

EUREPA future activities, Chapter Convention, Berlin September 20, 2008
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In the last year the relationships between EUREPA and CEA/ILAE have been discussed by CEA and ILAE Boards with the following premises:

- The main premise is the recognition of the important contribution of EUREPA in fostering the educational initiatives by direct organization of courses and by developing educational methods and tools
- The second premise is the interest in strengthening EUREPA activities and in making available the resulting benefits to all European Chapters and to other ILAE Regions.
- The third premise is the need of keeping the location of the EUREPA office in Bielefeld where it is presently based, a mandatory prerequisite to confirm the present staff (Verena Hézszer-v.Wehrs, Petra Novotny and Heiko Holtkamp) whose expertise and commitment are the main cause of EUREPA achievements.

It was discussed that:

- EUREPA organization should be reconsidered to integrate it more closely in the ILAE structure. Some options have been evaluated that raised legal problems (due to the fact that EUREPA is incorporated in Germany whereas ILAE is incorporated in US).
- Therefore it is agreed that until the legal problems will be solved EUREPA will continue its activity with the present organization devoting its European and extra-European activities both in the context of CEA international agenda and as part of the ILAE global international agenda.
- The EUREPA costs will be charged to CEA and ILAE central budgets according to a share to be defined, which ultimately will depend on the percentages of work that will be agreed to pertain either to regional or global educational programs.

It is proposed that during the transitional period necessary to design a new administrative structure, EUREPA will continue to act as European Epilepsy Academy that is to be the CEA educational arm with an international outreach.

It is worth emphasizing that CEA educational initiatives in francophone and lusophone African areas have stimulated some other ILAE regions to develop educational programs devoted to the developing world (see the activities of North American Region in Africa). It seems appropriate for CEA that pioneered such actions to continue along this line and to coordinate its efforts with those of other regions: clearly EUREPA can play a primary role in developing suitable programs and educational materials. Needless to say education is the main way to reduce the treatment gap, which is the main ILAE priority.

Meanwhile EUREPA endpoints and organization will be redefined according to the educational strategies of CEA and ILAE.

The EUREPA secretariat has prepared a detailed report of EUREPA activities. The documents are attached and I thank particularly Verena for her careful work and Walter van Emde Boas for his helpful comments and suggestions.

The documents provide detailed information about EUREPA activities. I like to stress the tremendous impact that some EUREPA original initiatives (such as the “train the trainers” and distance education courses) had in attracting Eastern European countries in ILAE orbit and in creating the feeling of belonging to an European Epilepsy community encompassing all Europe. In general, the Bielefeld office staff and of the EUREPA board have developed an outstanding contribution to CEA and ILAE educational activities with a substantial collaboration in the development of the ILAE Global Education Agenda document.