

# Anna Stavdal

Family doctor / GP  
University teacher

President WONCA Europe



## Wonca

World family doctors. Caring for people.

EUROPE

Former president of the Norwegian College  
Former president of NFGP

# What is WONCA?

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An acronym comprising the first 5 initials of the:  
**World Organization of National Colleges, Academies  
and Academic Associations of  
General Practitioners / Family Physicians**

The short name is World Organization of Family Doctors.

WONCA now used as a *trademark*.

North America

38

Ibero-  
americana

17

Africa

9

Europe

46

East  
Mediterranean

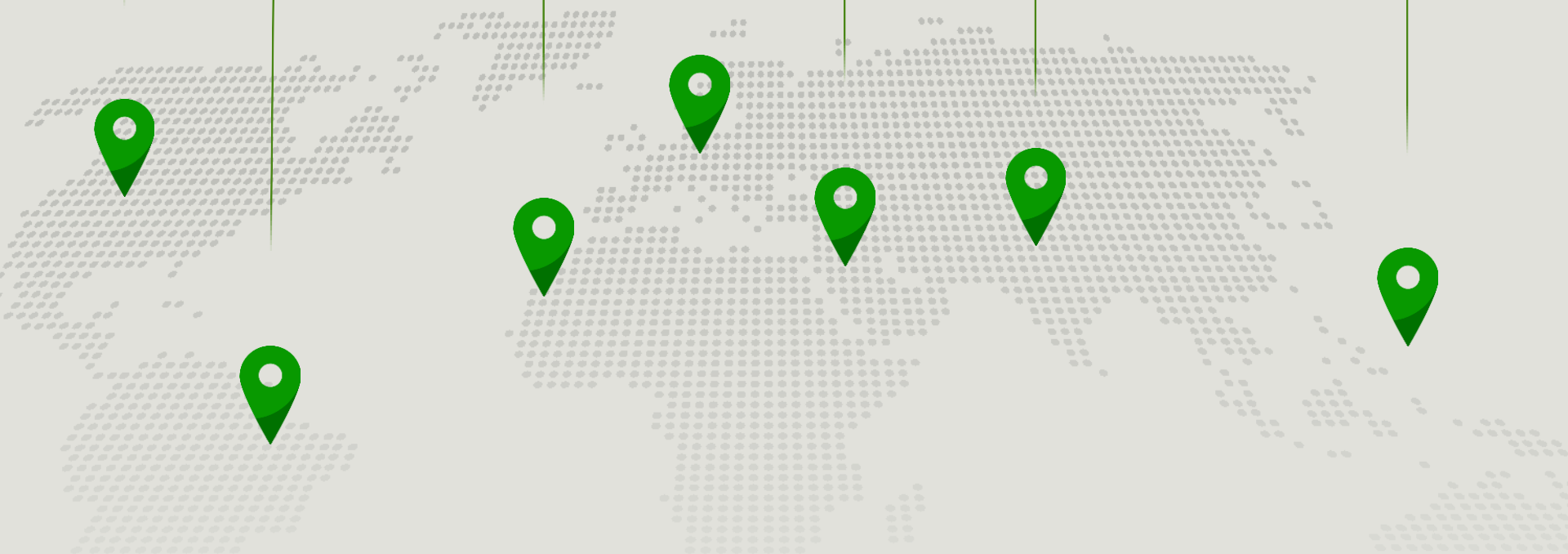
9

South Asia

9

Asia Pacific

19



47

member countries

120,000

family doctors

12

networks & SIGs



**Wonca**

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EUROPE

The image features a vertical split. The left side is a dark silhouette of a construction site, showing a large coil of wire being hoisted by a crane at the top and several workers in hard hats at the bottom. The right side is a light gray background with a faint, larger-scale silhouette of a construction site, including a building under construction and more workers.

# Our Goals

- Achieve **universal coverage** through family medicine in all of Europe.
- Advocate **integrated care** to be implemented horizontally in primary care and vertically between levels of health care.
- Support the development of an **undergraduate curriculum** with focus on FM and the **specialty training** in FM in all Europe.
- Strengthen the **research** base of GP/FM.
- Strengthen the development of **quality work & patient safety**.
- Attract **new and future** General Practitioners/ Family Physicians.

# WONCA Europe

The 2016-2019 Executive Board



# WONCA Europe

EB

Council

Member organisations

Committees

Bylaws

Membership

Finances

Nomination

Conferences

Communications

EGPRN

EQuIP

EURACT

Euripa

EUROPREV

VdGM

8  
WESIGS





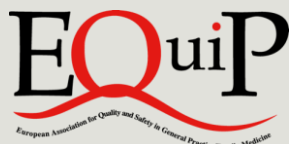
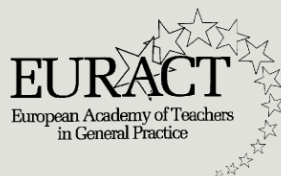
# Wonca

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EUROPE

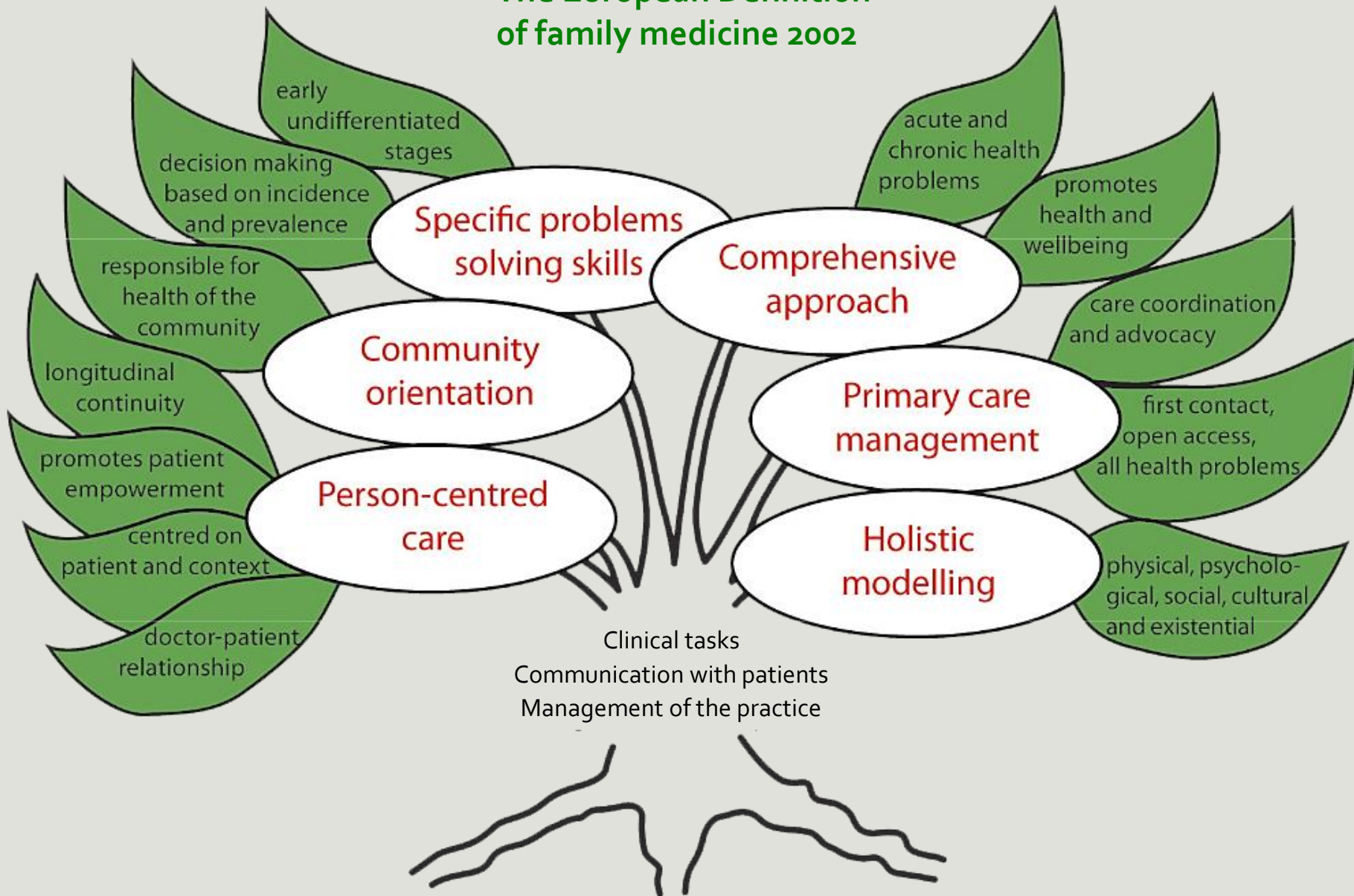
+ 6 SIGs



Vasco da Gama Movement



# The European Definition of family medicine 2002



attitude

science

context

# Annual Conference

4,000 participants from all over Europe





# European Journal

Open Access, Impact Factor: 1.364

EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF GENERAL PRACTICE, 2016  
VOL. 22, NO. 1, 52-63  
http://dx.doi.org/10.1186/s12913-016-11384-8

BACKGROUND

Training

Igor Svabi

<sup>1</sup>Department of General Practice

KEY MESSAGE

- A framework
- This framework
- The impact of exper

**ABSTRACT**  
Family medicine researchers should develop a framework to support the development of research in high cost countries.

**Introduction**

In most European countries, the length of the GP training does not in the EU.

Family medicine

leagues continue

infrastructure for

their publishing

The editorial

board is working

ing their paper

for research, re

viewing the

can they be

EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF GENERAL PRACTICE, 2016  
VOL. 22, NO. 1, 1-2  
http://dx.doi.org/10.1186/s12913-016-11384-8

EDITORIAL

Opposing diversity



'Inequity in public health is one of the last words from 22-25 October 2016'

EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF GENERAL PRACTICE, 2016  
VOL. 22, NO. 4, 211-212  
http://dx.doi.org/10.1186/s12913-016-12462-8

EDITORIAL

Family medicine and family medicine research—generalist approach or specialization?



Almost everybody will agree that during the last few decades we have witnessed a trend towards specialization in many areas: in the industry, in arts, in education, in sports, and in architecture. A similar development is seen in academia and particularly in medicine and health-care. Most obvious are the many subspecialties in large clinical disciplines such as internal medicine and surgery. In many medical universities, sub-specialists or outpatient departments for single diseases such as diabetes, multiple sclerosis, headache or glaucoma are quite common. As an example, there are 12 departments of internal medicine at the Medical University of Vienna, subspecialized in areas such as angiology, haematology, cardiology or occupational medicine.

Similarly, there is a trend towards specialization in biomedical and clinical research. Although the reasons for this are different, research from country to country is becoming more and more specialized. The profile of researchers is becoming very specific. The research agenda is becoming very specific. The calls of funding agencies are becoming very specific. The EU is a case in point, and there are very specific priorities and aims of subspecialized journals. Further specialization is seen in the area of occupational medicine.

manual therapy may support the development of a specific focus in daily clinical practice. Similarly, a specific interest or competence in particular areas such as diabetes, minor surgery, patients with drug addiction or with psychosomatic diseases may support the likelihood of becoming a recognized 'specialist' in this area. This development may be followed by a self-selection of patients with that particular problem who consult the specialized GP/FD.

Likewise, in the field of family medicine research, national networks for specific topics such as for respiratory problems have developed. Internationally, special interest groups or working parties of Wonca Europe have been founded to meet the interest of colleagues in these specific fields, such as cardiovascular medicine, gastroenterology, respiratory infections or diabetes (<http://www.globalfamilydoctor.com/groups.aspx>).

A parallel development is an increase in specialized journals in the area of family medicine/general practice. There are now primary care journals on respiratory medicine (<http://www.nature.com/pcrj/>), on diabetes, on osteopathic medicine, on informatics, on cardiovascular problems, psychological therapies, and education.

Along the same line, some medical schools and universities have established primary care professorships in subspecialties such as respiratory medicine, research and development, E-health, cardiology, diabetes, evidence-based medicine or mental health.

Among the push factors, certainly one's personal interest or the ambition to reach an expert status may be most prominent. However, financial incentives have to be considered as well, such as the implementation of performance-related contracts in primary care. Financial incentives may be a strong motivation for GPs to become subspecialists. This is particularly true for patients who are consulted on GP's towards the end of their careers. The interest and motivation of GPs towards the end of their careers is a topic that deserves further research.

What is the impact of specialization? In general, it is difficult to assess the impact of specialization. However, it is clear that specialization has led to a more focused and more in-depth research in specific areas. This has led to a better understanding of the underlying mechanisms of various diseases and to the development of more effective treatments. However, specialization has also led to a fragmentation of knowledge and to a loss of the holistic view of the patient. This is a topic that deserves further research.

# EJGP

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Open access

**90.000** full-text downloads in 2017

**60%** of the papers has been cited at least once

**40%** of the downloads come from European countries

**60%** of the citations come from European countries

Thank you Jelle Stoffers!

# Building Our Future

Conferences, scholarships & exchange programmes





# Advocacy

Statements & declarations, WHO/Europe, partnerships



World Health  
Organization

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR

Europe

# ORGANISATIONS IN COLLABORATION

WONCA Europe becomes visible, more organisations wish to collaborate with us  
Framework for collaboration according to bylaws

Reports from **EFPC, UEMO, EMA** and **ECCO**



# WONCA Europe Future Plan 2016 - 2019

## INTRODUCTION

The coverage of family doctors in the European region is still not universal. General Practice / Family Medicine (GP/FM) is yet not fully recognised or fledged in many countries: there is a wide range of diversity in understanding and practicing the specialty, and a need for strengthening its proper educational content, research and evidence base.

The current landscape of the European Region faces an increasing pool of challenges:

- Increasing socioeconomic inequality with severe implications for access to care and health outcomes.
- An ageing population with increased multimorbidity.
- Migration of patients and health personnel.
- A surge in the commercialisation in the demand and supply of health care.
- Growth in demand and supply for alternative medical services.
- Changes in patients' behaviour due to easily available information communication technology.
- While prompt and accurate diagnosis and treatment are still critical challenges for primary health care, there is an increasing trend of overdiagnosis and overtreatment.
- New technology providing immense possibilities, but raising serious economic and ethical challenges.
- There is insufficient recruitment of health personnel, specifically in rural areas and in other contexts with limited resources.

A robust primary health care with the family doctor in key role is essential to meet these challenges.

## OUR VISION & MISSION

**Our vision** is that everyone shall have timely access to a highly skilled family doctor throughout the course of life unconditionally.

**Our mission** is to lead the development of GP/FM discipline in the Region Europe by putting in action our core values; addressing the current challenges of health and health care in the European Region; and improving the ability of our organisation to react towards change in a prompt and appropriate way.

The WONCA Europe Definition of General Practice / Family Medicine is the core document for all our actions.

build

IDENTITY

increase

VISIBILITY

exert

INFLUENCE



# Our Vision and Mission

- **Our vision** is that everyone shall have timely access to a highly skilled family doctor throughout the course of life unconditionally.
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# OUR FUTURE PLAN IN MOTION

## **COMMUNICATION STRATEGY**

Synergies internally, visibility externally, influence

## **ENGAGEMENT WITH ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS**

Strengthen our academic fundament, recruit & retain future leaders

## **WONCA EUROPE SCHOLARSHIP**

Recruit & retain the leaders of the future

## **CONFERENCE COMMITTEE**

Strengthen our conferences, build framework for the future

## **ICPC 3 CONSORTIUM**

**PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION ( -> EU, - with UEMO)**

# NETWORKS

Increasing collaboration

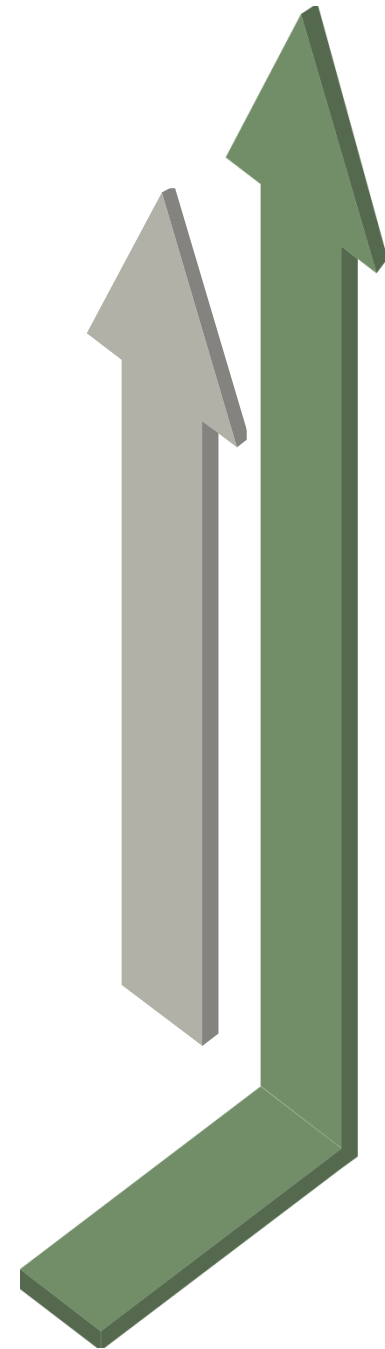
Joint venture: Position paper on overdiagnosis & overtreatment

**EQuiP:** Quality indicators & data collection

**EUROPREV:** Influenza prevention

**EURACT:** European training requirements

**VDGM:** Increased bursaries



## WONCA Europe Council outcomes

June, 2018

[Regional News](#) | [Europe](#) | [July 2018](#)



*Dr Anna Stavdal, WONCA Europe president reports on recent WONCA Europe Council endorsements:- two equity statements, the Overdiagnosis /Overtreatment position paper, and papers on Training Requirements for GP/FM, as well as Quality in family medicine.*

The WONCA Europe Conference 2018 took place in Krakow, Poland, from 24-27 May, and concluded a busy and fruitful year for the region. Participants numbering 2,400, from 60 countries, participated in a conference with the core theme of "Quality, Efficiency, Equity".

### Equity statements

Leading up to the conference, EQuiP (the European network on Quality and Patient Safety) had already finalised a statement, which recognises equity as an essential dimension of quality of health care (the statement was endorsed by WONCA Europe). Promoting equity was also the focus of the conference Legacy Statement, and as expected, the theme resonated with the agenda of the WONCA Europe Council too, which met prior to the conference.

[▶ EQuiP Position Paper on Equity - a core dimension of Quality in Primary Care](#)

[▶ Krakow 2018 Statement](#)

### Overdiagnosis/ Overtreatment position paper

During the Council Meeting, the position paper on Overdiagnosis / Overtreatment was adopted,

**Latest Newsletter**  
August 2018



**WONCA President**  
Latest from the  
WONCA president



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**Young Doctors Movement**  
newsletter



[Previous Newsletters](#)



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742239



**World Health  
Organization**

# WONCA Europe -> WHO Europe

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WONCA is an organisation in “official collaboration” with WHO

WONCA Europe Open Meeting : opportunity to discuss Public Health & Primary Care

A solid position in this collaboration, with WE president as focal point :

- Chair of Regional Director`s Adv Board to Almaty Primary Care center
- Member of Health Systems Foresight group
- Health system response to NCDs
- Expert meeting on the Economic Case for Primary Health Care
- International Conference Astana October 2018  
(Alma Ata declaration anniversary)



COTEC



World Federation of Occupational Therapists



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COTEC



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EUROPE

# THE URGENT CASE OF FAMILY MEDICINE

## STATEMENT ON SESSION 5 (c): TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE HEALTH WORKFORCE IN THE WHO EUROPEAN REGION: FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION

We welcome the framework for action for a sustainable health workforce in the WHO European Region, and acknowledge the focus on education as one of the strategic objectives that can accelerate progress towards achieving universal health coverage by providing the appropriate workforce. We also welcome the focus on the contextualised education that addresses the needs of the population, the accreditation of the educational institutions, and the monitoring and addressing the international mobility of health labour.

We would like to draw your attention to the educational needs of the professions related to family medicine / general practice.

The World Health Assembly WHA 60.12 Resolution (2009) urged member states: "(5) to train and retain adequate numbers of health workers, with appropriate skill mix, including primary health care nurses, midwives, allied health professionals and family physicians, able to work in a multidisciplinary context, in cooperation with non-professional community health workers in order to respond effectively to people's health needs."

Acknowledging that both undergraduate and postgraduate education is not meeting the needs of the future and that an adequate number of primary care health workers, we believe it is crucial to highlight the

# WHO/Europe STATEMENT

# Political Influence?

## Example of arena:

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WHO/WONCA Joint venture: Meeting Copenhagen August 30/31 2018

### **Integrating public health and primary care services in the European Region**

What are the emerging policy questions in relation to strengthening the integration of public health and primary care services at country level?

How can these questions best be answered to suit Member States' practical needs?

# CONTENT, example:

## The WE position paper on overdiagnosis and overtreatment

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### Process:

2017: NFGP ( Nordic colleges) proposal to WE Council

2017 : WE working group established

2018 : Adopted by WE Council in Krakow 2018

### WHY?

#### WE Future PLAN:

“Lead the development of family medicine in the region”

WHAT is the potential role of WONCA in the future in  
In preventing overdiagnosis?



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EUROPE

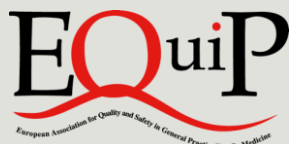
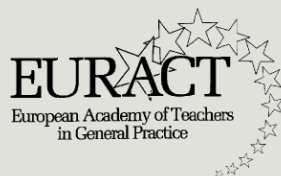


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EUROPE



Vasco da Gama Movement

# Share with us:

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WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE ON THE AGENDA OF  
WONCA Europe?

AND MORE SPECIFICALLY ON THE AGENDA OF:

Euract

EQuiP

EUROPREV

EGPRN

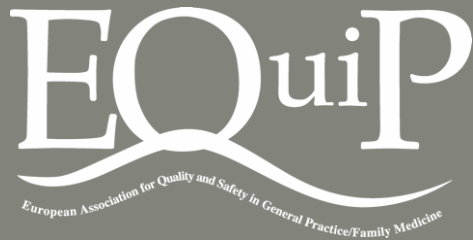
Euripa

Vasco da Gama

# Share with us:

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How can the Nordic colleges contribute?



- Mission: achievement of high levels of **quality and safety of care for patients** in general practice in all European countries.
- Projects on development and evaluation with regard to **Quality Improvement** and **Quality Management** and **Development**.



- Mission: provide a suitable setting in which to discuss and develop **research in primary care**; to foster and coordinate **multinational studies**, to exchange experiences and to develop a validated scientific basis for general practice.
- Promotes research excellence and **supports researchers**.
- Open for individual and institutional memberships.
- **Official meetings** held twice yearly.
- Published **Research Agenda** for General Practice.

- Mission: promoting general practice/family medicine as a discipline by **learning** and **teaching**.
- **Support for trainers** through a network of Educators, contribution to national activities and sponsorship for participating in courses.
- **Support for trainees** through the introduction to new learning methods, the adoption of a learner-orientated approach.
- Published the **Educational Agenda**.
- Provides **courses** for Trainers and Teachers such as the Assessment Course for Trainers in Family Medicine, and the courses for Trainers in General Practice/Family Medicine.



Vasco da Gama Movement

[www.vdgm.eu](http://www.vdgm.eu)

- The WONCA Europe network **for new and future General Practitioners.**
- Establishes a **communication network** and provides a **forum, support and information** for trainees and new GPs through access to WONCA Europe regional conferences and pre-conferences.
- Improving the **quality of training programmes** for general practice.
- **Collaborating with national colleges and associations** in general practice, and stimulating the formation of national representation of new and future GPs.
- Organises annual **preconferences**, adhoc **conferences** and **exchange programmes.**