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Post Polio Syndrome in Europe Past , Present and Future

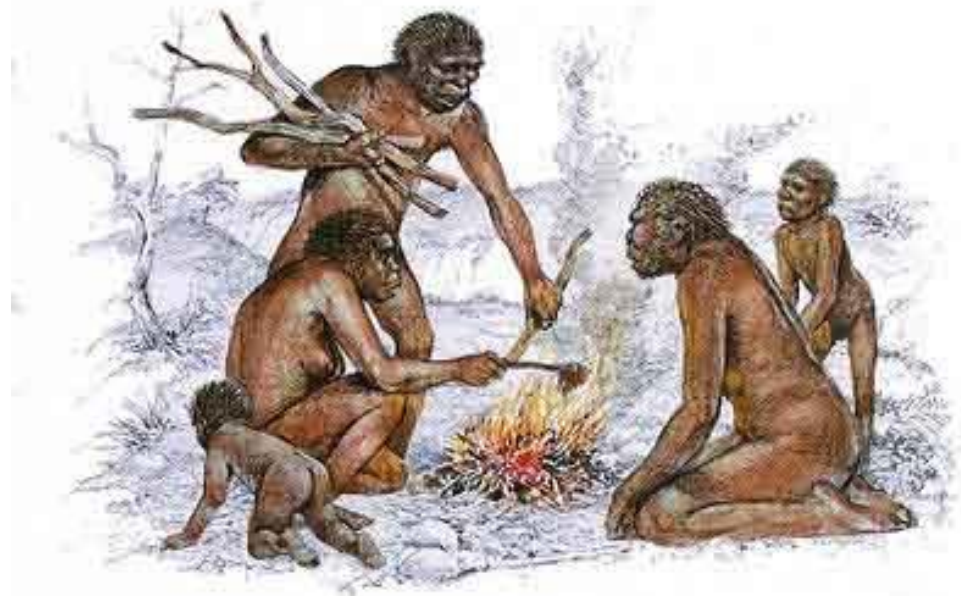


Since the earliest days of human history, networks have emerged to:

- Spreading ideas and points of view
- Creating interest groups
- Finding ways of putting these ideas and points into practice



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An example is mankind's network:
The ancestors who had fire and the
ancestors who did not



The network that exist around polio and PP Syndrome is no different

- One polio group has the information and the contacts
- A much larger group is currently excluded because it is not in the network



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Three types of polio organisations

1. The historic organisations
2. The organisations embedded in umbrella organisations and around clinics
3. The anonymous polio survivors.
Born again with the internet



A common feature of all three types of polio organisations:

Very little exchange of information
and no international contacts



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In the nineteen-eighties the polio survivors developed a “syndrome”

Polio survivors paid a high price for the second time in their lives.

What was going on?



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Internet is a new tool for “networkers”

This revolutionary development made
European cooperation possible



The” Prehistory” of EPU

- Polio survivors with a bit of get up and go went “shopping” for information
- Visiting countries where patients spoke the same language
- Networking at international congresses for medical people

The “Early Middle Ages”

- Meetings were held in the European Parliament.
- There was a small demonstration outside the buildings of the European Union.
- Petition was signed by more 77 EPU’s.





“The Late Middle Ages.”

- An organizational nucleus was established around the initiator of EPU
- Annual meetings for all members, which are organized by the local organizations

“The 19th Century”

A legal structure was established in Brussels on 9 July 2009.





“The 21st Century”

- A complete plan of action had been worked out
- A worldwide congress is organised by our friends of the PTU an EPU
- The first phase of EPU is thus behind us



Characteristics of the “European Network”

“Babel effect”

- European Polio Union has been able to make itself felt at the political heart of Europe : The Parliament
- EPU is a top-bottom organisation
- EPU is a great group of “volunteers”



- An international staff is a necessity
- The problems lies with the attraction of funds
- Solution : an action plan from 2011 until 2015.



What can the EPU contribute to the worldwide network?

1. Necessary vaccination campaigns must be kept on the agenda
2. The contacts with the scientific world are crucial and should be explored
3. The strong must help the weak
4. Cooperation with Post-Polio Health International



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