Addressing Common Challenges in Europe: Pan European Working in Support of Oral Health

Meeting organised conjointly by The British Association for the Study of Community Dentistry (president J Gallagher) and the European Association of Dental Public Health (president K Eaton), London, 15-17 November 2012

About 270 delegates attended the meeting from 25 European and 10 other countries. The main challenges faced by the oral health community were addressed as well as several examples of good practice presented. They are common to the general Public Health concerns such the social inequalities in health, the general health divide and the inaptitude of most health care systems to react to this situation properly. As a starting point of the meeting the WHO report on social determinants of health was presented. This was followed by several contributions that showed examples of health inequalities within and among countries of the WHO European region. The cases of England, Latvia and Ireland served as case studies of how attempts were made to improve the oral health of the respective populations. At the end of the meeting the WFPHA could present its newly established working group on global oral public health. This group will work to overcome the barriers between the Public Health and the Oral Community and to lobby for better oral public health at a global level.