

Task Force Reports

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

Assessment Task Force

Participants: Justin (Chair), Egle, Bernhard, Llukan, Monica, Jaroslava, Roger, Fergus

Purpose: To discuss the options for developing EURACT activity around assessment.

Process:

1. Group brainstorm on the issues.
2. Discussion and prioritisation.
3. Action planning.

The group was concerned that any action should not duplicate work being carried on elsewhere, particularly in the Vocational Training Committee; this was felt to be not too great a problem as the Chair of the VT Committee and 3 other members were in the task force. Communication was key as it was important to keep all Council informed, and to link with other interested groups, eg Vasco da Gama.

There were two main areas for possible future action, a course and the development of a high level overview publication – the EURACT Assessment Agenda. It was decided to work on both, but start with the development of a course for members.

It was decided that the course should be along the same lines as the Leonardo course; should be aimed at a practical and basic level for GP teachers. It was decided not to aim for the high-level masterclass approach which would be more for those designing large-scale end-point examinations. The group produced draft course aims, and agreed timescales for activity before the next meeting.

It was decided that the next step on developing an overview document would be to review what information is already collected on assessment methods and consider developing a new questionnaire, and asking Council to consider this at the next meeting. This is because it will require a considerable amount of work to produce this (but part could be provided by the development of the course materials)

A number of council members asked to participate in the work of this group. Any and all are very welcome to join in the work over the next few months and to join us in Finland.

Notes for Group Members

Topics in the brainstorm:

General issues:

Communication, work with VT Committee, engage Vasco da Gama if interested.

Assessment agenda:

Large task.

Will need data overview - ? questionnaire.

Develop ideal model for GP education, with evidence.

Will need short version for individual teachers.

Need support of Council – to discuss with EB and in May

Course:

Basic level.

Practical.

Must involve feedback skills.

Link with education process, and conflicts for teachers.

Evaluation of courses.

Must include context – time, place, purpose.

We produced the following list of course aims:

To provide a skills course in assessment methods for EURACT members and potential members, aimed at those teaching and assessing in practice and in the classroom.

On completion of the course participants will:

1. understand the different purposes of assessment.
2. understand the theoretical frameworks for assessment and the terminology used.
3. understand the assessment methodology most suited to general practice/family medicine.
4. develop skills in using the appropriate assessment tools.
5. have practiced their skills in assessment and feedback in a secure learning environment.
6. understand the impact of assessment on teaching and learning, and on themselves as teachers.
7. be able to apply their knowledge and skills in their own context as teachers (time, level of students, place, country).

This can roughly be paraphrased as “ who, what, why, when, where, and how”.

Action lines between now and May

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|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Report from Vienna to task force members | Within 2 weeks – Justin |
| 2. Comments back to Justin | Within two weeks of receipt – |
| All | |
| 3. Develop detailed competency outcomes for each of the aims | Draft by mid- January – |
| Justin | |
| 4. Development by email “round-robin” | By mid February – All |
| 5. Outline of course with modules, example of a module to Leonardo template | March 1 st – Justin |
| | March 15 th – All |
| 6. Each task force members agrees a module to develop | |
| 7. Bring draft modules to Finland for next meeting. | |

In Finland we will agree the next steps – developing the course, the course book, seeking funding, and a course venue for Spring 2007, and presentation to Council.