

# EUROPEAN FEDERATION of OSTEOPATHS



# Formalising standards across Europe

The CEN process and a case study of Osteopathy



European Committee for Standardization  
Comité Européen de Normalisation  
Europäisches Komitee für Normung

# ABOUT THE EFO

- Official International not for profit organisation recognised by and registered under Belgian law
- European Federation of Osteopaths (EFO) recognised within the EU as the Professional Association for Osteopaths
- Founded in 1992 as the Registre Européen des Ostéopathes (REO), President Willy Vansderschrick

# ABOUT THE EFO

- 1999-2010 Current association founded by Armand Gersanois
- 2010 Jonathan Bailey-Teyletche elected president
- It has member organisations from 16 countries

# ABOUT THE EFO

- Its activity is focussed on lobbying and promoting osteopathy within the EU, national support and representation
- It is a democratic organisation and only undertakes projects that have been approved by its members at its AGM
- Worked closely with FORE since 2009 in accordance with MOU, especially CEN project.

# ABOUT THE EFO

- Forged closer ties with OsEAN in 2012 to form tri-partite working group with FORE
- OIA membership approved 2014
- Member of CEPLIS
- Member of **EUROCAM**

# EFO BOARD

➤ 5 BOARD MEMBERS

➤ 1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE

➤ 2 ADVISORS

# CHALLENGES FACING THE EFO

- European osteopathic organisations supporting and understanding similar goals
- Lack of credible evidence base
- Other healthcare practitioners defending their share of healthcare income
- Title of 'Osteopath' not protected



# AIMS AND OPORTUNITIES

- Initiate and complete the CEN project and establish standards for osteopathic training and practice in different countries across Europe
- Work with other osteopathic organisations to identify appropriate research streams
- Develop an evidence base to lobby at European level for the recognition and regulation of osteopathy in within member states
- To lobby for osteopathy to be made available to European citizens through national health service provisions
- To prepare and distribute guidance notes to members on how to lobby at a national level (using the CEN resource and evidence gathered)

# Formalising standards across Europe



**Jonathan Bailey-Teyletche**  
President  
European Federation of  
Osteopaths



**Gert Jan Goede**  
Chair  
Forum for Osteopathic  
Regulation in Europe

# About FORE

- Seeks to enhance protection of patients in Europe by promoting wider recognition of osteopaths and high standards of osteopathic treatment
- Members from across Europe, including:
  - ❖ competent authorities, voluntary registers and associations
- Member of Crossing Borders



# In summary...

- European Federation of Osteopaths (EFO) recognised by EU as Osteopathic Professional Association
- It has member organisations from 16 countries
- Its activity is focussed its on EU lobbying, national mediation and representation
- FORE Seeks to enhance protection of patients in Europe by promoting wider recognition of osteopaths and high standards of osteopathic treatment
- Members are either competent authorities within Europe or organisations within Europe with well-developed processes for regulating osteopathy, working towards governmental recognition

# Status of osteopathic regulation in Europe

Countries with regulation and EU registered:

Finland, Iceland, Lichtenstein, Malta, Portugal, Switzerland and UK

Countries with regulation and not EU registered:

France, Hungary, Latvia

Regulated treatment but not regulated profession:

Belgium, Bulgaria, Italy, Romania, Slovenia

# Status of osteopathic regulation in Europe

Considering regulation:

Germany, Ireland, Norway, Spain

Not recognised/ with no current plans:

Austria, Cyprus, Denmark, Greece and Sweden

Unclear:

Central and Eastern Europe

# Barriers to development of regulation

- No clear identity for osteopathic profession within individual countries
- Inconsistency of training and qualifications
- Lack of critical mass of osteopaths
- Opposition to osteopathy as autonomous profession
- Lack of political will

# Freedom of movement: the challenges

- Lack of osteopathic regulation
- Lack of consensus on osteopathic education and training across Europe
- Challenge for competent authorities:
  - ❖ Recognising qualifications
  - ❖ Exchanging information
- Impact on patient safety
- Osteopathy = 'general systems' profession
- Little or no employment structure (e.g. language testing)



# Voluntary European standards

- Published:
  - FORE European Frameworks on standards of osteopathic education, training and practice (ratified by European Federation of Osteopaths)
  - EFO Codex documents
  - Scope of Osteopathic Practice in Europe
- No legal basis, but template for national templates
- Formalisation of European Frameworks with the European Committee of Standardisation





# Comité Européen de Normalisation

- CEN = Comité Européen de Normalisation
- European standardisation organisation, made up of standards bodies from EU and EFTA (31)
- UK member = British Standards Institute (BSI)
- Recognised by EC as competent authority for development of standards



# What is a CEN Standard?

- Well known in the product and process arena
- Key part of the Single European Market
- Moving into services, including healthcare, e.g.
  - Aesthetic surgeons
  - Hearing aid professionals
  - Chiropractors
- Developed according to a defined process
- **Doesn't override national legislation**, but provides standard in those countries where none exists – 'soft law'




# Purpose of the CEN Standard

- Improvement on the status quo
- Become indicative standard across Europe
- Promote greater consensus in profession
- ‘Strengthen’ the profession internally and externally
- Improve standards of patient care across Europe

# Developing a CEN Standard

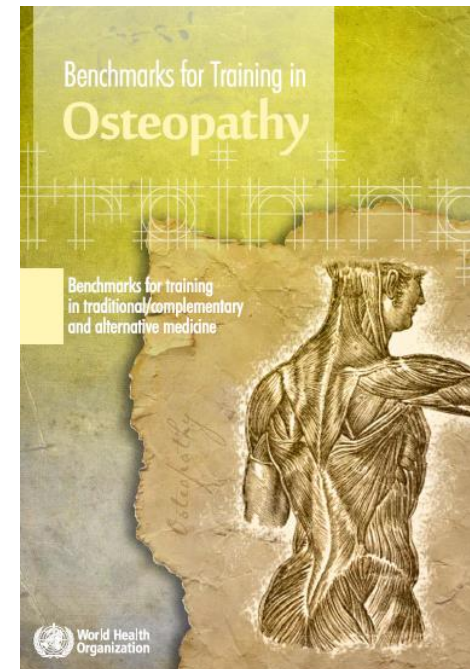
- Proposal to develop a Standard
- Acceptance of the proposal
- Drafting
- CEN Enquiry: public comment at national level
- Adopting by weighted vote
- Publication of Standard
- Review of Standard

# CEN process for osteopathy

- Funded by EFO and FORE
- Name: *European Standard on Osteopathic Healthcare Provision*
- Secretariat: Austrian Standards Institute The logo for the Austrian Standards Institute, featuring a stylized circular emblem with a red and grey color scheme, followed by the text 'AUSTRIAN STANDARDS' in a bold, sans-serif font.
- Work conducted by Technical body 414, made up of national delegations from CEN members
- Drafting group (from members of TC414) develops drafts to be considered

# The Standard

- Standards used as reference:
  - ❖ WHO benchmarks
  - ❖ FORE Framework documents
  - ❖ EFO Codex documents
  
- Challenges:
  - ❖ terminology
  - ❖ reflect osteopathic practice in Europe
  - ❖ reflect EU higher education policy
  - ❖ consensus on minimum standards



# The Standard

- The Standard includes:
  - ❖ foreword,
  - ❖ introduction,
  - ❖ scope,
  - ❖ terms and definitions,
  - ❖ description of Osteopathy
  
- Clinical Practice:
  - ❖ case history
  - ❖ examination
  - ❖ osteopathic diagnosis
  - ❖ treatment
  - ❖ osteopathic profession
  - ❖ continuing professional development (CPD)
  - ❖ quality management



# The Standard

- Education and Training
  - ❖ Type 1 training programmes
  - ❖ Type II training programmes
  - ❖ Common features
  - ❖ Essential competencies for osteopathic practice
  - ❖ Core competencies in osteopathic education
  - ❖ Osteopathic teaching, learning and assessment (clinical education)
  
- Annexes: Osteopathic structure-function models, Principles of Ethics, Osteopathic techniques

# How could the CEN Standard be employed?

- By individual practitioners/clinics
- Educational institutions
- Associations in non-regulated countries
- Help to draw public attention to high standards
- Develop patient/public information about standards of osteopathic care in Europe
- Guidance for regulators
- Lobbying tool at national/EU level

# A standard is ...



# Timeline...

Timeline	Activity
7 November 2013- 7 April 2014	Launch of public consultation (CEN Inquiry)
Summer 2014	Analysis of responses by TC414
Autumn 2014	Final version drafted
Autumn/Winter 2014	Vote in CEN (weighted vote)
Autumn 2014	Publication of Draft Standard
2014-16	Awareness campaign
2015	Final vote and National implementation (where no regulation exists)

# Further information

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# Thank you

