

NEEDS OF PALLIATIVE CARE – A SURVEY OF PRIORITIES OF PALLIATIVE CARE PROFESSIONALS IN EASTERN EUROPE

Fürst CJ, Sauter S. EAPC Eastern Europe coordination Centre, Stockholms Sjukhem Foundation and Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden.

Objectives: To get an overview of the experience of needs in the clinical everyday work for palliative care professionals in Eastern Europe. To make a basis for appropriate future measures and actions for EAPC directed initiatives towards Eastern Europe.

Methods: A questionnaire with questions on e.g. drug availability, legislation, education and training, economical resources, support from administrators, politicians and public, networking, twinning etc were sent to approximately 700 individuals through email and post beginning in April 2001.

Results: Fifteen percent of the questionnaires were returned. The answers revealed needs for: 1. Legislation and drug availability harmonised with the rest of Europe 2. National and international courses, establishment of educational centres and translations of textbooks and articles 3. Policymaking and implementation of standards.

Discussion: The survey gave good advice for the priorities for support to palliative care in Eastern Europe and reflected general impressions of the needs in countries with poorly developed palliative care. The large numbers of non-returned questionnaires were probably to a large extent due to non-appropriate address lists, poor postal and email services.