EUROPET WORKSHOP and ANNUAL MEETING 2007; Germany. Institut Arbeit und Technik (IAT)/Wissenschaftspark Gelsenkirchen 1-2 June, Vestische Kinder und Jugendklinik Datteln/University Witten-Herdecke, 3 June

• Winrich Breipohl1 • Werner Andler2 • Stephan von Bandemer3

EUROPET workshop sessions

The workshop sessions considered schedules and accreditation responsibilities, regarding undergraduate and postgraduate paediatric educational measures, subspecialties, on-the-job training curricula and competences in paediatric education and practice for future and established paediatricians. The analyses preferentially focused on West-European countries.

The introduction by Prof. P. Hoyer, president of EAP/UEMS, European Academy of Paediatricians in the European Union of Medical Specialists (the former CESP, Confederation of European Societies of Paediatricians), reviewed what had already been achieved in the harmonisation of European paediatric education and outlined the professional, subject- and strategy-driven need for future joint efforts by all concerned. Special attention was paid to the importance of staff mobility and visits integrated into official curricula and faculty philosophies to assure state of the art paediatric care beyond local centers of excellence.

Subsessions of the Workshop reflected three major Task Forces of EUROPET. One Task Force 1 focused on undergraduate paediatric curricula and competences (leader Prof. C. Creusy, Catholic University Lille, France); a second one Task Force 2 focused on postgraduate paediatric subspecialties (leader Prof. C. Kiss, University of Debrecen, Hungary); a third one Task Force 3 focused on paediatric practice (leader Dr. V. Costigliola, European Medical Association, Brussels, Belgium). Additional two working majors were a brief introduction into the European Tuning concept (Prof. C. Creusy, France) and a more extensive survey on Music Therapy as a major example of additional gates for personnel education in paediatric care beyond local centers of excellence.

Bologna-driven desires for harmonisation of the above named aspect was preferentially discussed under the perspective of functional harmonisation to guarantee European and beyond quality-based, international recognition of curricular components.

The Workshop was chaired by Prof. Tenore, Italy, President of the European Board of Paediatrics. Country and subject specific contributions were received as follows: Austria: A. Boeck (read out report), Belgium: Prof. S. Cadranel, Prof. P. Casaer and Dr. D. Lecouter; Germany: Profs. W. Andler, S. von Bandemer, W. Breipohl, J. Dahmen, S. Herzig, M. Mengel, T. Troester; Latvia: D. Gardovska and J. Livdane; Netherlands: Prof. Zimmerman, Poland: Dr. I. Kopyta, Turkey: Prof. S. Kemahl and G. Peker.

Organizing committee: V. Costigliola (contact@emanet.org); C. Creusy, (Creusy.Colette@ghicl.net), C. Kiss (kisscs@dote.hu), O. Vainio (OLli.Vainio@oulu.FI).

EUROPET Annual Meeting sessions

The five workshop sessions were followed by 12 sessions of the EUROPET Annual Meeting, to support the idea of a harmonized EHEA-ERA (European Higher Education Area – European Research Area) and to disseminate state of the art achievements in paediatric education, research and practice to the society at large. For the latter reason an Open Day: ‘ExtraSchicht’ (which alone was visited by several hundreds of citizens), - was integrated into the overall concept.

In close contact with the entire EUROPET Board and a Scientific Advisory Board of more than 30, the local organizing committee (Profs. W. Andler, S. v. Bandemer and W. Breipohl) focused on ten main thematic perspectives for Europe and beyond:

1. Closing ranks with other relevant paediatric initiatives,
2. aiming for a functionally harmonised EHEA-ERA, including hot spots in paediatric education and research,
3. documenting state of the art paediatrics-relevant research, teaching and therapy concepts,
4. linking the above aspects with education and training of paediatric health care staff,
5. disseminating state of the art data and concepts to the wider community,
6. providing CME opportunities to paediatricians in line with WHO and UN MDGs (millennium developmental goals),
7. identifying future perspectives in European and beyond spin off activities to be looked after by EUROPET in more detail,
8. selecting additional working majors and partners - both conventional paediatric and novel interdisciplinary - to analyse and serve European and beyond societal needs,
9. shaping evidence-based and research-driven advisory discussion platforms with health policy decision makers,
10. attracting new EUROPET members, collaborating with enterprises and employment, applying for spin off fundings with current and new partners.

All aims were met and measures taken in support of their sustainability. Further details can be found on the EUROPET home-page (http://www.europet.org). Short peer-reviewed abstracts of all contributions – authors’ authorisation provided – are to be published in November 2007 in ZMA, GMS Zeitschrift für Medizinische Ausbildung, the journal of GMA, the German Society for Medical Education. The EUROPET Annual Meeting scientific advisory board will suggest selected contributions to the editorial board of several professional journals as invited full papers.

Spin off activities (see above topic 7.) open for hitherto and new members, as well as on spot participants, are in preparation in the form of grant supported research activities, European curricula and teaching modules, subject focused nets and summer schools. Concrete spin offs have commenced in the areas of paediatric oncology and ophthalmology, music therapy, palliative care, obesity, ADHS, Autisms, medication safety, cooperation with partners in ACP (African, Caribbean, Pacific) countries, UN MDGs, ICF (WHO International Classification of Functionality) and more to follow (http://www.europet.org/activit.cfm).

Active contributions and welcome addresses were received amongst others from:

ADHS (Awareness-Deficiency Hyperkinesis)-net, EAEC (European Association of Erasmus Coordinators), EAP/UEMS (European Academy of Paediatricians / Union of Medical Specialists formerly CESP), EMA (European Medical Association), EMTC (European Music Therapy Confederation), GAMA (German African Medical Academy), IPS (Iceland Paediatric Society), GMA (German Society for Medical Education), Latvian Music Therapy Association, Lithuanian Music Therapy Association, PAED-Net (Pädiatrie-Netz Deutschland), Universität der Künste Berlin, multiple health-related institutions and reputed individuals.

The Workshop and Annual Meeting together saw close to 100 contributions.

Evaluators: Both the Workshop and the Annual Meeting were carefully followed by an internal (Prof. E. Molina, Italy) and an external (Prof. P. Gahan, UK) evaluator.

Co-ordination of the scientific advisory board: W. Breipohl DE, G. Vereb, HU.

Organizing committee of Annual Meeting: W. Andler (w.andler@kinderklinik-datteln.de), S. v. Bandemer (bandemer@iat.eu), W. Breipohl (breipohl@uni-bonn.de), O. Vainio (olli.vainio@oulu.fi).

Next meetings and other activities: see: http://www.europet.org.

Corresponding author:
• Prof. Dr. med. Winrich Breipohl, IAT, Munscheidstraße 14, 45886 Gelsenkirchen, Deutschland, Tel.: 0209/1707-138, Fax: 0209/1707-245 bandemer@iat.eu