



**The European Association of Dental Public Health**  
**Quality of Life SIWG Report 2015**

1. Title of Special Interest Working Group

**Quality of Life**

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

**Chair:** Dr Georgios Tsakos

**Address:** UCL, Dept. of Epidemiology & Public Health, 1-19 Torrington Place,  
London WC1E 7HB

**Email:** g.tsakos@ucl.ac.uk

3. Date and location of Meeting of SIWG

17<sup>th</sup> September 2015, 20<sup>th</sup> EADPH Congress, Istanbul

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

24 colleagues from a range of European countries attended the SIG meeting and took active part in the discussions. Only 4 members (including the Chair) were present also in the Gothenburg SIG QoL meeting.

5. Programme (i.e. topic of lectures, small working groups etc.)

Had a more “formal” agenda for this meeting in order to facilitate a more structured discussion about the key issues; the main reason was that the previously used more “free” format ended up in repeating parts of the same discussion in the last 2 years, mainly due to the fact that only 2 colleagues (including the Chair of the SWIG) have attended both meetings. The agenda for this meeting covered the following issues: Welcome and introductions; Meeting report from 2014 meeting in Gothenburg; Select and discuss one theme around OHRQoL research (from list decided in previous meeting in Gothenburg; OHRQoL research in Turkey; Future SIG programme – link with Budapest meeting theme; Guidance paper: responsibilities and timeframe.

6. Summary of Discussions

- Participants to email the Chair (GT) with key relevant publications / references of OHRQoL studies. This will create a bibliography list of papers that are important as a basic knowledge base on the topic. In addition, it will include relevant studies carried out in Europe. Longer-term, this is seen as part in the process to come up with a list of EADPH “approved” measures for oral health related quality of life, after review of their application and performance in studies in different European countries
- Discussed in more detail the challenges for OHRQoL studies: a) among older adults living in nursing homes and b) among children.

- The following challenges were identified for studies on older adults in nursing homes:
  - Dementia – OHRQoL measures not applicable to those with worse health
  - Use of proxy reports? Try residents with mild dementia to compile evidence around this?
  - Which measures? How to choose?
  - OHRQoL composite measures or global measure?
  - Emphasis on ADLs and functional aspects of OHRQoL
  - How much of this is related to general health?
  - InterRAI – oral health component – how useful is it? What does it add?
  - Maybe symptoms can be very helpful also – dry mouth
  - sensitivity to change of OHRQoL measures for this population - setting
  - Economic evaluation of oral health interventions – CBA - QALYs
- For studies among children, the challenges discussed were:
  - Ethical approval – parental consent (positive) and its influence on response rate and generalisability of findings
  - Links with oral health behaviours
  - Age considerations – different measures for very young children? Different developmental stage of children (relevant timeframes)
  - Literacy levels matter in young ages more!
  - Which measures to use in children? Can the adult measures be applied here?
  - Agreement between children self reports and parental proxy reports is important issue
  - What is the population you are looking at could determine whether you select a generic or condition-specific measure
  - Standardised procedures and setting arrangements
  - Family impact – how much the oral health problems of the child impact on the life of the family? This is important but different from the OHRQoL of the child
  - How can they be used as outcome measures of interventions, including economic evaluation (future research agenda)?
- Discussion about OHRQoL research in Turkey with colleagues from the country describing the state of play and the great need for support (methodological and conceptual) in order to advance this field. Agreed that the SIG QoL can act as a reference point and that different colleagues would be happy to advise if contacted.
- As part of networking and knowledge sharing, decided to create a list of relevant currently carried out studies (current register) that can go on the EADPH website. List of studies to be initiated over the year and populated at the SIG meeting in Budapest. List to remain “open” for including further studies as more colleagues are getting interested.
- SIG QoL future publication: The focus will be on a “Guidance paper about OHRQoL measures: properties, use, critical review”. Need to identify a

“team” of core members best placed to drive this forward. To be finalized in Budapest using also the discussions on the different topics in Istanbul and Budapest.

- Focus for the SIG QoL meeting in Budapest:
  - QoL and social inequalities (relevant papers to be sent to GT for circulation prior to the meeting)
  - Progress with on-going tasks (relevant bibliography; current register of studies; guidance paper)

7. State of publication

While there are reservations about the potential for a publication in a peer reviewed journal, we decided to move ahead with a working guidance paper that can be eventually published in the EADPH website. The same applies for the key relevant bibliography and the current register.

8. Next meeting of the SIWG (including topics when already available)  
21<sup>st</sup> EADPH Conference, Budapest @ 29<sup>th</sup> September 2016