



The European federation of Critical Care Nursing associations

Annual report 2007

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1. Introduction

On behalf of the council of representatives and the board of officers, I am honoured to present to you the first annual report of the European federation of Critical Care Nursing associations (EfCCNa) since its official registration in 2005. A federation like EfCCNa has to be transparent and take responsibility for communication with its members.

Looking at the mission and objectives of EfCCNa it is clear that what we wish to achieve is always related to supporting nurses who are at the forefront of providing high quality care for critically ill patients. This report aims to enlarge EfCCNa's visibility and illustrate how the activities of Council representatives, strongly supported by their associations, are instrumental in uniquely advancing the contribution of the critical care nursing profession to European Health Care systems. The federation's underpinning philosophy is based on the premise "*working together achieving more*".

Wouter de Graaf; EfCCNa's President

1.1 Politics

Healthcare is high on the agenda of the European Parliament and the Commission. Nurses and nursing organisations benefit from this awareness and because their views and opinions are more frequently sought. Nurses must use this political advantage and ensure that healthcare issues remain high profile and with our number exceeding thousands, we represent a powerful force. For this reason, EfCCNa has established collaboration with several European Nursing federations representing special areas of nursing. Indeed, in 2007 EfCCNa became one of the founding members of the European Specialist Nurses Organisation which included setting a formal structure. The EfCCNa representative, President Wouter de Graaf, became treasurer and all twelve associations signed the memorandum of understanding. The position of ESNO is that of an associate member of the European Federation of Nurses (EFN), which is the official platform of nurses in Europe working with the EU commission and parliament. At the end of 2007 ESNO introduced itself to the different European directorates and received letters of invitation to attend meetings with the commission for Health Care, Education and Internal Market.

EfCCNa has also direct links with the World Federation of Critical Care Nurses (WFCCN). Some EfCCNa council members are also council members of WFCCN. The EfCCNa council (representing the European wide continent) agreed on collaboration with the WFCCN.. It is EfCCNa's vision that the WFCCN should be built on a structure of federations equal to the number of continents. In this structure the financial and human resources as well as the communication infrastructure on the continents are enhanced and properly used. In August two EfCCNa boardmembers, John Albarran and Wouter de Graaf, attended the WFCCN council meeting in South Africa where they presented these ideas on long term collaboration between the two organisations. The newly elected board of the WFCCN and EfCCNa representatives agreed on exploring possibilities.

1.2 Finance

The financial position of EfCCNa is reasonably healthy. Available funds can cover expenses made in pursuit of our objectives. The account was closed with a surplus, however most of this has been set aside for research and development and the organisation of the congress in Florence scheduled for October 2008. Despite this positive balance, EfCCNa needs to investigate additional income streams and not rely only on membership subscription fees to progress the aims of the federation. We would like to acknowledge the generous sponsorship of NUTRICIA, who have supported EfCCNa in the past 3 years.

1.3 Promotion

An important feature of any group such as EfCCNa, is to remain dynamic and current, but also reach its audience. In recognition of this our website underwent a new face-lift. The aim is presenting relevant materials in an accessible format and also to provide for a debate and information sharing. The website contains the latest news and the most recent position statement on workforce which should be very useful for those countries who are dealing with staffing issues. Another way EfCCNa maintains its profile is through the electronic journal CONNECT edited by Professor Paul Fulbrook and Lynne Harrison. *Connect* is the official journal of the federation and a number of council members, past and present, serve on the editorial board.

1.4 Members

The federation continues to expand each year. Serbia applied for full membership which was accepted in 2007 and more recently the European Society of Paediatric and Neonatal intensive care has been formally approved as a new member. It is clear that a small number of countries are undergoing some difficulties within their healthcare systems and therefore maintaining regular involvement with Federation activities has been problematic. However, where possible EfCCNa will maintain regular contact and provide support as required.

1.5 Meetings

Two years ago EfCCNa formalised a number of working committees to ensure that the skills and expertise of council members could be harnessed to progress the Federation's agenda. During 2007, the board of officers met only once in Blaricum, The Netherlands, which is the official address where the federation is registered. Minutes of the board meetings were approved during the autumn meeting. During the spring meeting in Nicosia the accounts were audited for 2006 by the financial audit committee which was conducted by Daniel Benlahoues and Lerma Hernandez.

1.6 Representation

Country	Representative	Current post	Nicosia April ' 07	Oulo Oct.' 07
Iceland	Rosa Thorsteinsdottir Vice President	Project manager	present	present
Sweden	Eva Barkestad	Manager	present	present
Norway	Trude Kristensen		present	present
Denmark	Mette Ring	Manager	present	present
Finland	Anne Kokko	Teacher	present	present
Germany	Heike Strunk, Secretary	Lecturer	present	present
Poland	Edyta Cudak		apology	apology
Estonia	Katrin Elisabet Juhani		not present	not present
Austria	Helga Tschugg	Manager	apology	present
Switzerland	Marie Luisa Hohl	CCN in practice	present	
Slovenia	Marusa Bvrrar	Manager	present	apology
Croatia	Adriano Friganovic	Manager	Robert Majstorovic	present
Greece	Maria Kalafati	Teacher/Researcher	present	present
Turkey	Meral Kyvanc	Teacher	apology	apology
Spain	Amparo B. Adell, Treasurer	Manager	present	present
France	Daniel Benlahoues	Teacher	present	present
Belgium	Lerma Hernandez	CCN in practice	present	present
Italy	Elio Drigo	Manager	present	present
Netherlands	Paul van Doorn	CCN in practice	present	present
UK	Bronagh Blackwood	Lecturer	present	present
Hungary	Judit Jakab	Manager	present	present
Cyprus	Evanthia Georgiou	Teacher	present	present
	John Albarran, Board member	Reader/Researcher	present	present
	Wouter de Graaf President	Manager	present	present

2. Activities of the EfCCNa Secretary

- Minutes of the Council of Representatives Meeting, Nicosia/Cyprus, April 28-29, 2007
The draft minutes of the meeting have been distributed for remarks on May 22, 2007.
Having had the council responses the final minutes were sent out on August 24, 2006.

Decisions:

- To continue with the E link study, provided that the R&D committee recommends the proposal.
- Termination of the former Croatian Critical Care association as a member
- An agreement on profit or loss sharing between EfCCNa and ANIARTI; the Italian Critical Care Nursing association and co host of the Congress Autumn 2008 in Florence.
- To react to WHO Europe on their CCN Curriculum being drafted without EfCCNa's notice
- EfCCNa' s fourth International Congress; 2010, will be held in Denmark

- Minutes of the Council of Representatives Meeting, Oulu/Finland, October 27-28, 2007
The draft minutes of the meeting have been distributed for comments on January 30, 2007.
Having had the council replies the final minutes were sent out March 5, 2006.

Decisions:

- Adoption of the Rules of Procedures
- To draft a folder for the EfCCNa Exchange Program which can be translated in different languages by the National representatives
- An agreement of the position statement of the workforce committee
- To invest in one or two banners for EfCCNa's promotion at national congresses
- The budgetplan 2008 was agreed
- The new PR committee to make a proposal for a long term EfCCNa promotion agenda
- Acceptance of the application of the Serbian Critical Care Nursing association as EfCCNa member
- The spring meeting 2008 will be held in Florence

- Minutes of the Board of Officers Meeting, Blaricum/The Netherlands, July 7-8, 2007
The Board of Officers Meeting took place in the house of our President Wouter de Graaf. The draft minutes of the meeting were sent out October 6, 2007, adopted October 17, 2007, and the same day emailed for information to the Council of Representatives.

- Draft of the EfCCNa Rules of procedures

This draft was prepared to complete an order of the Council of Representatives and first presented during the Oulu Meeting in 2007. The draft was adopted with a few minor changes and will be ready for distribution before the coming meeting in Florence.

- General communications and correspondence

1. Forwarding the information of nursing associations to the Council of Representatives (i. e. congress announcements), nursing specialist associations (IFNA), International Council of Nurses (ICN press releases), or critical care nursing organisations that are not members of the EfCCNa.
2. This relates to correspondence with professional congress organisers (nursing conferences), critical care medicine organisations (congress announcement), companies or associations that seek mutual relationship regarding the display on websites, and the like (publisher, medical industry).
3. Inquiries resulting from EfCCNa website. This has to do with questions of critical care nurses in relation to the next EfCCNa congress, queries from the medical industry with regard to exhibition opportunities during the next EfCCNa congress, and approaches publishers that wanted to announce books and journals.

3. Activities of the Vice-president of EfCCNa

- General communication with the Board of Officers, the representatives of EfCCNa and the Icelandic Association of Critical Care Nurses (IACCN)
- Updating address lists is an ongoing project
- Updating the list of national presidents
- Preparing and sending out the agenda for:
 - The meeting of the board of officers in Blaricum, the Netherlands in July 07
 - EfCCNa's autumn council meeting in October, in Oulu, Finland
 - The meeting of the board of officers in Blaricum, the Netherlands in March 08
 - EfCCNa's spring council meeting in April 08 Florence, Italy
- Arranging for Jorunn Vilhelmsen, a critical care nurse from Norway to do the Exchange Program at Landspítalinn University Hospital in Reykjavik.
- Communicating with Paul Van Doorn to work on EfCCNa's website
- Arrange for a design of an EfCCNa banner.
- Represented EfCCNa at the Nordic Conference for Critical Care Nurses and Nurse Anaesthetists in Stockholm in November. Did a presentation and promoted EfCCNa 3rd and Aniarti 27th conference in Florence in October 2008. The banner was displayed for the first time.

4. Report of the Research and Development Committee

4.1 Members:

Dr. Bronagh Blackwood, Dr Maria Kalafati, Mette Ring, Daniel Belahoues and Dr. John Albarran (Chair) The group was formally established in Cyprus 2007, and this has enabled consolidation of a number of inter-related activities. The R&D committee is supported by an annual budget from EfCCNa.

4.2 Aims of the group:

To develop collaboration between professionals in order to undertake high quality of critical care nursing research, which is of relevance to practitioners in Europe

4.3 Outputs for 2007:

Fulbrook P, Bonkers A and Albarran JW (2007) A European survey of adult intensive care nurses' practice in relation to nutritional assessment *Journal of Clinical Nursing* 16 (11): 2132-2141

Fulbrook P, Latour J, Albarran J, Graaf De W, Lynch F, Devictor T and Norekval T (2007) The presence of Family members during cardiopulmonary resuscitation: European Federation of Critical Care Nursing Associations, European Society of Paediatric and Neonatal Intensive Care and European Society of Cardiology Council on Cardiovascular Nursing and Allied professions joint position statement. *European Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing* 6 :255-58

Roynette A, Bonkers A, Fulbrook P, Albarran JW and Hofman Z (2007) Enteral feeding practices in European ICUs: A survey from the European Federation of Critical Care Nurses *European e-Journal of Clinical Nutrition and Metabolism*, Doi: 10.1016/j.ecinm.2007.10.004

Fulbrook P, Latour J, Albarran J, Graaf De W, Lynch F, Devictor T and Norekval T (2007) The presence of Family members during cardiopulmonary resuscitation: European Federation of Critical Care Nursing Associations, European Society of Paediatric and Neonatal Intensive Care and European Society of Cardiology Council on Cardiovascular Nursing and Allied professions joint position statement* *Connect: The World of Critical Care Nursing* 5 (4):86-88

Lynch F, Fulbrook P, Latour J, Albarran J, Graaf De W, Devictor T and Norekval T (2008) The presence of family members during cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Position statement, *Infant* 4 (1): 159-160

Fulbrook P, Latour J, Albarran J, Graaf De W, Lynch F, Devictor T and Norekval T (2008) The presence of family members during cardiopulmonary resuscitation, *Paediatric Nursing* 20 (1): 34-36

* This position statement has been translated to five European languages. Aspects of this work have been presented at conferences in Helsinki and Sun City, South Africa.

4.4 Plans for the 2007-2009:

- Data collection for Delphi study into the research priorities for critical care nursing has been completed after some initial problems. Dr Bronagh Blackwood (UK) will lead on this project and be supported by Dr J Albarran and Jos Latour(NL)
 - E-Link study approved by Council (Oulu 2007), to be launched in 2008 and led by Professor Paul Fulbrook (Au), Dr John Albarran (UK) and Birte Baktoff (DK)
 - Dr M Kalafati (Gr) and Dr E Papathanassoglou (Gr) in collaboration with EfCCNa R&D committee will lead a survey exploring 'Professional autonomy and associations with nurse-physician collaboration and moral distress in European Critical Care nurses'. The survey will recruit delegates attending the 3rd EfCCNa and 22nd Aniarti conference in Florence.
 - Analysis of the VENICE (End of life study) is complete. The results are being prepared for publication and will be presented at the conference in Florence. Project lead Jos Latour (NL), Professor Paul Fulbrook (Au) and Dr John Albarran (UK)
 - The chair of the International Scientific Committee is by Dr John Albarran. John has also being involved in supporting the conference organising committee
- The group is very busy and workload is now being distributed among its members to ensure greater involvement and achievement of our objectives. In addition to studies, the group have also been involved with the developing the idea for the travel scholarships and will be judging these.
 - A bid led Professor Julie Scholes with Dr John Albarran, to set up a network of critical care nurse researchers to explore the changing character of caring in modern Europe and notions of outcomes is being considered.

5. Report of PR committee and the webmaster www.efccna.org

5.1 Public Relations committee:

Paul van Doorn and Rosa Thorsteinsdottir

Webmaster Paul van Doorn

After undergoing a re-design the website was online again on 17th July 2007. Although EfCCNa is a European organisation, most of the visitors are from outside of Europe.

Figure 1: The top 35 of visitors.

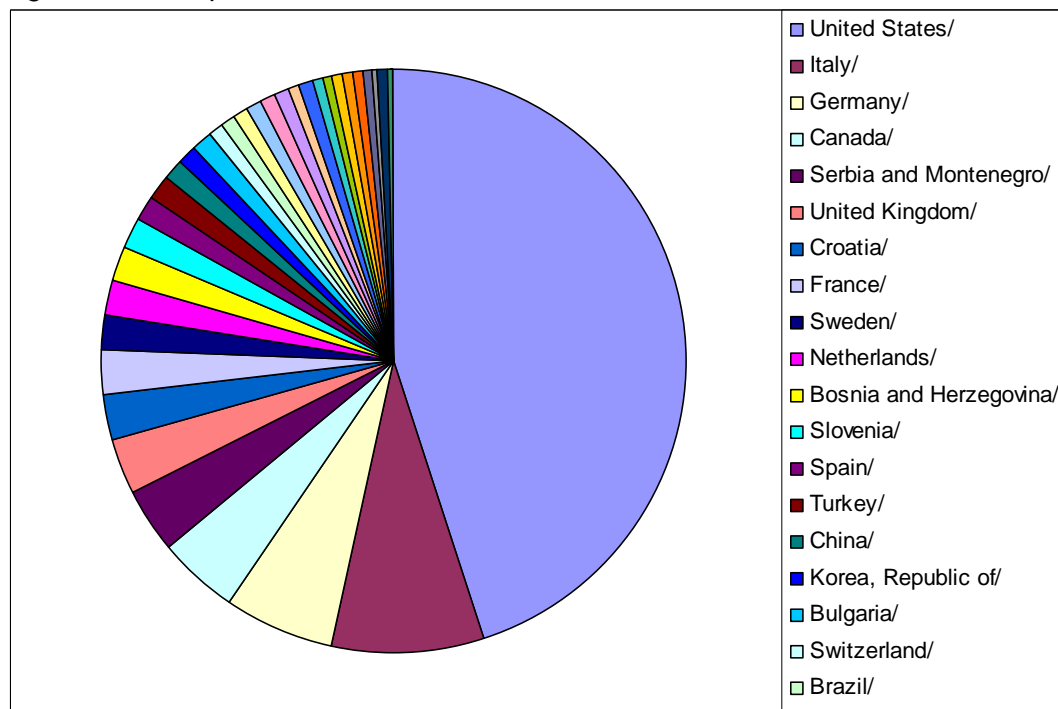
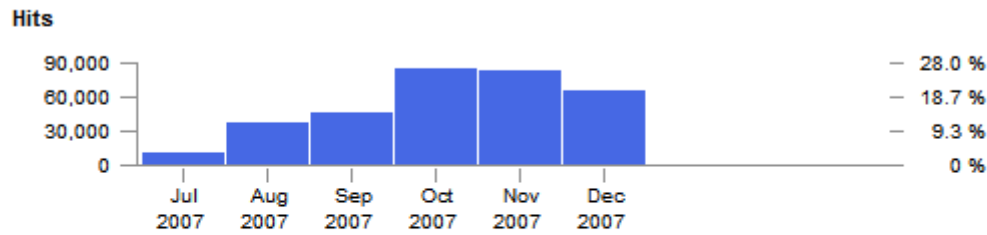


Figure 2: the most used search phrases are;

Search phrase	Hits	0 - 100 %	Page views	Visitors
1 calendar	1,331	45.6 %	1,331	97
2 efccna	333	11.4 %	329	177
3 november	108	3.7 %	108	67
4 critical care nursing	43	1.5 %	43	38
5 nursing care	41	1.4 %	39	30
6 downloads	38	1.3 %	38	34
7 events	33	1.1 %	33	23
8 www.efccna.org	27	0.9 %	27	11
9 friend	25	0.9 %	25	22
10 → http://www.efccna.org/{default}	21	0.7 %	2	2
524 other items	917	31.4 %	816	-
Total	2,917	100 %	2,791	860

Figure 3: Since the renewed website is launched we have a growing number of visitors. They are staying longer on the website and viewing more pages.



Years/months/days

Row 1 - 6 of 6

▲ Date/time	Hits	Page views	Spiders	Worms	Visitors
1 Jul/2007	10,142	1,782	2,335	0	2,012
2 Aug/2007	36,857	7,733	16,077	0	3,495
3 Sep/2007	44,601	7,594	4,560	8	2,289
4 Oct/2007	84,058	12,379	9,233	6	2,665
5 Nov/2007	81,628	10,956	27,276	2	2,361
6 Dec/2007	63,956	10,996	30,404	4	2,192
Total	321,242	51,440	89,885	20	10,219

Figure 4: The most used search engines:

Search engine	▼ Hits	0 - 100 %	Page views	Visitors
1 Live.com	1,756	60.2 %	1,750	122
2 Google	1,043	35.8 %	964	669
3 Yahoo	90	3.1 %	50	57
4 MSN Search	13	0.4 %	12	11
5 Search.com	7	0.2 %	7	3
6 AltaVista	6	0.2 %	6	3
7 AOL Search	1	0.0 %	1	1
8 HotBot	1	0.0 %	1	1
Total	2,917	100 %	2,791	860

6. Report of the Exchange committee

6.1 *Members:*

Judith Jakab, Adriano Friganovic, Tor-Magnus Molund and Eva Barkestad (Chair)

6.2 *The aim of the program:*

To stimulate professional development and collaboration of critical care nurses in Europe by facilitating those to visit critical care units in other European countries.

Last year the committee had one major goal, it was to have at least two participants in the program before the end of December 2007. To achieve that, the committee worked on promotion and made a power point presentation which were presented at a conference in Stockholm and Croatia. The power point presentation will be published on the website during spring 2008. In addition a leaflet was made which can easily be translated in to different languages.

During 2007 Maria-Luisa Hohl who had been the chair since 2004 left EfCCNa and a committee member Trude Kristensen ended her period in EfCCNa as well. Rosa Thorsteinsdottir left the committee to concentrate on the work of the website. The committee partially achieved their goal for 2007. A critical care nurse from Norway visited a hospital in Iceland for a period of two weeks.

7. Report of the Workforce/Management committee

7.1 *Members:*

Lerma Hernandez, Laurent Poiroux (France), Edyta Cudak, Helga Tschugg and Amparo Bernat Adell (Chair).

7.2 *The aim of the committee:*

- To have an EfCCNa position statement on workforce
- To present the results of the study in conferences and in meetings of governmental bodies at national and European level.
- To publish the results of the study in Connect; www.connectpublishing.com and on EfCCNa website

The final position statement on Critical Care Nursing; *staffing and patient depending levels*, was launched in October 2007 and published in Connect and on EfCCNa website.

The name of the committee changed into **management committee** and a second study proposal/aim is going to be set up.

8. Education committee

8.1 *Members:*

Birthe Baktoft (Chair till June 2007), Evanthia Georgio, Anne Kokko, Heike Strunk and Monica Magnusson (Chair a.i.)

8.2 *The aim of the committee:*

- To harmonize postgraduate education of critical care nurses in Europe as much as possible.

8.3 Activities:

A survey was developed with a semi structured questionnaire and sent to all member associations in EfCCNa. The results were presented at the autumn meeting in Oulu.

The aim of the survey was:

- To gather obvious arguments for having a post graduate education in critical care nursing.
- To support those countries in Europe and critical care nursing associations who still do not have a post graduate education in their work to convince the authorities on a national level of the need for such an education
- To learn how and what EfCCNa can do to support those countries/associations

During the Oulu meeting a report was given about ESNO and the development of specialised nursing education within Europe with emphasis on a new level in the academic and clinical area, a clinical master.

A literature review has been conducted with a search for relevant articles regarding postgraduate education of critical care nursing.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has published a document on *Europe Critical Care Nursing Curriculum*. The committee has started working on a letter to send to WHO to request further information.

The position statement has been promoted.

There has been e-mail communication with the European Federation of Nurse Educators (FINE).

There has been a discussion within the committee and also with the Board of Officers regarding a future chair of the committee and what qualifications such a person should possess.

9. Congress Planning Committee

3RD EFCCNA & 27TH ANIARTI CONGRESS, FLORENCE, 9-11 OCTOBER 2008

www.efccna2008.aniarti.it

9.1 Members:

Daniel Benlahoues, Maria Kalafati, Elio Drigo (co-chair), Dr. John Albarran (chair scientific committee) and Jos Latour (chair)

The congress planning is well in progress. In January 2008 the (local) International Organising Committee (IOC) and the chair of the International Scientific Committee (ISC) will meet in Florence. Several issues were discussed and decisions were made. In the past few months, several members of the committees have worked on the decisions.

9.2 Organizational issues:

Congress Venue: The contract is signed in 2007.

Congress Fee: We have determined the congress fee and this includes the Congress Party. We have three deadlines of the fee. The early bird fee ends in July 2008.

Budget: Currently we have a positive balance, but this is based on 1500 paying participants and substantial sponsoring income.

Sponsoring: Although we have already several square meters sold to exhibitors, we do miss the international contacts. Therefore we are constantly waiting for EfCCNa representatives for their input.

Website: The website has been updated regularly. We like to express our warm thanks to Andrea Mezzetti, the Aniarti webmaster for his ongoing support.

Advertising: We received many replies from EfCCNa representatives that the congress has been advertised on the national society websites. Others have done email advertising and the Australian College of Critical Care Nurses (ACCCN) will have an advertisement in their Newsletter in June 2008. Aniarti is boosting the promotion of the congress with 5000 flyers and newsletters

Simultaneous translations: There will be English-Italian translation. We are also investigating English-German translation. Sponsoring could come from our member societies from Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. This is still in negotiation.

9.3 Scientific issues:

Program and invited speakers: We will have 4 rooms (can be extended if necessary). The maximum number of presentations is: Day 1: 16 oral presentations; Day 2: 48 oral presentations;

Day 3: 20 oral presentations; Totally 84 free oral presentations.

The 7 keynote speakers and lectures will be listed in the preliminary programme on the website.

Satellite sponsored symposia/workshops: Satellite industry sponsored symposia is an option and we are in progress to have some sponsors interested. We might have 2 or 3 industry sponsored workshops. These workshops will be outside the main scientific program. They can be planned during lunch or before/after the program.

Abstract management: John Albarran will do the major abstract handling. Receiving the abstracts, coding them, give them a reference number, list them, send them out for review, receive the review results, send notification of acceptance or rejection, file the abstracts for the abstract book. The ISC will review the abstracts via a standard scoring sheet. Abstract review will be anonymous. We are happy to submit all abstract in a standard format for CONNECT and have the same conditions as we had in 2005. The abstracts will not be published on the Aniarti website.

Consent form for web-publication: During the congress, the presentations will be recorded (video and audio). The abstract presenters will receive a consent form in the speakers preparation room to complete for website publication.

Studies among the congress participants: Maria Kalafati is preparing a study protocol for a survey study among the congress delegates. The study protocol will be submitted to the the chair of the ISC, John Albarran.

9.4 4th EfCCNa congress 2011; Copenhagen

The 4th EfCCNa Congress will be hosted by the Danish Anaesthesia and Critical Care Society (AIO). In August 2007 the chair of the Congress Planning Committee (CPC) went for a site-visit to Copenhagen and met the local organizers, Birte Baktoft and Mette Ring. They met with a potential PCO and a local government official to discuss the organization and the location.

Currently several issue are in progress and need to be discussed between EfCCNa and AIO. The issues are liability, profit sharing, PCO choice, budget, etc etc. Regular update will be presented at the next CPC report. The AIO and EfCCNa will organize promotional activities during the 3rd EfCCNa congress in Florence.