

IDF-EUROPE

ANNUAL REPORT 2002-2003

From Cyprus 2002 to Paris 2003

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ANNUAL REPORT: OCTOBER 2002-AUGUST 2003

1. INTRODUCTION

Following the indication of the last General Assembly Meeting (GAM) in Cyprus (October 2002), the main lines of action for IDF-Europe in the last year have been:

- Be a recognized advocate for People With Diabetes, also supporting all Member Associations (MAs) at all levels including the European Union
- Strengthening of the IDF-Europe structure
- Harmonization of the action in our region along with IDF Global and MAs
- Rationalization of fundraising processes
- Strengthening of the concept of solidarity in the region through voluntary donations and support.
- Balance between medical and non-medical professionals and people with diabetes in the IDF-Europe Board and Working Groups and Task Forces.
- Be active in all parts of our large region in Western, Central, Eastern Europe as well as in the Mediterranean areas

2. STRATEGIC AND ACTION PLANNING

The 2003 action plan has been defined according to the general goals presented in the 2002-2006 action plan. The following four priorities have been selected for the regional activity in the year 2003:

1. Communications
2. EU affairs
3. The new phase of the St. Vincent Declaration
4. Sub-regional development.

3. COMMUNICATION

The IDF-Europe Board and the members of the Regional Communications Task Force have met and worked to discuss ways of developing and improving communications in the region. Priority has been given to the website, the newsletter and e-mail communication.

IDF-Europe website: The regional website is growing within the IDF website structure. (for access: www.idf.org and then Regions, European Region; or directly www.idf-europe.org). More items have been created and documents have been posted and made available to MAs. The link with the MAs' webs is being prepared. The Board members are now using a restricted area of the website for internal communication. A restricted area also for MAs is in preparation and should come out before the end of the year 2003.

The IDF-Europe Communication Task Force organized a meeting in Zagreb, Croatia on July 11-13th that was fully supported by the Croatian Diabetes Association. More than 30 delegates from 22 countries of the region met, debated and brought up ideas and proposals to improve and develop our website. (for details see the IDF Europe website).

IDF-Europe newsletter: The new IDF Europe Newsletter has been launched. Three issues have already been produced: the first one in December 2002, the second in April 2003 and the third in August 2003; the fourth one will be delivered in October 2003. The newsletters have been distributed to all IDF Europe MAs, to our partners and to our political contacts in electronic format; The Newsletter is fully available on the IDF Europe website. The paper version can be downloaded from the e-mail or from the web for distribution in occasion of meetings or for selected purposes. The reaction to the Newsletter has been largely positive and its content is progressively improving due to the growing flux of information coming from the MAs.

E-mail communication: The IDF-Europe office has had regular contacts with the MAs by e-mail. A relevant effort has been made in order to keep updated the e-mail addresses of the associations and of their contact persons. The mailing list maintenance process has been installed and the support of the MAs in replying to the update sheets that will be sent at regular intervals will be extremely helpful in order to have a reliable communication network.

4. EU AFFAIRS

The main objective in 2003 has been to obtain full recognition and accreditation of IDF-Europe as the voice for people with diabetes in the European institutions: the EU Parliament, the EU Commission and the EU Council. It is possible to claim that such an ambitious objective has been successfully reached through the outstanding commitment of all European MAs and of the IDF Europe officers and staff.

The IDF-Europe WDD 2002 events at the EU Parliament in Brussels and in Strasbourg have proved to be a real success. Full support has been granted by top EU leaders: Romano Prodi, President of the European Commission; Pat Cox, President of the European Parliament; David Byrne, Health Commissioner. (see web for details)

With the help of leading Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) like John Bowis, Mary Banotti, Heidi Hautala, Mineva Malliori, Giuseppe Nisticò, it has been possible to create an MEPs Diabetes EU Working Group (DEUWG) in the European Parliament. All the major political parties represented at the EU Parliament are actively supporting the Working Group. IDF Europe is securing the operative secretariat to the DEUWG and has already organized its first meeting in the EU Parliament in Strasbourg on April 8th 2003 in order to discuss "Diabetes and the EU Public Health Programme" (see web for details). A second meeting has been planned to be held on September 2nd 2003 in Strasbourg on the topic "What the EU institutions can do to reduce discrimination against people with Diabetes". A third meeting on "Diabetes and the new EU countries" has been scheduled to be held on November 5th in Brussels. Representatives of the EASD are regularly invited to attend the meetings.

Regular contacts are being maintained by IDF-Europe officers and staff with the Members of the European Parliament regarding issues of interest for people with Diabetes

A meeting was organized between the Mediterranean countries to prepare a common application for the EU MEDA programme for cooperation of the different health systems in the region. (see below for more details)

The IDF Europe staff and consultants have met with the EU Health Commission (DG SANCO) in Luxembourg to assess the place of diabetes in the EU Commission's strategy now and in the future. The aim is also to attract attention to diabetes and to have it put as one of the priorities of the EU health agenda.

IDF-Europe has been invited to speak and represent the people with diabetes at the seminar organized by the Association of British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI) at the EU Parliament last May 2003.

A Working Group for representatives of MAs of Countries that are entering the EU in the year 2004 is in preparation with the scope to provide information and training on the EU environment.

IDF Europe has been invited to become partner in a number of Consortia who did respond to the call for EU funded Projects. Most of the responses are still pending. At present the ImmiDiab Network "Genetic susceptibility for type 2 diabetes among immigrants in Europe" coordinated by Professor Bjorgulf Claussen, from the Department of Social Security Medicine, Oslo has been accepted and negotiations with the Commission are in place for the definitive funding. A meeting of the Partners will be held in occasion of the IDF Congress in Paris. The kind support of the Congress organiser is kindly acknowledged.

5. ST. VINCENT DECLARATION (SVD)

Following the decisions taken by the main partners of the SVD, (IDF Europe, WHO regional Office for Europe and EASD) already presented and discussed in occasion of the IDF Europe General Assembly 2002, the facilities for securing a permanent activity of the SVD Secretariat are being implemented in the IDF Europe office:

- The position of SVD manager has been created which is covered as a part time commitment by Mr Lex Herrebrugh. The function of the SVD manager is not to create a new parallel structure for actions specifically related to the SVD, but to harmonize the several activities of the IDF Europe Action Plan for the fulfillment of the SVD mission
- The archives of the SVD have been installed and documents available from the people who have been active in the SVD movement are being systematically collected.
- The SVD Clearing House function has been linked to the development of the IDF Europe website

A cooperative action for the development of "The National Diabetes Programmes" initiative has been adopted for the years 2003 & 2004 according to the following priorities:

- Management of the National Diabetes plans
- Prevention of type 2 diabetes
- Customization of the National Diabetes plans according to prevailing local environmental factors.
- Strengthening of communication between Diabetes associations on the National Diabetes Plans
- Promotion of cooperation and cross-fertilization for the implementation of National Diabetes plans.

A survey on "Diabetes and Discrimination" has been carried out in cooperation with the IDF Europe MAs. The results of the initiative will be presented in occasion of the IDF Congress in Paris and will represent the platform of evidence to be discussed at the meeting of the DEUWG to be held in Strasburg on September 2nd 2003.

The plan for organizing an SVD Meeting as an evolution of the annual "Together We Are Stronger" meetings is under consideration for the next future.

As part of the global partnership the production of the guidelines for the prevention of the Cardiovascular Disease by the "3rd Joint European Societies Task Force on prevention of Cardiovascular Diseases in Clinical Practice" of which IDF-Europe is member together with the European Atherosclerosis Society (EAS), European Society of Hypertension (ESH), European Society of General Practitioners/ Family Medicine (ESGP/FM) and EUROPREV, European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD), European Heart Network (EHN), International Society of Behavioral Medicine (ISBM), is in an advanced phase of realization, and the final draft is about to be sent to the MAs for comments.

6. REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

59 Diabetes associations from 42 countries are now members of the IDF European Region

A number of IDF Europe sub-regional meetings have been organized in the years 2002 and 2003 in order to strengthen local initiatives through international support and to promote an harmonic implementation of the IDF mission throughout the regional territory:

Central European Countries (CEC): The first CEC meeting was organized in Cluj Napoca (Romania) in conjunction with the First meeting of the Rumanian Diabetes Federation on November 16-17 2002. Joint international projects for screening and prevention of Diabetes have been launched. The second CEC meeting was organized in Gyula (Hungary) on 5 April 2003 as a follow up of the first one (see web for details of both meetings). A growing number of nations has been joining the already defined projects. The third meeting of the CEC Group has been scheduled to be held in Satu Mare, Romania, on November 17th 2003.

Eastern European Countries (EUC): The first EUC meeting was organized by IDF-Europe and the Russian Diabetes Federation in St Petersburg, Russia in June 2003. The meeting was held in the House of the Inter Parliamentary Assembly (IPA) of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). A document identifying needs of people with diabetes in this region has been produced with the purpose to be used as the platform for a law to be produced and implemented by the IPA. The need of establishing contacts between the IPA and the EU institutions for concerted actions on Diabetes was identified, and the IDF European Region has taken the responsibility to realize such initiative in strict cooperation with the interested Member Associations (see web for details).

Mediterranean Countries: The first Mediterranean countries meeting was held in May 2003 in Catania, Italy. The meeting was attended by delegates from three IDF Regions, Europe, Africa and East Mediterranean and Middle East, and by representatives of national offices of WHO. The scope of the meeting was to explore the possibilities for taking advantage of EU funded projects launched under the umbrella of IDF for the promotion of better care for Diabetes in the area. In particular the European MEDA program was taken into consideration for immediate production of a cooperative proposal. Following the same model other EU opportunities could be considered for cooperative projects on Diabetes in Sub-Saharan Africa (see web for details).

A plenary lecture and a Workshop on Diabetes has been introduced in the Children and the Mediterranean Conference that will be held on 7-9 January 2004 in Genoa Italy, European Capital of Culture for the year 2004, promoted by the Gaslini Foundation, the City of Genova and the World Bank. (see www.childmed.org for more details)

7. FINANCES

For the financial management IDF-Europe is taking advantage of a professional accounting office.

An audited report of accounts is organized on a yearly basis by the auditing company Deloitte & Touche who has been working for IDF Europe free of charge as a kind contribution to the fight against diabetes which is gratefully acknowledged.

The IDF-Europe Board has set up a Funding Group composed of 3 Board members (Yves Tomme, Wim Wientjens and Max Hornskov Hansen), and the regional manager with the mandate to look at the regional financial strategy and also to structure and follow up the regional policy on fundraising, accounting and budgeting.

A growing number of companies has accepted to become IDF Europe Corporate Partner: Negotiations are in advanced progress with other companies who have demonstrated an interest for this type of relationship. A number of partners have been supporting IDF Europe initiatives without being Corporate Partners. To all of them goes the thankful recognition of IDF Europe.

According to the decision taken in occasion of the last General Assembly, the regional annual fees have been abolished. However, responding to the appeal for solidarity, several member associations have been supporting the Region through generous voluntary donations in money like Diabetes UK, the Danish Diabetes

Association, the Diabetes Federation of Ireland, the German Diabetes Union and the Finnish Diabetes Association, or in kind like the Dutch Diabetes Association who is supporting the SVD manager for one day a week, the Croatian Diabetes Association by fully supporting, with the help of local sponsors, the first regional meeting of the Communication Task Force, the Rumanian Diabetes Federation and the Hungarian Diabetes Association who did support the CEC meetings, the Russian Diabetes Federation who did support the First EUC meeting, the Organizing Committee of the IDF Paris 2003 Congress who did offer the facilities for the 2003 Regional General Assembly free of charge.

8. RELATIONS WITH IDF GLOBAL

A policy of harmonization of the procedures for the management of the region to those in place for the management of the IDF Central offices has been adopted and is being gradually implemented. A strong integration and synergy with IDF Global has also been promoted in the field of communication especially through the development of the Regional functions of the IDF Global website. Such cooperation has proven to be of relevant mutual interest and advantage and represents a pilot model that could be of benefit for all the other IDF regions

Special attention has been paid to the definition of the relationships with the industries and potential sponsors in order to avoid confusion and misunderstandings leading to internal competition between the Region and IDF Global. This policy has proven to be highly profitable and has been the platform for the growing attention of candidate partners of the Region.

Some of the articles of the regional Constitution have already been modified in occasion of the 2002 Regional General Assembly. In order to further harmonize the IDF Regional and Global rules other changes would be necessary. They have not been proposed in occasion of the 2003 Regional General Assembly as major changes in the IDF Global Constitution are expected to be adopted by the 2003 IDF Global General Assembly

On request of IDF Global, the European Region manager Mr Pascal Onraed is acting as coordinator of the Regional managers of all the IDF Regions. This request represents a significant opportunity for sharing experiences with all the IDF regions. Also it offers the possibility for sharing resources with IDF Global that in return is offering support for the development of the communication initiatives especially the newsletter and the website and if necessary secretarial assistance

9. IDF-EUROPE OFFICE

9.1 Staff:

The Regional Manager: Mr Pascal Onraed is working four days a week for the IDF-Europe and one day a week as Regional Coordinator for IDF Global.

The Office Assistant: Ms Lala Rabemananjara, is working 4 days a week. Her previous experience gained at IDF Global is very useful to our region.

The SVD Manager: Mr Lex Herrebrugh, is working part time in the SVD management using both the facilities of the IDF Europe and of the Dutch Diabetes Association offices. His recruitment has been made possible thanks to the kind support of the Dutch Diabetes Association and Novo Nordisk

Two part-time consultants: Ms Anja Strootker and Laura Hams, are working with the IDF-Europe staff members on European Affairs and also on communications, thanks to the kind support of Novo Nordisk.

9.2 the IDF-Europe facilities:

Since last year, the IDF-Europe office is located in modern and convenient premises 19, Avenue Emile de Mot in Brussels-1000, and further expansion is envisaged. The office is fully equipped with furniture and equipment, which is the property of IDF-Europe. All information technology has been updated and new computers have been acquired including laptops.

As part of the policy for operative integration of the IDF levels and of optimization of the use of the available resources some of the facilities are shared with the IDF Global Office. Within the same line, as in the past, IDF-Europe's premises are available to the Member Associations in case they need to organize small meetings in Brussels. On February 1st and 2nd 2003, a Nordic meeting on finances was organized with representatives from MAs of Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Iceland. After this meeting, the associations from Denmark and Finland decided to support the IDF-Europe financially. Some others are considering this for the future. A meeting was organized between the Flemish and the French speaking diabetes associations of Belgium and the Delhaize food industry in order to identify topics for cooperative projects.

10. BOARD MEETINGS

The board of the European Region has met at regular intervals. In 2003, it met twice in Brussels and twice in occasion of events held in the region: in St Petersburg (Russia) in the occasion of the 1st East European Countries meeting and in Zagreb (Croatia) in occasion of a Communications Task Force meeting in July 2003. A grateful thank is due to the MAs who co-organized both events for the organizational and financial support provided.

In order to save resources the use of teleconferences has been adopted as a standard methodology for communication by the regional Board and committees.

11. PARTNERSHIPS

- The IDF Europe 2003 Corporate Partners are: Novo Nordisk, Pfizer, GSK, Roche Diagnostics and Sanofi-Synthelabo;
- Support is also given to IDF Europe by: Eli Lilly, Novartis, EDMA
- Negotiations are in advanced progress with Aventis, Servier, Merck Sharp & Dohme, Air Liquide Santé, Delhaize, Pernod Ricard for IDF Europe Corporate partnership an/or for cooperative projects.
- The Pfizer Foundation has very recently provided a grant of 30.000 US Dollars for a regional project on fundraising training of IDF Europe MAs and for EU projects exploitation.
- Contacts have been established with food, sports and other industries as potential partners of IDF Europe.