

Reports of Task Forces

**EURACT Council meeting
March 1 – 4, 2000
Eilat, Israel**

REPORT OF ACADEMISATION TASK FORCE

Members present: Adam Windak, Jan Heyrman, Okay Bosak, Mladenka Vrcic-Keglevic, Gertraud Rothe, Dag Sovik, Marten Kvist, Michael Kochen

1. Questionnaire on the status of academic departments of family medicine in Europe.

The former version of the questionnaire has been reviewed and improved once again. It was decided that the questionnaire would be distributed among the Council members within next few months. Than second opinion will be sought as well.

2. Model for academic career

Michael Kochen has described general thesis of his last article submitted for publication. The article described different models of academic career available for GPs in Europe. The first one, called by author “liberal” refers to countries where rules about it are rather soft and it is up to university authorities to nominate any physician a professor, regardless any formal requirements. The second, based on “habilitation” exists for example in Germany, Austria, Poland or Czech Republic. In these countries highly formalised requirements for the title of professor, based mainly on demanding and time consuming research, prevents many GPs to apply for it. The third option, called by the author “isolated” is based on PhD thesis, carried out independently by GPs. Author recommends this model as the one which fits to the specificity of GP’s work.

3. Contribution of GP/FM to BME

Few years ago GP university departments in the Netherlands reviewed the national blueprint, describing BME and indicated areas of the best contribution for General Practice. The group discussed possibility to repeat this exercise on the European level. Jan Hayrman is going to explore these possibilities further together with Harry Crebolder.

Adam Windak

REPORT OF ATTRACTIVENESS TASK FORCE

Ad hoc working group about attractiveness of GP-profession

The idea was to discuss what might be the reasons for the decreasing attractiveness of the GP-Profession in certain countries of Europe and if this would concern EURACT.

Various problems were touched: Increasing amount of women taking trainee-places without really working in practice at the end; working conditions (alone, far away from cities, being on call, etc.); income situation; career possibilities; and so on.

At the end we came to the conclusion, that this has much to do with trends and changes within society and can hardly be influenced by a teaching organisation. From the side of EURACT we saw no need in following this aim.

Andreas Rothenbühler

REPORT OF HIPPOCRATES PROJECT TASK FORCE

The group consisted of Egle Žebiene, Dolores Fores and Igor Švab

The members of the group have carefully examined the proposal for the Hippocrates project and have given the following opinion:

The idea of international co-operation between general practice trainees should be supported, although the following amendments should be made:

1. the contact persons for organising trainee exchange in different European countries should be acknowledged and recognized by EURACT country representative
2. the financial aspect of the proposal should be more clearly defined
3. the group also suggests that the name should be changed, because of the confusion with the Hippocrates medal awarded by WONCA Europe and because of the Hippocrates programme of the European Union (e.g. to Oddysaeus etc.)

Igor Svab

REPORT OF COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP TASK FORCE

Ad-hoc Task Force on Council Membership

This group was formed to consider two matters - how Council should respond to repeated non-attendance, and secondly whether the current rule on number of members required for entitlement to a Council member should be changed, as Council could become unacceptably large.

Non-attendance at Council

The group recommended that the suggestion from Owen Clarke be adopted, which is:-

- 1) If a Council member is absent for two consecutive meetings without reasonable excuse, s/he and his/her members will be written to, advising that if there is not an attendance at the next meeting than suspension may result.
- 2) After the third consecutive absence without reasonable excuse the Council member will be suspended until the next Council election.
- 3) If the suspended Council member resigns on suspension a new election for that country can take place for a replacement: if s/he does not resign then his members are not represented until the next Council elections.

Enquiries will always be made as to whether there are genuine reasons or particular circumstances which have given rise to the absences.

Action: these will have to be incorporated into the bylaws at the next General Assembly

3 Members = 1 Council member

It is accepted that there are two problems with a large Council - difficulties in debate in a large meeting in a second language, and the costs of such meetings, particularly to the host Council member.

The first point is being addressed by the various new arrangements for Council, and that the second is not yet a major problem. Solutions will need to be found if there is a lack of host offers.

Any system of raising thresholds will have a number of detrimental effects. The first is that it will be very discouraging to countries in which the teaching of general practice is only just developing. The second is that it disenfranchises members in such countries until they are able to raise the requisite number of members. It discriminates against small countries - 3 members is 50% of the teachers in Malta. Thirdly it is felt to be the wrong way to address the issue of running large Council meetings.

It was unanimously recommended that there be no change in the current arrangements.

Justin Allen