workshops on ROP in Eastern Europe where that is still a major cause of blindness among children. In many countries, with the development of prenatal care, the chance of premature infants to survive has improved and as a result, the number of children with ROP has increased.
- To identify those parts of Europe where there is a lack of data about the prevalence and incidence of blindness. RAAB or other organized data collection programs should be started in these regions.

Our main goal in the next months is to start collaboration with one person from each country in Europe. With the help of these national country contacts, we could get information about the eye care situation in each part of Europe and also about the most urgent problems of their countries. On the other hand, they could get information about the work of IAPB Europe and the latest activities by a quarterly IAPB Europe newsletter.