

**EUROPEAN SHIATSU  
FEDERATION**  
**Newsletter Spring 2007**  
Shiatsu News, in brief, from  
around Europe.



**ESF**

We are sending a representative to the scientific conference in Bratislava to meet up with other CAM organisations such as EFCAM to present a unified political front.

Professor Long will be presenting some of the initial findings of the ESF Research Project and the full report is due out in October 2007.

The European Baseline Curriculum is now being presented to individual member organisations for acceptance.

For more information see/contact [www.shiatsu-esf.org](http://www.shiatsu-esf.org)



**Austria**

Shiatsu practitioners and schools are now beginning to plan and prepare for the European Shiatsu Week 16th to 23rd of September.

In 2006 events took place throughout Austria. Shiatsu was presented to the public at over 60 locations with "open houses" at practices, shiatsu presentations at fairs, in shopping malls, at health institutions and so on. Thanks to several articles in the media and other ways of making the events public, the general interest was high and feedback very positive. We are looking forward to a similar successful event this year. Watch out for upcoming news on [www.shiatsu-tage.at](http://www.shiatsu-tage.at)



**Belgium**

The Belgian Shiatsu Federation (BSF) is now in the process of changing from a non-profit organisation into a trade organisation in order to seek recognition from the Ministry of Trade. Therefore they founded the Belgian Shiatsu Vereniging at the beginning of this year and will become (BSV). The Belgium law has changed and the BSV no longer needs to make an application to the high court but can directly address the Ministry of Trade & Agriculture and they have been advised to do this before the next elections (10th of June), which is an achievable time limit.

If the application is accepted, then BSV will be recognised as a professional organisation with two seats in the 'High Counsel of the Independent Professions', which indirectly means that shiatsu will be sort of recognised as a profession too. The next step will be to protect the 'titel' of 'shiatsupracticitioner'.

Meanwhile, massage in general has been de-regulated, though one of the conditions is a training of at least 60 hours in a 'recognised' institution, although the exact definition of 'recognised' is still not clear yet.

There seems the possibility the BSF will follow the Austrian model of becoming a trade in order to gain legal recognition.

Unfortunately an established, professional and commercial Wellness Academy is now giving some basic shiatsu lessons, which are totally insufficient as training, but claiming it to be a 'wellness shiatsu training' and using a logo, which is so similar to that of the BSF that a court situation might ensue, unless the logo is withdrawn, or the Academy joins the BSF and accepts its training standards. For more information see/contact [www.shiatsu.be](http://www.shiatsu.be)

**Czech Republic**

The main focus of the Czech Shiatsu Association (CAS) is on promoting shiatsu to the public and preparing post-graduate courses for practitioners. In addition to these

seminars CAS is also organizing events to link into the European Shiatsu Week in September based around the theme of 'Wood', as last year's theme of 'Water' proved so successful. CAS is continuing to support the publishing of articles about shiatsu in various health focused magazines, although shiatsu is not officially recognised as an independent profession in the Czech Republic. Unfortunately this situation is unlikely to change in the near future and so general promotion is the best way forward at the moment until it becomes better known.

For more information see/contact [www.shiatsuasociace.cz](http://www.shiatsuasociace.cz)



**Greece**

On 18<sup>th</sup> March the Hellenic Shiatsu Society (HSS) had its annual meeting. Before the actual meeting started we had arranged for a Shiatsu exchange between members, which was really welcomed by all, and it also created a calm introduction to the meeting itself. Unfortunately there is no movement to be reported, by the newly formed Umbrella organisation for CAM. On the positive side there are plans for a meeting of schools in order to establish better communication and synchronise the curriculum.

At the general public level Shiatsu is becoming more and more known and accepted and it is encouraging to see that many are now seeking information regarding qualified practitioners from the HSS. For more information see/contact [www.shiatsugr.gr](http://www.shiatsugr.gr)



**Ireland**

There is now the opportunity to become completely recognised and legal and be able to work alongside doctors and physiotherapists and so on. The government cited EU initiatives and specifically mentioned the presentation by Professor Long and Seamus Connolly of the first stage of the ESF research project into shiatsu. The idea will be to officially recognise courses and

practitioners through Irish educational awards bodies and look at them in the same way as any other form of higher education study or profession. The Irish Shiatsu Society can even write the criteria itself however the awards body will be looking for standards in the region of lower degree or possibly honours degree.

The draw back is that initially the cost will be in the region of 7,000 to get the level quality assured and then there will be further costs to get the providers/schools checked. In one way it is unfortunate that it is not compulsory, as the schools do not have to do it if they don't want to. Even though there is no specific time limit the opportunity might still be missed. However once the process has been achieved there would be no going back and no likely-hood of major changes such as threats of imposing masses of Western Medicine hours. Once accepted it would be accepted!

For more information see/contact [www.shiatusocietyireland.com](http://www.shiatusocietyireland.com)



## Spain

On 1<sup>st</sup> February laws to regulate and legalise CAM came into operation in Cataluna. One of the reasons for putting the laws together was because of an EU initiative mentioning CAM regulation in the 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Program dating back to 1994-96. Because Brussels had been directly lobbied by CAM groups including the ESF, action has eventually filtered through and politicians are being stimulated to look at the Complimentary health field.

Unfortunately in Cataluna the doctors and physiotherapists are challenging the legality in the courts and the process is likely to take years rather than months. An assessment examination is being prepared by the local shiatsu 'negotiator / representative' for those with less than 5 years registered experience. However providers / schools will have to have their courses, premises etc checked and passed by local government officials, undoubtedly

accompanied by the traditional mountains of red tape. For more information see/contact [www.shiatsu-es.com](http://www.shiatsu-es.com)



## Sweden

One of the main sticking points in Sweden where at present a full member needs to only do 400 hours plus treatments is that the largest school in Stockholm, which has an international reputation for Swedish massage treats its Shiatsu course as more of an add-on than a full 3 year practitioner course in its own right. What makes it more difficult is that the school is actually larger than the Swedish Association, which has been trying to convince it to expand its courses. There is a feeling that perhaps if the school sees that there is a general European standard and they fall below it, they may not appreciate being below the normally accepted level.

At the annual Swedish CAM meeting the Swedish Shiatsu Association (SSA) received information about the latest World Health Organisation (WHO) meeting. The Swedish CAM organisation has, in cooperation with all its members, including the SSA, created documents on training standards. These documents are also read and accepted by WHO, the purpose being to further international common grounds and standards. However, Dr. Chan, the president of WHO, is reluctant to accept the document on shiatsu training, as she wants to get a document directly from Japan, as this is where shiatsu originated. Japan has agreed to deliver such a document, but so far nothing has happened.

As Japan has thus far remained silent, the Swedish CAM suggests that the ESF make contact with WHO and deliver a European document instead. (This would certainly re-enforce the value of an accepted European Curriculum and benefit all European practitioners). For further information see/contact [www.shiatusuforbundet.se](http://www.shiatusuforbundet.se)

## UK

The regulation process for all CAM seems to be accelerating. The main focus at present is the development of the actual structure and duties of the different boards being created. A two level system appears most likely with The Federal Regulatory Council (FRC) being a general body with a large proportion of lay/independent members in overall charge of regulation, validation, education standards, as well as complaints, discipline, appeals and accreditation. Beneath this would be a number of more Profession Specific Boards (PSB), which is where the different CAM representatives would be working to maintain standards among the different associations in each particular field. The general structure is due to be in place by September 2007 and so those involved are working intensively. The Shiatsu Society UK is part of the process, however the future role of any individual society is not yet clear.

The new route to gaining practitioner status is proving very popular and we are busy trying to encourage all those who graduated in the past without continuing to full registration to become involved. Many schools have already become involved in the process, as their students have shown a clear preference for the Post-Graduate Year rather than the traditional assessment. The Society's annual congress, which is open to all, is from Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October to Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October for those who would like to attend. For more news and information see/contact [www.shiatusociety.org](http://www.shiatusociety.org)