

**International Affairs Representative – Annual report 2023***Marta Tavares***1) Transition**

- There has been a transition in June between Patrick Bontems that was stepping down from the position after a term of 3 years, and Marta Tavares that has been elected this year. Transition was done in a one-day face-to-face meeting in Milan with ESPGHAN President, Secretary and office.
- The most important tasks related to the IAR that were discussed during transition meeting were identified as follows:
 - Organization of an annual Eastern European Summer School aiming to spread knowledge and provide networking opportunities to Health Care Providers from Eastern European countries.
 - Continuous data bank update of the National Societies structures and representatives.
 - Support for networking and exchange provided by ESPGHAN with currently two dedicated meetings for representatives per year. The involvement of National Societies in ESPGHAN related activities such as the new Quality of Care project, scientific cooperation or education will be pursued.
 - Standardized template made available by ESPGHAN to National Societies to facilitate translation of ESPGHAN guidelines and educational materials.
 - Support and follow-up of processes to obtain a recognition of PGHN as a subdiscipline in all European countries based at least on criteria developed by ESPGHAN and presented in the Syllabus).

2) Eastern European Summer School (EESS)

- EESS was cancelled during pandemic and restarted in 2022, being held in Istanbul, Turkey.
- The 2023 EESS was organized in Rzejsow, Poland, near the Ukrainian border since Ukraine has been postponed before because of the local issues and currently was not feasible under the war scenario.
- The 2024 EESS application was accepted and IAR started the course organisation with local PGHN president.
- The 2025 EESS application was submitted, location is to be defined on the Balkan region.

3) National Societies

- Exchange between ESPGHAN and the NS have adjusted in the last years, with two meetings per year, one being during the annual meeting of ESPGHAN in spring, and the second just before the Autumn Council Meeting (in 2023 it was organised in Vienna and in Copenhagen respectively).

- Autumn meeting in Copenhagen has been organized presential to a group of 15 Northern societies, mostly onsite and exceptionally online due to COVID disease in two of the NS invited representatives.
- Regular contacts have been kept with NS in 2023 by email regular exchange to spread recent initiatives of ESPGHAN including education materials, grants and fellowships, or research.
- There was a plan to invite a second group of NS representatives for an onsite meeting during the next Annual meeting in May 2024.
- A database with recent changes in the structure of the NS is keeping updated.
- National societies have been involved in the QoC project and the Functional abdominal pain initiative, together with the QoC task force and Liaison Officer representative respectively.

4) PAC

- The IAR represent the link between PAC and NS.
- IAR joined ESGHAN PAC representatives in a digestive health roundtable at the UEG annual meeting held on 15 October in Copenhagen named “advancing digestive disease health: collaborating for better Outcomes”. Participants included patient representatives, WHO Europe, UEG experts and UEG HQ.
- Clinical Advice Guides represent one of the key activities. These guides are based on recently published Societal Papers. A template to translate these guides are developed and proposed to every NS.
 - An initiative has been taken to harmonize translation in same language across different countries.
 - For an additional improvement in translation, there could be a repository on the ESPGHAN website (with link to the NS responsible for the work done).
- Due to transition of PAC EC, there was no new clinical advice guides, but interaction was started with the committees to develop new topics and working areas.

5) QoC

- The ESPGHAN Quality of Care (QoC) Task Force is an ESPGHAN initiatives to improve the practical delivery of quality care to all children suffering disorders in Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition.
- QoC now reports directly to EC of ESPGHAN.
- IAR supports QoC initiative by disseminating the aims through NS representatives and increase network between NS to collaborate in the project.

6) Liasion Officer Representative (LOR)

- The Functional abdominal pain initiative was designed to increase knowledge and public awareness of functional abdominal pain as a common GI problem in paediatric practice.
- LOR and IAR aimed to strengthen the collaboration between the General Paediatric Societies in Europe, ESPGHAN and the National PGHAN Societies.
- Common efforts LOR and IAR to the campaign and connection between NS was developed through 2023.
- In 2024 the launch of the campaign will start with the common participation of the two societies in the countries who accepted to join.

7) Recognition of PGHN



- Many countries within Europe already recognized PGHN as a sub-speciality, the duration of the training varies between countries. In the Syllabus, it is recommended to have a training period of at least 2-years. Some efforts are going on in the remaining countries being Spain, France, Belgium, The Netherlands, Italy, Slovenia, Greece, and Belgium.

8) Next Educational events

Full Event Name	Eastern European Summer School 2024		
Location	Riga, Latvia		
Date	25-27 April, 2024		
Organizer	President of Latvian society of PGHN - Ieva Pukite ESPGHAN IAR - Marta Tavares		
Email Organizer	ieva.pukite@rsu.lv		
Applied for EPP	x	Yes	No
Applied for UEG Training Support		Yes	x No
Application for CME credits	x	Yes	

