

Report of the EFAD 24th General Meeting 2013

The Italian Dietetic Association hosted the 24th EFAD General Meeting and 7th Conference in Garda, Italy from 7-9 November 2013, which was attended by 26 of the 33 EFAD member associations. Ulrich Hühmer, who had been the Honorary Treasurer of EFAD for 10 years, stepped down and was replaced by Manuela Thul, also of the German Dietetic Association. Constantina Papoutsakis was elected Chair of the Professional Practice Committee and the committee was extended to 5 members. Elke Naumann was elected chair of the Research and Evidence Based Practice committee, while Agneta Hörnell was elected chair of the Education and Lifelong Learning committee. These committees would be populated in early 2014, to continue the work of DIETS, which ended on 31 December 2013.

The General Meeting resolved to extend membership of EFAD to include an additional category of membership called "Education Associate Member", which would be open to all Higher Education Institutions in Europe that were recommended by all the NDA members of EFAD in their country (where such NDAs exist) and were teaching (or working towards teaching) the European Dietetic Academic and Practitioner standards and other EFAD educational standards.

The EFAD Life Long Learning Policy and the EFAD Pedagogic Standards for Dietetic Placement Teachers were adopted, as were the Selection of Representatives Policy, the Publishing Policy and the Recognition of Experts Policy.

The General Meeting ratified several Executive Committee decisions including selection of Sophie Rodebjer, of Swedish Clinical Dietitians, to represent EFAD on the Advisory Board of the European Forum for Primary Care; signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between EFAD, EuroFIR and Jozef Stefan Institute to support access to "OPEN PLATFORM FOR CLINICAL NUTRITION" and membership of a consortium applying for funding of an Erasmus Plus Knowledge Alliance, where EFAD would lead the management workpackage.

The EFAD Communication strategy was evaluated by means of interviews of conference attendees, conducted by EFAD executive committee members. Two thirds of the 34 interviewees described positive impacts resulting from EFAD activities.

The 25th General Meeting in 2015 would be hosted by EFAD, probably in Cologne, Germany.

AdL presented an overview of the WHO Food and Nutrition Action Plan and the Vienna Declaration by Ministers of Health (2013).

Delegates had the opportunity to form small working groups to consider the following:

How could the monitoring of safe nutritional care and the promotion of improved patient care be supported by a systematic process and language eg Nutrition Care Process and Standardised Language? The group felt ethics were important, along with safety, training and practice, Standardised Languages and nutrition care processes. SL/NCP could be used to improve monitoring, surveillance and auditing

Could cooperation, cross-border care and health (networks, toolkits and registration) be supported by dietitians in Europe?

There was a lot of important work going on but it was difficult to share it because of translation difficulties.

Could dietitians address chronic disease, reduce health inequalities and extend healthy life years through their specialist networks and professional development?

The role of the dietitian in preventing NCDs and proving the effectiveness was identified. Promotion of dietetics was also discussed (Italy had some good examples), along with the need to obtain evidence of cost effectiveness of dietetic practice.

What was the role of dietitians in the education, training and development of health workers for a healthier Europe?

Dietitians needed to take on the role of educator for teachers, caterers and manufacturers as well as health care workers.

The Hellenic Dietetic Association will host the 2014 General meeting from 9-12 October 2014 in Divani Caravel, in the centre of Athens.

Judith Liddell EFAD Secretary General