ONLINE MEETING BETWEEN THE LIGA MEDICORUM HOMOEOPATHICA INTERNATIONALIS (LMHI), THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR HOMEOPATHY (ICH), THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR HOMEOPATHY (ECH) AND THE EUROPEAN CENTRAL COUNCIL OF HOMEOPATHS (ECCH) ON 4TH SEPTEMBER 2020

Provisional agenda:

- Approval of the agenda.

- Funding of the benchmarks.

- Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding.

- List of experts to be submitted to WHO.

- AOB

Date: 4/9/2020
Participants:

Liga Medicorum Homeopathica Internationalis (LMHI): Dr Gustavo Cataldi (Argentina), Dr Claudia Garn (Austria), Dr Raj K Manchanda (India), Prof Ashley Ross (South Africa), Dr Altunay Agaoglu (Turkey), Dr Bernardo Merizalde (United States of America).
International Council for Homeopathy (ICH): Mr Eliaz Raz (Israel), Ms Christine Liebing-Gabel (Germany).
European Committee for Homeopathy (ECH): Dr Hélène Renoux (France), Dr Dora Pachova (Bulgaria), Dr Jaume Costa (Spain).
European Central Council of Homeopaths (ECCH): Mr Michael Smith (Ireland), Ms Zofia Dymitr (United Kingdom).

It was agreed that Raj would chair the meeting.

Jaume Costa reported that he had sent two emails to Dr Geetha forwarding the draft minutes and asking for clarifications about the funding. Dr Geetha informed Raj that as soon as he will be back to Geneva will reply to the email with the draft minutes.

Dr Geetha has also informed Raj that the amount of $ 250,000 and the expenses of the two experts' meetings will need to be paid upfront for the benchmarks. Dr Thomas Breitkreuz informed Raj that the budget for the anthroposophical benchmarks was around $ 400,000.

Gustavo suggested that donors could be identified to contribute to the project. Dr Altunay had asked to a representative from the Turkish Health Ministry about funding. The Turkish Health Ministry could organize the expert meetings, pay for the meeting rooms and through Turkish Airlines obtain reduced flight fares for the experts. Raj said that the Indian government and Indian associations could contribute with some funding and can possibly also host the meetings including the accommodation.

Bernardo wondered which would be the benefit of having the WHO training benchmarks. Claudia said that $ 400,000 is a big amount for the benchmarks.

Raj highlighted the importance of keeping the development of the benchmarks confidential. He also warned about the risk that the sceptics attacks could derail the production of the benchmarks. Zofia highlighted that the WHO is committed to T&CM through its Global Traditional and Complementary Medicine Strategy. Dora pointed out that in Bulgaria there are currently many criticisms against WHO. Christine referred to the criticism to WHO for lack of transparency and suggested that WHO should provide further information about the funding of the benchmarks.

Ashley stated that homeopathy is not starting from scratch as other therapies, so maybe the funding should be smaller. He also suggested that before signing the MoU, it is important to clarify the funding. Raj said that the replies from Dr Geetha will clarify the funding.

Ashley suggested to have a further meeting when the detailed information on funding from WHO is available. He also proposed that all stakeholders should discuss the pros and cons of WHO Benchmarks for Homeopathy Training, including if the investment in the benchmarks is good value for money.

Eliaz voiced his concerns about the whole process and the risks that entails. Gustado agreed that the sceptics could attack the production of the benchmarks. Raj suggested to discuss with WHO the risks of developing the benchmarks. Bernardo stated that the attacks against homeopathy affects both medical and professional homeopaths. He mentioned the case of the Australian report that after the strong campaign for releasing the First Report the benefits for homeopathy have been limited. Zofia said that ECCH would participate in a joint discussion with HRI to seek their opinion on WHO Benchmarks.

Raj clarified that there is no need for a government to request the production of the training benchmarks. On the other hand, he suggested to try to obtain sponsorship from governments that support homeopathy.

Hélène considered that to expend such a big amount of monies could not be a good use of scarce resources. Zofia wondered how much an international PR campaign on homeopathy would cost. Gustavo differentiated between having an official recognition by WHO and PR.

Altunay agreed that the pros and cons of the benchmarks should be considered. Dora voiced her concern about the reputation of WHO.

Hélène suggested to ask WHO for more information on the funding and the process for producing the benchmarks. This will allow to take a decision by each organization.

Ashley suggested to have a meeting in 2- or 3-weeks' time, once the missing information from WHO is available. This will allow us to have internal discussions in each organization and further discussions with WHO. Altunay suggested to obtain a copy of other's MoU. Raj will try to obtain copies of MoUs from the Indian government and Jaume from the anthroposophical doctors.

Conclusion: It was agreed to have a meeting as soon as the missing information on the funding and the process to produce the benchmarks is available from WHO. Zofia will contact the HRI to discuss their experience with the Australian report campaign. Raj and

Jaume will try to obtain copies of other MoUs.

Jaume Costa