

Reports of Standing Committees

**EURACT Council meeting
November 2 – 6, 2005
Vienna, Austria**

Report of CME Committee

Present: Samira Herenda, Jan Heyrman, Jaroslava Lankova, Iuliana Popa, Paula Vainiomäki (chair/report), Mladenka Vric-Keglevic

Absent: Eva Jurgova, Ruta Riba, new member: George Spatharakis

- 1) Opening by the chair and suggestion for agenda: CPD-toolbook, workshop-manual, feedback on workshop during Kos conference, accreditation/standardisation, Florence-preparations, other issues: collaboration with EQuIP, Globe-project, pharmaceutical industry, CPD group after next elections.

- 2) **A CPD WORKSHOP SCENARIO-MANUAL**
 Workshop at Kos conference was discussed. The workshop consisted of preparing of a personal learning agenda after assessing his/her own work (three methods were described and practiced) and discussing the planned learning plan with a peer. Among our CPD-group there were two participants of our workshop, and their opinions concerning the workshop were from opposite sides: the content of the exercise seemed very clarifying for the concepts behind, but the implementation in countries where peer review and open reflections are not a tradition will be difficult. In the future, there will be two workshops locally in Finland with the same strategy in the coming months and also in connection of the next EURACT council meeting.
 Final plan: Workshops should be run to get experiences in dispersing ideas and instruments through international and national workshops. A basic scenario will run again in the next occasions: Finland and Florence will bring us more experience.

- 3) **A CPD TOOLBOOK**
 The idea of a probable CPD TOOLBOOK in the format of a committee publication was discussed. The current manual that was used for running the KOS workshop included too many direct citations to be published even on the internet. It was felt important to take more time for it, to pick up experiences from the participants of the coming workshops (at Kos there was no time for evaluation). Samira and Jarka will try to use the three described methods in practice with their trainees and also in their own practice.
 Final plan: to idea of a CPD toolbook is not dismissed, but postponed. It could include tools to make a personal learning plan first, and possibly later on to go on with other CPD-topics like logbooks and portfolio. The first targeted could be the teachers, but finally it should also for be targeted to other GPs.

- 4) **A CPD CONCEPT BOOKLET**
 There is an urgent need for clarification and dissemination of the ideas, that govern CPD. The committee sees itself a task in this field. Ideas were collected, and structured
 The proposed content for a CPD concept booklet could be:
 - a. Why this is needed (to identify your learning needs) (Jan and Jarka together)
 - b. Basic concepts of CPD: from learning needs to learning portfolio. (Jan and Iuliana)
 - c. Overview of possible learning methods that relates to CPD: to start from the practice performance and finally ends with implementation (Mladenka)
 - d. As an example five methods will be presented: Consultation dairy, positioning mapping, Significant Event Analysis are already there (Jan will rewrite this) In addition: Paula will write about audit, Mladenka about practice-visits)
 - e. Other chapters will eventually be added later

- 5) A EURACT-workshop concerning “making a personal learning plan” will be organised during Florence WONCA on behalf of the CPD group. Abstract has to be circulated among members before sending it in. Collaboration with a Danish group around Lisbeth Errebo-Knudsen (collaborator in the Amsterdam session) is considered positive

- 6) The proposed collaboration with EQuIP, concerning CPD, QI and accreditation systems in the different countries is not taken any further. EQuIP gave a sign that they have other priority topics on their list.

- 7) A short brainstorming was organised at the end to try to find topics for the coming five years: accreditation and standards, e-learning, EBM methodology in CPD, pharmaceutical industry’s position.

Paula Vainiomäki

Report of Specific Training Committee

Present:, Bernard Gay, Margus Lember, Monica Lindh, Fergus O’Kelly, Llukan Rrumbullaku, Bernhard Rindlisbacher, Roger Price, Smiljka Radic and Roar Maagaard (chair).

Absent: Dolores Fores, Janos Szabo and Mario R. Sammut.

As Roar Maagaard had been elected as new secretary for EURACT he should be replaced as chairman of this Committee. With applause Roger Price was suggested as new chairman – this was later approved by Council.

We decided to address the 6 items we already decided in the Lillafüred Council meeting.

1. Trainee Assessment.

The committee (in particular Bernhard and Monica – many thanks to them!!) had given feedback as decided to Jan Heyrman – and this had been built in the Educational Agenda.

During Council meeting it was decided that EURACT should explore assessment in general – and also assessment in Vocational Training.

The further work with assessment will continue in a special Task force group – to be decided by Council. This started next day and is reported separately.

Responsible for further actions in this area: Roger.

2. Selection of trainees/recruitment of trainees.

We ran a workshop at the Kos Conference – and our presentations have been sent to the webmaster to be put on EURACT’s website. We think the workshop was successful and we decided to continue our work in this field.

As a start we heard more detail about the system from UK that Roger presented in Kos. Things move quickly in this field in the UK – and what started as a regional project is now going to be implemented nation wide in England, with Northern Ireland and Wales later

The system is very elaborate and systematic – and the conclusion was that more countries might get valuable experiences from certain parts of this system.

We felt it could be interesting to present more of the experiences from England at coming conferences – and Roger will invite observer(s) from this committee to study the system on-site next Spring.

Apart from studying the English system we decided to continue our work in general in the “Selection area” – also suggested by the brainstorming session in Council.

The other thing to do is to intensify our discussion regarding the recruitment agenda – a big problem in many countries – and maybe even bigger in some countries – a threat to our speciality!

Responsible for further development: Roger.

3. Structure and length of VT-programmes across Europe.

We had a fruitful discussion – but no conclusion!

We were very happy that the Excel-file showing the European “landscape” in Specialist Training – with all its differences – now was made available on www.euract.org. Thanks to Jan Heyrman for this! We think this information could initiate interesting discussions – and so it did in the committee.

The discussion was:

- we all agree that the “Specialist in GP”-level ought to be the same or comparable in all countries (we have the same endpoint for training in the European Definition and at least in EU there should be free movement of GP’s across the borders)

- one opinion was: the training route to reach this specialist level is not interesting – it can be reached in several ways – only the end point is interesting

- another opinion was: part of the endpoint assessment will (in the real world) always be the satisfactory fulfilment of a training programme which defines in some detail where training takes place and how long it is – so therefore it will be interesting to discuss length and structure of different European training schemes.

It might be a help for some countries to have some recommendations from an expert organisation such as EURACT.

Bernhard proposed to look at some recommendations already made by another organisation – here you have the address: www.wfme.org – check it out, friends!

Some still hope that EURACT should be able to give some statements or recommendations regarding VT-programmes:

- length of training
- structure of training (practice/hospital)
- outcome of training
- numbers of trainees

Responsible for re-vitalising this discussion: Roar.

4. Financing/supporting VT-programmes.

No discussion paper had been produced – but it was decided to start the work in the committee by sending a discussion paper and perhaps a draft for a questionnaire to the committee members rather quickly.

Responsible for next steps: Bernhard and Monica.

5. Trainee forum.

The Vasco da Gama Movement has been born – and EURACT Council as such is responsible for offering support to the young doctors – so this area is not a specific task for our committee.

6. Trainer selection.

EURACT has produced guidelines on trainer selection some years ago. We discussed if an update was necessary – also if it was necessary to make national adaptations to the previous European guidelines. At least in some countries there still is a great need for training and supporting trainers

Responsible: HOMEWORK to all: have to read and reflect on the Selection of trainers guidelines (www.euract.org).

Think on need for changes – and supplements! - especially about support for trainers.

Responsible for chairing the process: Margus.

Addendum:

Preliminary thoughts about presentations at WONCA Florence Conference August 2005

We have asked Executive to give an early indication to WONCA that we will present on Selection processes, hopefully with a Research Evaluation of the English system.

We should also be able to present work on the different Training programmes. This may be two workshops or a combined one on the Structure and Financing as one heading, the Length and Variety of placements as the other heading.

Action by Egle and Roger, but support from all Committee members to do the work before February to ensure we have Abstracts to submit. This needs early Homework!

(Reporter: Roger Price and Roar Maagaard)

Report of BME Committee

The BME committee met in Vienna on 03/11/2005, with Anders, Stefan, Wolfgang, Job, Jaroslava, Okay, Francesco and Yonah (chairman and recorder) in attendance.

We began with congratulations to Stefan and his team for their successful effort in producing the BME checklist. This has been distributed widely and users report that it is a useful document to help course organizers prepare clinics to accept students in family medicine.

We followed with a discussion of some of the lessons learned from the BME workshop at the WONCA conference in Kos in August 2005. The workshop was well attended and there was an enthusiastic response to the topic of teaching cross-cultural issues to students in family medicine. However despite the enthusiasm of BME committee members for the workshop, only two (Job and Yonah) were in attendance to present and run the workshop. We need to stand by our commitments if we plan to give workshops like this in the future.

We continued with the new topic of Early Clinical Exposure (ECE) to family medicine for medical students. We began with a discussion of the definition of ECE. Okay has prepared an excellent initial document on the subject including a literature review. This will be distributed to members for further discussion and comment and will form the basis of our next project, with Okay as the lead person.

We discussed methods used in ECE courses and addressed the question: Is learning in practice worthwhile for new medical students? We discussed the evidence for the importance of learning in context to support the role of ECE in medical education.

We then reviewed some of the topic areas covered in ECE in different countries such as:

- Health and illness, disease and illness: What do these concepts mean to the student?
- The profession: What are the students' concepts of our profession and their future role?
- The health care system: What is the context in which we work?
- The family: What is the context in which the patient lives and why is that important to understand when learning about health and disease?

After this fascinating and instructive discussion we set the following tasks for ourselves to be completed before the next Council meeting:

1. We need to collect experiences and teaching programs in ECE from Council members and send them to Okay.
2. We plan to prepare a workshop on models of ECE to be presented at the WONCA conference in Florence in August 2006. Yonah will prepare the abstract.
3. We plan to prepare a survey of Council members on ECE in member countries. Wolfgang will prepare a draft of the questionnaire. He will circulate it to BME committee members for comments and corrections. Yonah will submit it to the EB for approval and then will distribute it to all Council members, collect and collate the results for presentation at the next Council meeting and in Florence.

Again we thank Wolfgang for his generous hospitality and for the comfortable facilities that allowed us to work so effectively.

Report of Member Service Committee

Present: Egle Zebiene, Justin Allen, Janko Kersnik, Adam Windak.

Chairman: Filipe Gomes

1. Leonardo-EURACT course Caldas de Monchique, Portugal.

Countries joining the Course are Portugal, Spain, Italy, Malta and Ireland (four candidates for each country). Until the moment Portugal has selected 2 candidates, and Italy 4.

There is also an application from another country (Lithuania), for a paying candidate. This will possibly be one of the 12 the course is going to allow (maybe there is an opportunity for more paying candidates, if needed – up to the organisation to decide later). Council Members are asked to advertise the Course in their countries. Leaflets were distributed for that purpose.

The faculty will be the same, exception for Filipe as Resource Person and Fergus, who will possibly fill in for Sakis.

The amount of 6000 EUR will be allocated for the course for covering travel of teachers and organizational expenses.

2. Future Leonardo-EURACT Courses.

Next 2007 Course will have no economical support from EURACT. All participants will pay for accommodation and fee (350 € for EURACT members and 400 € for other teachers). Bernhard Rindlisbacher (Switzerland) showed interest in organising the 2007 Course. Possibly Germany, Austria and France will join it.

3. Other Courses.

EURACT will continue sponsorship for the Bled course for 5 persons covering the participation fee and accommodation. In 2006 the theme of the Course will be: “Community Orientation”. There will be no Teachers Conference in 2006. Leaflets to be ready next Spring.

We will wait for propositions for other Courses, if any.

4. Questionnaire to Members.

A questionnaire will be elaborated and addressed to all EURACT Members, to find their present feelings and situation towards EURACT, their needs and expectations, in order to assess further developments within EURACT. To find later what the costs for this are and decide on who will do it and analyse data. Member Service is looking for help on this matter from experienced Council Members.

5. Implementation of the EURACT Educational Agenda (EEA).

The need of wider implementation of EEA was discussed during the Vienna Meeting.

Some strategies were appointed as useful:

- To organise a large international and invitational meeting on this matter. This meeting could be done just before or after a Council Meeting, avoiding extra expenses on travelling and collaborating with national members, teachers and policy makers. To decide later if this is to be done and, in case it is, whether it will be possible to run it in Praha. Jaroslava to find about possibilities and interest;
- To present a workshop in Firenze;
Justin is going to elaborate frameworks for these possibilities.
- To create an “Implementation List”, gathering all information on how to implement EEA, where to disseminate, what to do to translate and publish it, and so on.

In these matters MSC will work closely with the EEA Task Force.

6. Website.

There are plans to develop EURACT Website to provide more educational resources for members. Also the need to find a suitable Editor for the website, and clarify the technical issues was discussed. Decision was taken to take on responsibility for this in UK. Roger Price to be the Editor.

7. New members for MSC.

The number of committee members was again discussed. In fact, we need more people to carry on all activities. We already asked the Council for new members, and will again. Of course we will thank the contributions of corresponding members between the meetings.

8. “Merchandising”.

Meaning a lot of things like Certificates, Member Cards, or other things members might like to receive/produce.

MSC will be open to suggestions of Council Members on these subjects, and take them into practical consideration.

ACTION POINTS:

- FG to continue organizing Monchique course.
- FG to start work on the Questionnaire and Implementation List.
- JA to create frameworks for Implementation of EEA Meeting/Workshop.
- RP to start editing the Website.

Luís Filipe Gomes

Egle Zebiene