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## **ANNUAL REPORT 2008–2009**

### From St Julians to Montreal

#### **Introduction**

Over the last few years, IDF Europe has grown significantly as an organisation. This consistent growth can be seen in the scope and number of activities in which the organisation has engaged; but also in the subsequent growth in its reputation as a key stakeholder and valued partner in diabetes policy issues and in health policy in general. In order to sustain this growth IDF Europe should continue to take advantage of the increasing number of opportunities which are arising, at EU level as well as at the level of the Inter Parliamentary Assembly, the Council of Europe and of the World Health Organisation.

IDF Europe currently has the following main streams of activities

- 1) EU Affairs
- 2) Member Association Development
- 3) Council of Europe
- 4) Creation of a diabetes coalition 'Diabetes Family' and building partnerships with other key stakeholders
- 5) Engagement, Support and Co-Operation with IDF Global as one of the 7 regions of IDF
- 6) Sub-regional activities
- 7) Other initiatives

While the level of IDF Europe activity has continued to grow, it should also be recognized that the resources, both human and financial, required to support this level of activity have not increased at the same rate. IDF Europe currently relies on a small number of dedicated board members, working voluntarily, to represent the organization in all of its activities and supported by a comparatively small professional office.

Apart from the Board's activities on the level of the European Union, the World Health Organisation, the Council of Europe, the Corporate Partners and the sub-regions of the Federation, the work at national level has more direct impact on the lives of people with diabetes. For that reason the Board would like to thank the ten thousands of volunteers within the member associations for their continuous efforts to improve the lives of people with diabetes. Special thanks to the healthcare professionals who give so much spare time for the sake of diabetes and diabetes associations.

The General Assembly / Together We Are Stronger meeting (GA/TWAS) took place in St. Julians, Malta from 19 – 21 September 2008. The TWAS meeting was held in plenary sessions as well as in simultaneous workshops. On 17 and 18 September a special training course was organised for Member Associations. The General Assembly was informed about a legal matter which involved President Eberhard Standl upon which the Assembly decided to leave the matter in the hands of the Board (pending investigations by IDF Global) and to inform the General Assembly about future developments. The Member Associations were informed by the Board at the start of 2009 that Eberhard Standl had decided to step down voluntarily as President of IDF Europe. At the same time the associations were informed that Chris Delicata would be the Acting/Interim President of IDF Europe until the next General Assembly in Montreal, 17 October 2009. Michael Hall was appointed by the Board to act as Vice-president until 17 October 2009 and Soteris Yiangou to serve in the position of treasurer.

During the General Assembly in 2008 an election took place for one vacancy in the Board. Elected as member of the Board was Joao Nabais from Portugal.

The main tasks of the members of the Board following the board meeting in Brussels on the 13/12/2008 are (summarized):

Chris Delicata (President)	Spokesman, Corporate Partners, office, member Board of management and Executive Board IDF Global, member association relations
Michael Hall (Vice President)	Deputy-President, member of Executive Board IDF Global, St. Vincent Meeting Glasgow
Vida Augustiniene	Children and adolescents; Discrimination
Joao Nabais	EU Affairs, National Diabetes Programmes, Public Affairs
Helmut Henrichs	EASD, EURADIA, Editorial Committees Medical Development & Technical meetings
Laszlo Madacsy	Central European Countries, DEPAC Children and Adolescents
Alexander Mayorov	Eastern European Countries
Soteris Yiangou (treasurer)	Central European Countries, DEPAC
Sehnaz Karadeniz	Member Associations Relations
Elena Shelestova	Eastern European Countries and Discrimination

Alojz Rudolf from Slovenia remained on the Board as co-opted member (assisting the Treasurer in the Finance portfolio) and will be nominated for election at the General assembly in Montreal.

The working method adopted relies on the following principles:

- shared responsibility
- according to individual or shared and approved portfolio's
- no exclusivity on the individual or shared portfolio's for anyone.
- team work

The effectiveness and efficiency has been evident and a continuation of this working method will undoubtedly continue in the future.

The General Assembly in 2009 will be held in Montreal, Canada, 17 October 2009 on the occasion of the World Congress of the International Diabetes Federation.

## **1. EU Affairs**

In 2008, IDF Europe continued to develop its activities in the area of European Union (EU) affairs, building on the successful work carried out over the past few years. The continued engagement with the European Parliament through the Diabetes Working Group and its successful outreach to the Commission's on the legislative proposal on Food Information to Consumers (Food Labelling, IDF's position was reflected in the relevant Commission report) are just a few examples of the work which IDF Europe has carried out over the last 12 months.

IDF Europe's primary EU policy objective: to drive the development of an EU strategy for diabetes – specifically, an EU Council Recommendation on Diabetes Prevention, Early Diagnosis and Control was discussed with other stakeholders. In order to make progress in the development of EU health policy on non communicable diseases such as diabetes, the Board recognized that it must continue to engage with the EU's institutions, diabetes and other health-related stakeholder groups, while leveraging existing (and future) opportunities to raise the profile of non communicable diseases at EU level.

### **'Diabetes - The Policy Puzzle: Is Europe Making Progress?'**

In 2008 IDF Europe and FEND launched the publication of the second edition of their pan-European diabetes policy audit entitled: **'Diabetes - The Policy Puzzle: Is Europe Making Progress?'**

Following the success of the first report carried out in 2005 ('Diabetes - The Policy Puzzle: Towards Benchmarking in the EU 25'), the second edition has been extended to cover the EU's 27 member states plus an additional three countries – Croatia, Turkey and Kazakhstan. It also contained a special policy focus on high risk groups in these countries. The 2008 report provides the latest evidence of the spiraling diabetes epidemic in Europe together with a comparative analysis of national diabetes policies and practices across Europe with a view to promoting best practice in the prevention, screening and management of the disease. Based on the conclusions of this report, and the disappointing lack of progress made by countries since the last audit (still less than half the countries audited had National Diabetes Plans), IDF Europe and FEND continue to advocate for the need for EU policy action on diabetes.

In 2008, key priority for IDF Europe was apart from the Policy Puzzle, to respond to the Commission's Food Labelling proposal, which is scheduled for adoption under the co-decision procedure by 2009. A new priority was to engage directly with the new EU Commissioner for Health, Androulla Vassiliou, following the departure of Markos Kyprianou in February 2008. The meeting took place on 3 November 2008, and we asked the Commissioner to prioritize diabetes in the Health Plans for 2009 and 2010.

In 2009, IDF Europe also focussed its attention on the European Parliamentary elections in June 2009 and other institutional changes. Many new MEP's were elected and we have secured the names of the newly elected Members of Parliament that are specifically interested in health issues. This project was carried out with FEND, EURADIA and PCD Europe. We shall have to build new relationships within the EU institutions and in particular to encourage the establishment of a new European Parliamentary Diabetes interest group. This should present opportunities for collaborating with other key diabetes stakeholders in our region.

### Food Labelling Directive (Legislative)

Having succeeded in influencing the Commission's draft proposal for a Directive on Food Labelling (adopted 30 Jan 2008) that carbohydrate information (essential for managing an individual's diabetes) would be displayed on the front of food packaging, IDF Europe must now ensure that this new provision passes safely through the co-decision procedure of the European Parliament and Council and appears in the final legislative text.

IDF Europe is building on the initial work in this area and will implement an EU and national lobbying programme to influence the EU decision-making process with the vital support from its member associations in the 27 EU Member States. Activities will be targeted at the EU's institutions, national governments, food industry and other EU health advocacy groups.

#### PARNUTS (Foods for particular nutritional uses) Directive (Legislative)

In preparation for the Commission's expected proposal to review the current legislative provisions for "diabetic foods", IDF Europe has held meetings with the Commission and produced a position paper in order to explain the needs of people living with diabetes. IDF Europe maintained that specific "diabetic foods" are not required in order to manage diabetes. The Commission has indicated that it accepts this position and it is now subject to the co-decision process which IDF Europe will continue to monitor.

#### Other Relevant Issues (Non-Legislative)

In order to demonstrate its role as a key stakeholder and valued partner in diabetes-related policies and health policies in general, IDF Europe provided input and advice on relevant EU policy discussions in the area of health. Recent and upcoming opportunities included the Commission's White Paper on Obesity, Patient Safety and the EU's proposed fruit and vegetable scheme.

#### St Vincent 20 Anniversary Conference, 21-23 November 2009

The end of 2009 (21-23 November) will mark the 20th Anniversary of the signing of the 1989 St Vincent Declaration, when, supported by WHO Europe, almost all of the European governments surveyed in the audit committed themselves to act on a series of recommendations to tackle the growing diabetes epidemic, including the creation and implementation of a national diabetes framework or plan. The meeting will be held in Glasgow (Scotland) also in conjunction with the 75 Anniversary of Diabetes UK. In 2008 a Programme Committee and an Organizing Committee were formed, and the Conference will be supported by IDF Europe, PCD Europe, ISPAD, FEND, EURADIA, EASD and WHO. Registration can take place directly from the webpage <http://www.worlddiabetescongress.org/st-vincent>

#### European Parliamentary Diabetes Working Group Meetings (2-3 per year)

Members of the European Parliament have, to date, been crucial in raising awareness on a range of policy issues affecting people living with diabetes while also maintaining political pressure on the European Commission to act. The Written Declaration on Diabetes, adopted in April 2006, is just one example. This level of support must be sustained and strengthened in the next two years, while taking account of the upcoming European Parliamentary elections in June 2009 which are likely to result in a change in the MEPs currently interested in and active on health issues such as diabetes.

IDF Europe supported the three co-chairs of the Diabetes Working Group - MEPs John Bowis, Dorette Corbey and Georg Andrejevs - in organizing three meetings on a range of subjects including 1) importance of food labelling to diabetes; 2) living with diabetes and the risk of complications; 3) diabetes and children. IDF Europe explored ways in which the MEPs can follow up on the EP Written Declaration of two years ago and increase pressure on the European Commission to initiate policy in response to its recommendations.

#### EU Platform for Diet, Physical Activity & Health

IDF Europe, through its Diabetes Prevention Forum initiative, continued to be a partner on the EU Platform on Diet, Physical Activity and Health, participating in the discussions of the Forum and contributing to parallel initiatives being undertaken by other partners.

#### High Level Pharmaceutical Forum (HLPF) – Information to Patients Working Group

The EU's current discussions on the reform of the Information to Patients regime across Member States provided IDF Europe with another good opportunity to raise the profile of diabetes. The HLPF's Working Group's consideration of a diabetes information model on diabetes, in particular, required the input of IDF Europe and was monitored throughout the process in order to ensure that the voice of both patients and professionals is heard. IDF Europe was also a member of the EMEA/CHMP Working Group with Patient Organizations which has also contributed to these discussions.

#### EMEA Working Group with Patient Organizations

IDF Europe's invitation to become a member of the European Agency for the Evaluation of Medical Products (EMA)'s Working Group with Patient Organizations was another opportunity to present the voice of people with diabetes. Supported by the European Commission, this cooperation enabled IDF Europe to encourage decision makers to ensure that new medicines reach people with diabetes as quickly as possible, treating the disease and its complications, but also improving the quality of life of people with diabetes.

#### Other European Conferences/Platforms

IDF Europe continued to monitor and identified other platforms which provided an opportunity to raise the profile of diabetes among EU and national policy makers. The Pre-diabetes and Metabolic Syndrome meeting in Nice (France) for example in April 2008, for example, was an excellent opportunity to meet with both national and international policy makers, together with other key diabetes stakeholders in an informal networking environment.

#### Funded Projects: IMAGE, SWEET, DIAdvisor and AP-at-home

IDF Europe's involvement in European Commission funded, diabetes-related projects have continued to grow. The IMAGE project, which was already underway and which will be concluded in November 2009, is one example of the funding received from the EU's Public Health Action Programme, where IDF is currently contributing as a cooperative partner. A second project, SWEET, has also started and looks at children and diabetes. IDF Europe is also a partner on the DIAdvisor project, which started in March 2008. In February IDF Europe was asked to be a partner in the AP-at-home project (Artificial Pancreas at home). The submission to the EU was executed on March 6. IDF Europe contributed the time and expertise of its board and staff to these EU-funded diabetes projects and will continue to do so throughout their duration.

## **2. Member Associations Development**

#### Association Development Training Courses and Technical Assistance

Through the organization and implementation of a series of training courses, IDF Europe aims to facilitate the accelerated development of its national member associations across the region, particularly in Central and Eastern Europe.

These workshops focus on organizational aspects of associations, media skills including the development of association magazines, relations with professionals and corporate sponsors and skills in advocacy and government relations.

The workshop took place on 17 and 18 September in St Julians, Malta. The general topic of the workshop was external relations of NGOs. It included a general presentation of what external relations should do, a workshop on public relations, a presentation regarding public affairs from the point of view of a politician, and a discussion about the best ways to relate with the constituencies. Twenty representatives of our MA participated. The final assessment of the training marked the event with 4.43 out of a maximum of 5 points.

The presentation regarding the external relations of the NGOs was also offered for the Serbian Diabetes Associations assembled for their annual meeting in Belgrade on November 29, 2008.

#### Association Development Officer (ADO)

Building on the association development training courses, IDF Europe also aims to improve the interaction with national member associations across the region to accelerate their development. The ADO, Mr Cristian Andricu, visited several Eastern European and Central European countries, forming partnerships between associations in the East and West of the region, advising the IDF Europe board on member association needs, and, where required, performing an ambassadorial role in governmental representations.

Since the General Assembly in Malta, ADO performed country visits to Turkey, Albania, Greece and Belarus and three of these reports were presented and discussed with the board of IDF Europe.

For all the other short term visits or meetings the board received written reports including the discussions with and the issues raised by the organizations met (Serbia, Cyprus, Austria, Poland, and Kyrgyzstan).

A number of organizations decided to apply for funds with the World Diabetes Fund, and the ADO offered council regarding the content and language of the proposals.

The ADO was also requested to contribute to the RAPIA assessment performed in Kyrgyzstan. The assessment is lead by the International Insulin Foundation and is funded by the IDF. The participation of the ADO is supposed to have a double impact: one is to use his experience in Kyrgyzstan (ADO performed a country visit there in 2007) and secondly to train the ADO in the delivery and implementation of the RAPIA protocol. The final report for the assessment is expected to be presented in Montreal.

In May 2009, the office developed the two project proposals and applied for funding with the European Commission. This is a first attempt to access these funds and it is supposed to offer a greater diversity of sources for the needs of the organization.

Per invitation from the Austrian Diabetology Society the ADO attended as moderator an ADS board session focused on strategic planning. The meeting took place in April 23, 2009.

During the spring meeting of the DEPA group ADO made a moderated a discussion regarding the cross border health care (an initiative of the European Parliament), and during the annual EEC summit he also offered a workshop regarding some tools to cope with the international crisis.

During the different meetings attended by the ADO individual technical assistance was offered for diabetes associations from Albania, Turkey, Cyprus, Serbia, Austria, Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, Greece and Belarus.



### Small grants

The two small grants offered by IDF Europe in 2007 ended in 2009. The grantees, the Diabetes Association of Kyrgyzstan and the association "Diabetes and Healthy Life" from Uzbekistan, reported the results of their projects:

- In Uzbekistan a training curriculum was prepared, approved, printed and used for training more than 450 family doctors from the Tashkent area regarding the diagnosis, treatment and management of diabetes;
- In Kyrgyzstan a new local organization was established in the region of Talas, local staff received training regarding NGO management and diabetes education programmes; the new organization supported the advocacy work of the Diabetes Association of Kyrgyzstan for the implementation of the law on diabetes, started monitoring the use of public health funds in the region of Talas and started delivering training programmes for 94 family doctors and for 72 people with diabetes from the Talas region.

The IDF Europe contribution to these projects is adding up to 16,178 EUR and it also attracted a contribution of over 5,500 EUR (copayment) from other sources.

### Website

The IDF Europe website is an essential tool which should enable national member associations, as well as other third party stakeholders to access the latest information on IDF Europe's activities. Although maintained by IDF Global, the IDF Europe website will benefit from restructuring and updating. In the period 2006-2007 an intranet was developed and introduced at the TWAS meeting in Dublin. However, due to technical problems the intranet has not been fully functioning, and the Board will implement the intranet as soon as possible, in order to facilitate the member associations to make full use of the facilities.

As of now, the IDF Europe web site was upgraded and coordinated with the new IDF web system. In the same time effort is put on securing the web page translation capabilities of the intranet using the new environment as it is considered that language should not be a barrier to information sharing within our region. A second important approach is to have the intranet developed to signal the registered members about the updates or upcoming events.

### **3. The Council of Europe**

In February 2006, IDF Europe was recognized by the Council of Europe (CoE) as an International Non-Governmental Organization (INGO) which enables IDF Europe to attend Council of Europe meetings on matters which relate to health and social issues. Although not one of IDF Europe's main targets for its advocacy activities, it is, nevertheless, one more platform to raise the profile of diabetes and to encourage countries both within and outside the EU to support the development and implementation of national diabetes-specific policy.

Throughout the year IDF Europe was able to attend two meetings of the INGO's on health and social issues.

Following the restructuring of the CoE activities, INGO amended its bylaws in order to streamline its activities and to increase the match between the INGO initiatives and the targeted offices or departments of the CoE. Unfortunately the restructuring process consumes too much time and effort and the effectiveness of the INGO group is still to be demonstrated.

At the same time contacts were made with the Secretariat of the Social, Health and Family Affairs to discuss the procedure and opportunity to trigger a Committee of Ministers' recommendation on diabetes. This is following the interest expressed by several representatives of diabetes organizations from countries that are not members of the EU to have a more concrete document on diabetes supported by a CoE recommendation. The discussions proved that: the present leadership of the CoE is more inclined to support social and health topics, so it is a good time to act, if the IDF Europe board will decide to go for a CoE recommendation; out of the documents that may be issued by the CoE, the best to fit our needs would be a "recommendation" (proposals addressed by the Assembly to the Committee of Ministers, for implementation by that Committee or the governments); considering the experience with the EU declaration and the UN Resolution, the draft might be prepared and submitted before the end of September or before the spring session so that the proposal for a new CoE recommendation on diabetes might be submitted for the vote of the Parliamentary Assembly next year; the new document might be improved in areas that proved to be less effective with other recommendations (EU or UN), or it might offer more direct leads to what should be done in order to decrease the burden of diabetes across Europe. If such an initiative will be taken, the interested associations and other stake holders in the area of diabetes will have to be engaged so that the proposed document will inherit the ownership and expertise of all these groups.

In early 2009 the INGO was requested to produce a reaction to an internal document which was to be presented and discussed in the assembly of the ministers regarding "The policies of preventive health care in member countries of the Council of Europe". The INGO members contributed and discussed this report and it was finally recommended to: develop a European policy of prevention with regard to health; approach health according to its modern broad definition: 'a state of physical, mental, social and environmental well-being' (Charter of Ottawa); develop epidemiological studies in order to identify the determinants of illnesses as well as the efficacy and cost of preventive and curative actions; invest in humanly and economically viable prevention; provide education about health, by motivating and informing people from childhood onwards, continuing throughout their lives, in order to develop an approach that is both collective and participative; encourage a coherent global health policy; support political decisions regarding epidemiology and various complementary sciences such as health economics, social psychology, demography, genetics, quantitative risk evaluation, geographic information systems, the science of risks etc.; and to profit from the grass-roots expertise of our various INGOs.

IDF Europe will continue to monitor and contribute to the activity of the INGO and the health grouping.

IDF Europe also discussed the possibility to lobby the Inter-parliamentary Assembly, and it was revealed that for the core matters there is enough support from the EEC members and that a template of a law addressing diabetes is already on its way to be discussed with the assembly.



#### **4. Creation of a diabetes coalition – ‘The Diabetes Family’ and building stronger relationships with other stakeholders**

The European diabetes community has already demonstrated its ability to work together in raising the profile of diabetes. The diabetes session at the 2007 European Health Forum in Gastein, in cooperation with FEND, PCDE, and EURADIA was a clear indication of this willingness to cooperate.

By demonstrating a high level of cooperation between these organizations as well as a clear alignment on calls for action from the EU’s institutions, the diabetes community reinforced its messages among policy makers and will be more likely to succeed in driving change. IDF Europe therefore continued to work with its partners. On the occasion of the Celebration of World Diabetes Day 2008 a coalition was formed with EURADIA, FEND and ISPAD and with several of the Corporate partners.

Increasingly, there are also opportunities for closer cooperation with other non-governmental organizations involved in the area of chronic diseases and on health issues more generally. Groups such as the European Heart Network (EHN), the European Society of Cardiology (ESC), Health First Europe (HFE), the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA), the European Cancer Patients Coalition (ECPC), the European Patients Forum (EPF) and the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) were all partners in the fight against chronic diseases.

On 7 August a first meeting took place with other stakeholders in order establish a strong coalition in the fight against non communicable diseases. The following organisations attended the meeting: IDF Europe, FEND, EHN, EURADIA, EASD, the European Kidney Health Alliance and ESC.

#### **5. Engagement with IDF Global as one of the 7 regions of IDF**

Since the change of the Articles of Association of IDF Global in Cape Town 2006, the Chairs and Chairs-elect of all the Regions are members of the Executive Board of IDF Global.

The Chair of each Region is also a member of the Board of Management of IDF Global.

The regional managers meet once a year and have succeeded to forward recommendations to the Executive Board.

On 7 August 2009 a meeting took place between senior members of the Board and staff of IDF Europe and leadership and staff of IDF Global. The relationship of IDF Europe with IDF Global was point of the discussion and it was decided that a Task Force would study the actual situation with regards to the special status of IDF Europe (separate entity). The findings of the Task Force will be forwarded to the General Assembly of IDF Europe in Lisbon, 7 November 2010. IDF Europe’s raison d’être is to work closely with IDF Global. All our actions are designed to promote diabetes care, prevention and a cure and to re-inforce the work of our worldwide organization.

## **6. Sub- regional Activities**

IDF Europe has a number of sub regional groups which meet to discuss issues affecting particular countries in IDF's wide-ranging European region. These groups are as follows:

Nordic Countries – includes Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Iceland, Faroe Islands and Finland. The last meeting was held from 21- 23 August 2009 in Tampere, Finland.

Diabetes Experts' Panel from Accessing Countries (DEPAC) – includes Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia. The last meeting was held from 26-28 March 2009 in Tallinn, Estonia.

Central European Countries (CEC) – includes Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey. The last meeting was held from 19-20 October 2007 in Danisovce, Slovakia

Eastern European Countries (EEC) - includes Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. The last meeting was held from 14-16 May in Kiev, Ukraine.

## **7. Other initiatives**

### Diabetes Prevention Forum (DPF)

The Diabetes Prevention Forum is an exciting initiative of IDF Europe. Originally formed as Gluco-forum, the group broadened its remit from just pre-diabetes to all aspects for prevention and changed its name to Diabetes Prevention Forum in 2008. A group of eleven experts in diabetes education and prevention provides information and guidance on the way forward in prevention of diabetes. With the growing rise in type 2 diabetes, particularly in younger populations, the group provides valuable insight and guidance for both healthcare providers and the general public.

In addition the group is actively involved in supporting the IMAGE project as the principle partner responsible for the widespread communication of the projects progress and results. IMAGE is an EU funded research project which will develop evidence based guidance and a new curriculum and training program for dedicated prevention managers who will be active in creating locality based diabetes prevention programs across Europe.

### World Diabetes Day 2008

IDF Europe has organised World Diabetes Day 2008 in Strasbourg in the European Parliament. Together with FEND, ISPAD, EURADIA and some of our Corporate Partners IDF Europe managed to bring together children and their parents or guardians from as many European Countries. The theme for the Celebration was Children and adolescents with diabetes, with a focus on physical activity.

### Newsletter and Diabetes Voice

The IDF Europe newsletter is another useful tool for communicating with the national member associations, updating them on recent activities in Europe, sharing useful information and 'best practice' across different countries and requesting support for upcoming and ongoing IDF Europe initiatives. The newsletter is produced and distributed approximately every 3 months.

Diabetes Voice, the official publication of IDF Global is also published in Russian as of 2007 and will be available in an electronic form via the website of IDF Global and IDF Europe.

#### Office IDF Europe

The Office of IDF Europe (Lex Herrebrugh, Regional Manager and Lala Rabemananjara, assistant to the RM) facilitated the activities of the Federation. Besides these activities of the Federation the necessary contacts were maintained with other Non Governmental Organizations, mostly based in Brussels, in order to follow up on activities that were related to the European Union (Written EU Parliamentary Declaration, Vienna Conference, EU Platform on Diet, Health and Physical Activity) and regular contacts with the Corporate Partners were scheduled. As of February 2007, Cristian Andricu was hired as the Association Development Officer, and is based in Romania.

The office was assisted by three external consultants (Anja Strootker, Debra Lord and Louise Fox) who, with the financial support of some of our Corporate Partners, were able to assist on EU Affairs, Diabetes Prevention Forum activities and the European activities that were directly related to IDF Global's mission to celebrate World Diabetes Day each year.

In 2008 and 2009, the office was also supported by two interns who assisted the Staff and Board on various tasks particularly on EU and Political Affairs.

In April 2009 the offices of IDF moved from Avenue Emile de Mot 19 to Chaussee de la Hulpe 166 in Brussels.

#### Attendance at Conferences

IDF Europe was present during the following conferences:

Warsaw Press Conference, November 2008

Moscow Meeting, 27 November 2008

General Assembly Health First Europe, 25 November 2008

IDF Global Meetings, 4-7 December 2008, 9-10 May 2009, 8-9 July 2009

Oxford Health Alliance, Barometer meeting, Oxford, 8-9 December 2008

Workshop on the UN Resolution, Brussels, 20 February 2009

Diabetes UK APC Congress, Glasgow, 11-13 March 2009

Conference on IDF Guidelines, Ancona, 12-14 March 2009

EU Diabetes Working Group, Brussels, 31 March 2009

Mental health and Physical Health Platform, Florence, 3 April

EU Platform, Brussels, 3 April 2009

Conference on Pre-diabetes and Metabolic Syndrome, Nice, 1-4 April 2009

30th Anniversary Celebration of the Cyprus Diabetes Association, Nicosia, 31 May 2009

EU Platform, Brussels, 9 July 2009

EU Platform, Brussels, 11 September 2009

WHO, Regional Committee for Europe, Copenhagen, 14-17 September 2009

Junior Cup, Geneva, 21-23 August 2009

EASD, Vienna 29 September – 2 October 2009

FEND, Vienna, 26 September 2009

Conference on Financial Sustainability of Health Systems, 10-12 May, Prague

EU Health Forum, Bad Gastein, 20 September – 3 October 2009

#### Finances

During the General Assembly in Montreal, Canada, 17 October 2009, the financial report 2008 was presented separately. IDF Europe ended the year 2008 with a negative balance of € 173.383.

The conclusion was that the negative balance was due to more expenses on the already planned activities (The Audit, The General Assembly / Together We Are Stronger Meeting, Training Course, World Diabetes Day, EASD) and on the other hand less income for these activities from sponsors. The Board decided to take cost cutting measures at the start of 2009, which will result in a hopeful positive balance for the year 2009. The financial situation of IDF Europe remains stable and we can expect a balance of income and expenses in this triennium. In 2009 IDF Europe applied for the first time at the European Union for structural organisational support for the year 2010 as well as support for the St. Vincent Declaration Conference in Glasgow at the end of 2009.

IDF Europe receives a yearly payment of € 25.000 from IDF Global and fees from its Corporate Partners. We are also very happy with the direct support from a small number of member associations, and we hope that in future more member associations will support IDF Europe directly for its increasing activities.

### **Partnerships**

From the former paragraphs it is apparent that IDF Europe's activities are very much dependent on the support of our member associations and Corporate Partners. IDF Europe did not receive any financial support from governments nor from the European Union.

That means that without the (financial) support from our Corporate Partners (from their headquarters as well as from their affiliates) we would have been extremely restricted in our activities.

At the start of 2009 the following 15 companies were Corporate Partners of IDF Europe (in alphabetical order):

AstraZeneca, Bayer, Bioton, Dexcom, Eli Lilly, GlaxoSmithKline, LifeScan, Medtronic, Merck Sharp & Dohme, Novartis, Novo Nordisk, Pfizer Europe, Roche Diagnostics, Sanofi Aventis and Servier (the latter informed us that it will not pursue with its partnership as from the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2009)

Since the General Assembly in Malta in 2008 two meetings with the Corporate Partners were held: 19 February 2009 and 29 June 2009. The next meetings are planned in February 2010 and October 2010. We are all of them very thankful for making our activities possible.

### **Closing remarks**

From the previous paragraphs we conclude that 2008-2009 was once again an extremely energetic and positive year.

The General Assembly in Montreal brings to an end two successful trienniums (2003-2009) where IDF Europe maintained its leading role to ensure that diabetes has a stronger voice in Europe. All this is attributable to the work and countless hours of work carried out with so much dedication by Board members (most of whom will retire in Montreal), IDF Europe staff and consultants.

The Board of IDF Europe wants to say "thank you" to all those who have worked so hard (volunteers and office) for the benefit of all people with (pre-) diabetes in Europe.

The Board of IDF Europe