

Report of task forces

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

The EURACT Workshop on “TEACHING ESSENTIALS” was held during the First European Network Organisations Open Conference on Palma de Mallorca, 20 May 1999, chaired by Prof. Mårten Kvist

The presenters at the workshop had been contacted by the Chairman in advance by email and there had been an extensive exchange of emails among the presenters before the meeting. The Chairman had outlined the order for the presentation and given the time limits (5 minutes maximum). On the same day as the workshop was held, the presenters met for the first time personally on a lunch meeting and discussed the coordination of the presentations.

The workshop was attended by about 60 people. It started with a short introduction by the Chairman and then five short presentations in the following order:

1. Alan Carr: Delivering core values for General Practice in training.
2. Howard Tandeter: How do we teach ... Uncertainty and decision making in medicine.
3. Bernard Gay: Writing for teaching: an original and collective method to produce texts for medical education
4. Jan Heyrman: A patient centred consultation model. Three communication styles for the five main parts of the consultation
5. Ed Peile: New ways of working, new ways of learning: Action Research on the Weston Community Project.

The presentations were supported by audio-visual materials. Handouts of the slides were however not available for the audience after the workshop.

The following discussion was quite lively and focused mainly on one issue: How to teach uncertainty. Both the audience and all presenters participated actively in the discussion. At end the presenters were asked to say some concluding remarks before closing.

There was a strong feeling, that the topic chosen was a very exciting one, and many participants asked for how this issue is going to be followed up. The Chairman asked then interested people to sign their name on a list, if they were interested to contribute to a further discussion after the conference. Totally seventeen people expressed their interest to continue the topic. Attached is the list of members for a potential EURACT Task Force on “Teaching Essentials”.

When writing this report (5 months later), I compare the outcome with the stated objectives 13.5.1999. The list of nine objectives was very ambitious, I think too ambitious. Many of the objectives were at least partly targeted in the presentations, but the discussion was focused only on the first and the sixth objectives: “To identify the core values, which shape the curricula” and “To understand the importance of teaching skills to deal with uncertainty.” Having now identified the resources for further development, I think a TF could well work on achieving all the originally stated objectives.

Mårten Kvist

Chairman

List of people, prepared to contribute to a EURACT Task Force on Teaching Essentials (Collected on Palma de Mallorca, 20 May 1999)

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