

## **Report on the CEE Chapter activities September 2007 – October 2008**

Dear ISEE members,

I am very sorry that I am not able to participate in this year Conference. The main reason for my absence at this year's joint conference is the coincidence of the Conference in Pasadena and the CEE Chapter meeting a week after.

Thanks to the organisers of the conference I would like to share at least this way some important achievements gained at the Central and Eastern European Chapter during the last year.

The 2007 Annual CEE Chapter meeting was held as an international conference "Young vision and expert know-how in environmental epidemiology" in Celadna - the Czech Republic in the end of November.

The conference was sponsored by the Institute of Public Health in Ostrava, the Czech Ministry of Health, the Czech Ministry of Environment, WHO Office in Prague, Regional Authority of the Moravian-Silesian Region and Ostrava City Information Centre.

In total 42 participants and keynote speakers from 9 European countries attended the conference. The scientific papers presented during the Conference consisted of 6 keynote lectures, 18 oral presentations and 23 discussed posters.

High quality presentations covered different topics in the environmental epidemiology, such as air pollution, bio-monitoring, dietary exposure, health outcomes, risk assessment, noise exposure, social determinants of health, soil contamination and statistical methods. The final session of the conference included the panel discussion on young vision and expert know-how. Some provocative questions were raised that arouse a discussion.

Let me to present to you some interesting opinions that were expressed during the discussion. Young participants perceived that finding solution of problems being identified should be a challenge for environmental epidemiology. They recommended focus the research on health consequences and risks associated with new information technologies usage and gene-interaction. They mentioned a lack of self-confidence in young researchers that has been often affected by experts' indoctrination. The young draw attention to the importance of two-way communication that would provide useful feedback for both of them.

The experts perceived the importance of development of susceptibility markers considering phenotype susceptibility, not only genotype. They stressed communication precaution as the risk does not mean a disease. They felt important to focus on communicable diseases, esp. tropical ones, in relationship with global warming.

As for publication and presentation strategy they recommended to young researchers to publish their early papers in journals with low impact factor and to participate in lower cost conferences with high quality presentations, like the CEE chapter conferences. Both, the young and the experts, perceived a lack of money for research in the CEE countries as a big problem. The experts favoured the young to provide research and the older to secure financial resources.

Thanks to the sponsorship of the Czech Ministry of Health the proceedings of the 2007 conference were published in the supplement to the Central European Journal of Public Health that became the official Chapter Journal. Journal website provided also information about the ISEE, its history, mission, current activities etc. like some kind of advertisement.

As a result of discussions and negotiations with the organizing committee of the Central and Eastern European Conference on Health and the Environment (CEECHHE) which will take place in Cluj-Napoca, Romania in the next week, this year CEE Chapter meeting will be organized within the framework of CEECHHE. The ISEE councillors approved ISEE to become one of the official sponsors of CEECHHE. I hope that I will meet there some of you or your colleagues.

At the end of my message I would like to wish you a pleasant stay in Pasadena, fruitful and successful conference and hope that we will meet in the next ISEE conference in Dublin.

Best wishes from  
Hana Slachtova  
CEEC ISEE president