



**World  
Physiotherapy**  
Europe region

**Discussion Session 2:  
The Importance of a Separate National  
Policy/Law for Physiotherapy**

**Advocacy and EU Matters Working Group (A&EUMWG)**

**For DISCUSSION SESSION 2  
19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> May 2022  
Prague, Czech Republic**

**DISCUSSION SESSION 2:**  
**The importance of a separate national policy/law for physiotherapy**  
**Europe region**  
**Advocacy and EU Matters Working Group**

**Date:** Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022

**Time:** 15:00 – 17.30 hours (CET)

**Session Time:** 45 minutes

**Topic:** The importance of a separate national policy/law for physiotherapy

**Lead facilitators:** A&EMWG members

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Safeguarding and enhancing the physiotherapists' scope of practice is one of the Advocacy and EU Matters Working Group (A&EUMWG) tasks.

Managing our profession's scope of practice linked to professional autonomy in a national healthcare framework proves to be challenging, especially during a pandemic. In many of the European region Member Organisations (MOs) the law pertaining to physiotherapy is often not specific. The national health care laws and even the policies often encompass a gathering of rehabilitation professions such as occupational therapists, speech therapists, dieticians and possibly others.

In Austria for example, one of the learning outcomes of the Corona-pandemic is that being regulated as a profession in a joint law with other health care professions does not facilitate professional development. A change in law, for example within the scope of practice, requires negotiating with stakeholders and authorities. If there is a regulation made or adapted in a joint law, changes are harder to achieve because of the possible impact on all professions involved.

The A&EUMWG wants to determine if a separate national law relating to the profession is a pertinent issue for the MOs.

Based on World Physiotherapy's Policy Statement on Regulation of the profession (2019) and their Guideline on the development of a system for regulation of the physiotherapy profession (2021), the WG wants to explore what MOs determine as priority elements in a separate national physiotherapy law.

Furthermore, the A&EUMWG seeks to map the aspects that should be particular to our profession in a multi professions law when the development of a separate physiotherapy law is not (yet) possible.

The A&EUMWG believes that a comprehensive overview of the current status of the national laws pertaining to physiotherapy is necessary before developing an advocacy plan to assist MOs. With this discussion session, the WG aims to get a first impression on the matter.