Report of the Oral Cancer Prevention Special Interest Working Group of EADPH, June 2017

1. Title of Special Interest Working Group

**European Association of Dental Public Health Prevention of Oral Cancer Special Interest Working Group.**

2. Chair(s) of SIWG (Name, Affiliation, email address)

**Dr Colwyn Jones, Consultant in Dental Public Health, NHS Health Scotland, 1 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9EB, Scotland.** [colwyn.jones@nhs.net]

3. Date and location of Meeting of SIWG

**14:45 – 17:00, Thursday 8th June 2017. Department of Philosophy, Vilnius University, Lithuania.**

4. Number, name and country of participants (please indicate in brackets how many meetings of SIWG the participants attended in the past).

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>No. of meetings</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colwyn Jones</td>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigel Carter</td>
<td>England</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bahareh Tahani</td>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vesna Ambarkova</td>
<td>Macedonia</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruta Everatt</td>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dorte Jeppe-Jensen</td>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>1</td>
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</tbody>
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5. Apologies; Professor Katrin Hertrampf, Napat Bolstad.

6. Welcome and introductions were done through self-reported introductions from the floor and the reason for interest in and attendance at the SIWG meeting 2017 were given. A register of attendees was recorded.

7. The meeting report from the 2016 SIWG meeting in 2016, at the 21st EADPH Congress, Budapest, Hungary was reviewed and found to be accurate.

8. Oral Cancer Prevention Special Interest Working Speakers

   a) Dr Colwyn Jones gave a short introduction to the meeting, highlighting Northern Europe incidence and mortality head and neck cancer figures, and recapping on the main messages from the speakers in 2016. Particularly the oral cavity and oropharyngeal cancer differentiation.
b) Dr Ruta Petrauskaite Everatt, Laboratory of Cancer Epidemiology, Vilnius, Lithuania.

Dr Everatt gave an excellent and in-depth presentation on oral cancer in Lithuania with many international figures and comparisons. She is clearly an expert in this discipline and the group were very appreciative of the time, effort and care she had taken preparing for the meeting. In summary she stated; that in Lithuania, tobacco smoking and alcohol consumption are strong risk factors for cancer, including cancer of the oral cavity.

For cancer control, greater efforts at the national level to stop smoking and reduce alcohol consumption are needed:

- increased tobacco and alcohol taxes to the best practice level
- development of help systems for smokers who attempt to quit
- effective training of health care specialists in tobacco dependence and smoking cessation assistance
- new social and other initiatives to reduce tobacco and alcohol consumption

9. The EADPH position statement on e-cigarettes (2014) was discussed for review. There had been a recent systematic review from Denmark published by the WHO which confirmed that vaping was not harmless (Even though no firm conclusions can be drawn on the safety of e-cigarettes there is an increasing body of evidence indicating harm). As there was little new evidence to add, the existing position statement was endorsed as up-to-date.

10. Contravention of the World Health Organization Framework Convention of Tobacco article 5 (WHO FCTC). It was noted that all major e-cigarette producers are now owned by tobacco companies. To avoid contravention of article 5 of the WHO FCTC, care must be taken in working with these interests of the tobacco industry.

11. Public awareness of the early symptoms of Oral cancer awareness was raised as a topic for future consideration.

12. Progress on a SIWG position paper was reported to have made little recent progress. The chair agreed to canvas interest in restarting the process of producing an EADPH position paper on the prevention of oral cancer.

13. Next meeting of the EADPH, Special Interest Working Group on the Prevention of Oral Cancer, will be in October 2018 in La Palma, Mallorca.

With permission of the speakers the presentations will be loaded onto the EADPH website; [http://www.eadph.org/about/orcal_cancer.html](http://www.eadph.org/about/orcal_cancer.html)