

Reflections from the Congress European Forum for Primary Care.

(Leen De Coninck and Nadine Blankvoort)

On 24 and 25 September the annual *European Forum for Primary Care* took place in Heraklion. The conference brought primary and community health care professionals from all over Europe together to reflect on the theme ‘Vulnerability and Compassion: The role of Primary Care in Europe’ How to overcome the austerity period?’.

Passionate and experienced speakers encouraged reflection. The selection of the keynotes was carefully thought out. Aikaterina Nomidou, Mental health & Human rights practicing lawyer and WHO Quality Rights consultant, combined her own experiences of living with a brother who suffered from schizophrenia with her knowledge as a lawyer. Professor emeritus Richard Wilkinson gave a clear overview of the effects of income inequalities on health and situated the status of the European countries.



Also interesting were the different workshops, including these of Stavroula Lioliou and Maria Papadakaki on ‘Empathy in the clinical session: skills for healthcare practitioners’ and the one of prof Christos Lionis and George Kritsotakis on ‘Motivational interviewing’.

Our colleague Nadine Blankvoort presented ‘Current practices and implications for the future of the OT-Europe interest group displaced persons’, a presentation with which she emphasized the recent report that had been completed by an OT-EU group on displaced persons. This report highlights current practice examples for OT with displaced persons and also proposed implications for future practice, research and education. Participants of the presentations were interested to know the work that was being done by OTs in this field. As representative for OT Europe at the conference, Leen De Coninck, chaired sessions on allied health professions and on aging.

We noted that the position and awareness of Occupational therapy in Primary Care varies greatly between the different European countries. That’s why this kind of conferences are not only interesting for Occupational Therapists to receive information about what is happening in the clinical and academic world, but also to profile our profession between other disciplines in Primary Care.

We hope to welcome several occupational therapists at the next conference that will be organized next year in Nanterre.