



STRATEGY AND WORK PLAN 2013 – 2015

Mission

The Forum for Osteopathic Regulation in Europe (FORE) seeks to enhance the protection of patients in Europe by promoting the wider recognition and regulation of osteopaths and high standards of osteopathic treatment.

Strategic Aims

FORE's vision is underpinned by the following strategic aims:

1. Achieving the recognition and regulation of osteopathy as an autonomous primary healthcare profession.
2. Ensuring that standards of osteopathic healthcare across Europe are progressively more consistent.
3. Promoting greater awareness of osteopathy and how, properly regulated, it can make a significant contribution to improving the health of European citizens.
4. Providing an inclusive and transparent forum to facilitate effective decision-making by FORE members.
5. Cooperating with other organisations sharing the aims of FORE.

Implementation

This strategy and work plan covers the priorities of FORE for the next three years (2013 – 2015). Its implementation will be continually monitored and amended, as necessary.

STRATEGIC AIM 1

1. Achieving the recognition and regulation of osteopathy as an autonomous primary healthcare profession

We will promote the recognition and regulation of osteopathy as an autonomous primary healthcare profession

How we will achieve this:

- We will support osteopathic organisations (and individuals) seeking regulation of osteopathy by their respective Governments.
- We will support organisations to develop regulatory mechanisms as appropriate.

- We will develop sources of information on regulatory models of osteopathy, and of other professions if relevant, as a means to support members seeking recognition and regulation status.
- We will support voluntary regulatory bodies to gain competent authority status or equivalent within their Member State.
- We will emphasise the value of osteopathic regulation in communications with external stakeholders, particularly in relation to EU activity on professional and patient mobility.

STRATEGIC AIM 2

2. Protect patients by ensuring that standards of osteopathic healthcare across Europe are progressively more consistent

How we will achieve this:

- **We will facilitate the development of standards of osteopathic education, training and practice in line with osteopathic principles and philosophy.**
 - We will make publicly available copies of FORE's three standards documents: European Framework for Codes of Practice – EFCOP, European Framework for Standards of Osteopathic Practice – EFSOP and European Framework for Standards of Osteopathic Education and Training – EFSOET.
 - We will publish the Scope of Osteopathic Practice in Europe (SOPE) document as a reference.
 - We will work with the European Federation of Osteopaths to:
 - develop a CEN (European Committee for Standardisation) Standard on Osteopathic Healthcare Provision, for publication in 2015.
 - promote awareness of and support for the CEN process.
 - help to embed the CEN Standard, once finalised, among EFO and FORE members.
- **We will improve the exchange of information between national osteopathic organisations across Europe**
 - We will continue to be an active member of the European network – Healthcare Professionals Crossing Borders (HPCB).
 - We will use the HPCB 'Portugal Agreement' and 'Memorandum of Understanding' to develop mechanisms to improve the exchange of information among FORE members and relevant competent authorities.
 - We will promote the use of the European Commission's Internal Market Information (IMI) system to improve information exchange between relevant competent authorities.
 - We will develop an up-to-date information resource for the profession, patients and the public on osteopathic practice (competent authorities, organisations, regulations and standards) in Europe, including signposting to further information.

- We will help to share information on research findings (e.g. on good practice, adverse events) to improve standards of osteopathic care.

STRATEGIC AIM 3

3. Promote greater awareness of osteopathy and how, properly regulated, it can make a significant contribution to improving the health of European citizens

How we will achieve this:

- **We will act as a reference point for any party (osteopaths, educational institutions, Governments and the public) seeking unbiased and reliable information about osteopathic practice standards across Europe**
 - We will refresh the FORE website to improve its look, content and accessibility, in consultation with stakeholders. This will include an up-to-date snapshot of osteopathic regulation across Europe.
 - We will participate actively in policy development at a European level, with a focus on patient protection and professional mobility.
 - We will identify and develop strategic partnerships with key stakeholders including other professional groups and patient representative organisations.
 - We will promote European osteopathic standards internationally both within and outside the osteopathic community.
 - On completion of the CEN project, we will work with the European Federation of Osteopaths to:
 - promote awareness of agreed pan-European osteopathic standards.
 - promote the use of a certification mark to increase patient and public awareness of pan-European osteopathic standards.
 - develop and distribute information material aimed at improving patient and public understanding of pan-European osteopathic standards.
 - We will carry out appropriate media relations activity.
- **We will encourage greater patient and public involvement in the development of osteopathic standards in Europe**
 - We will identify and develop closer ties with national and European level patient and public representatives.
 - We will explore how patients and the public can be more engaged in the development of osteopathic regulatory mechanisms across Europe.

STRATEGIC AIM 4

4. Provide an inclusive and transparent forum to facilitate effective decision-making by FORE members

How we will achieve this:

- **We will ensure that FORE is a forum for European organisations who share the same goal to regulate osteopathy as an autonomous healthcare profession, in line with osteopathic philosophy and principles.**
 - We will provide a transparent governance and funding structure set out in agreed Articles of Association, so that FORE and its work programme have the confidence of its members.
 - We will provide an open and transparent Secretariat to help coordinate the work of FORE.
 - We will work efficiently to ensure that resources used represent value for money.
 - We will explore and seek to provide a number of communication mechanisms for members to communicate and learn from each other, outside of General Assembly meetings.

STRATEGIC AIM 5

5. Cooperate with other organisations sharing the aims of FORE.

How we will achieve this:

We will actively engage and cooperate with other organisations to promote the development of standards, regulation and free movement of osteopaths.

- We will work with osteopathic organisations (e.g. the European Federation of Osteopaths, Osteopathic European Academic Network, European Register of Osteopathic Physicians) and other relevant bodies in a positive spirit of cooperation.
- We will support networks /fora that support the development of osteopathic standards of care.
- We will explore merger with the European Federation of Osteopaths (EFO) and, if supported by FORE members, we will develop proposals in conjunction with the EFO for formal consultation.
- We will engage with and build positive relations with other professional bodies, sharing a common interest.