

COPA Denmark, October 2017

Country report from the Danish ostomy association COPA 2014 - 2017.

In the spring of 2015 the NOA committee meeting was held in Copenhagen. The agenda included among other things the latest news from the ostomy associations from the Nordic countries and the planning for the ordinary NOA meeting to be held the following year. About 30 persons were assembled in August 2016 at the ordinary meeting, which took place in Aarhus. NOA had decided to invite representatives from the ostomy associations in the Baltic countries, and it was a good decision as the participation was 2 from Lithuania and 1 from Estonia.

When the Ostomy Day in 2015 was held an information video about ostomy was presented. In the video there are scenes from the everyday activities by persons with ostomy, i.e. on the job, gardening and sport and leisure activities, and it also included scenes from membership activities, summer vacation, youth weekends and family activities. In the video a doctor and an ostomy nurse explained about their activities with ostomy operated persons.

At the Ostomy Day a new idea was presented, namely the appointment of ambassadors to the association. Musician and artist Tine Lilholt and royal actress Kirsten Olesen. Tine Lilholt had created a painting which symbolized the theme of the ostomy day: Many stories, one voice.

November 8th 2016 a new home page was presented, which especially is directed towards young people with an ostomy. It can be found on www.stomiguident.dk. Jacob Nossel, who has had a temporary ostomy provides ideas for the project, which became a reality due to economical support from COPA and 2 big donations from funds. The home page was presented in our 2 nation-wide TV channels and the following day a live interview was transmitted on a popular radio channel. Now Jacob Nossel is also an ambassador to COPA.

The home page www.copa.dk has the latest 3 years had a closed facebook group, which today has 1500 members, and the page shows great activity. An administrator takes care of a balanced tone and sober wording.

The ostomy association COPA was established in 1951 and has published a magazine for members since 1961. All the magazines have now been digitalized and will in time be available on the association's home page. Today it is possible to read the magazines as far back as 1991. Before new year the remaining magazines will be accessible on the home page. A member of COPA has managed the huge task of making the magazines available to our descendants. COPA is the oldest association for ostomates in the world, and it will be information about the history of COPA and the development of ostomy aids and other related topics that can be found on the home page.

COPA is in the favorable situation, that we in the recent years have inherited some large sums, which has resulted in a very strong economy for the association. The strong economy is the reason that COPA is able to help our friends in Odessa by sending ostomy supplies as benefit for the ostomy operated people in the Odessa area in order to enhance their life quality after operation. Furthermore we can make an economic contribution in order to make representation from Odessa ILCO possible at EOA congresses.

COPA has the latest years had a very stable number of member of 3,700.

A great number of COPA members have participated in surveys about the importance of having the allowances for the correct ostomy aids, the food process through the digestive organs including the absorption of vitamins and minerals and about the quality of life after an ostomy operation and other topics.

Our association cooperates with producers and suppliers concerning tests of ostomy aids, and cooperate with the government and local authorities relating to supplier contracts for ostomy aids.

We cooperate with doctors and ostomy nurses who have direct relations to persons with an ostomy. In addition the association has had a working relationship with the Danish Cancer Association for many years.

COPA has a full time employee at the secretariat and the chairman is employed in a half time position. The economy is sufficient to pay external companies for taking care of the homepage and an editor with responsibility for printing and distribution of the COPA membership magazine.

On behalf of COPA

Henning Granslev