

EGPRN – Plovdiv 2010
Summarizing day 1

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It was an exciting day. The spectrum of presentations was very broad, from preventive services to chronic disease, and from home safety issues to caregivers for children with cancer. Also, the studies used a wide variety of methods, from analysis of routinely collected data to qualitative interviews with health care professionals. All speakers had the barrier of English not being their first language. For some it was their first presentation in English.

It was refreshing to experience the diversity of countries, health care systems, cultures and health beliefs. Too easily we assume that findings in one place in the world can be generalized to all other places, but we should always be aware of the differences, which may involve determinants of health and of health care interventions but also can affect the implementation of new ideas.

Throughout the day several new research questions emerged, that may interest young investigators. The huge difference in number of routine check-ups during childhood between European studies begs for a study looking at the optimal number. Obesity in children is a problem throughout the world. Very little is known about the effectiveness of advices given by GPs to (parents of) obese children.

Adverse events have been studied extensively in hospital settings, but in general practice the issue has been seldomly addressed. A study assessing which methods are available and how they compare in terms of accuracy and workload is needed.

Given the common ground of research issues and the warm and constructive climate, EGPRN is a promising platform to bundle efforts for data collection and apply for supranational funding.