

EMSA response to the EC Consultation regarding Community action on health services

Guided by the principles of the European Union,

Responding to the EC Consultation regarding Community action on Health Services,

Recognising that action at EU level should be supportive in facilitating Member States in achieving their objectives to ensure safe, high quality and efficient healthcare services,

Realising the impact of Higher Education on the quality of Health Services,

Bearing in mind that quality in health care needs to be a focus on all levels of the involved professions, including the educational phase,

Aware of the fact that Higher Education and healthcare aspects are primarily the responsibility of the Member States and Regions,

Affirming the need for a European Core Curriculum in undergraduate and postgraduate education of healthcare professionals ¹,

Having adopted the Luxembourg Declaration on Patient Safety,

Reaffirming EU activities in the field of Patient Safety and Higher Education,

The 16th General Assembly of the European Medical Students' Association (EMSA) in Pécs, Hungary on the 5th of October 2006,

1. Fully supports the European Commission's 2007 Annual Policy Strategy to develop a Community framework for safe, high quality and efficient health services;
2. Urges the European Union to develop tools and instruments to facilitate the mobility of health care professionals, by either introducing a European network or a coordinating body, e.g. in the format of a EU agency;
3. Calls upon the European Commission to promote interdisciplinary education among health care professionals on local, national and European level;
4. Calls upon the European Union and its Member States, as well as all stakeholders including healthcare professionals, students, patients and payers, to establish an open and easy accessible information platform for healthcare professionals;
5. Urges the European Union to remain active in the follow-through of the Bologna process in Higher Education, promoting quality and mobility within Europe;
6. Calls upon the European Commission to provide funds for quality in healthcare and healthcare education using e.g. the instruments provided in the Framework Programme 7 (DG RTD), the Youth Programme (DG EAC) and the Public Health Grant (DG SANCO);
7. Calls upon the European Commission to promote mobility in undergraduate and post-graduate education by liaising and involving all teaching institutions, student organisations



as well as DG EAC Youth Program (e.g. ERASMUS/SOCRATES, TEMPUS and GALILEO);

8. Suggests the introduction of an European Core Curriculum in medical education as well as other health care profession educations as guidelines for basic minimum requirements ensuring quality as well as facilitating mobility within the European Union ¹;
9. Suggests the concept of a European working group compiling a database with European guidelines regarding treatment in different countries, recognising local and cultural differences as a tool for doctors new to a region, but also stating a common European evidence-based core;
10. Affirms the advantages of a European electronic patient dossier system accessible by practitioners in all Member States when needed, compiled in the native language as well as English as the dominant scientific language and including a standardised diagnosis classification, e.g. ICD10;
11. Requests the implementation of European accreditation guidelines for medical schools and teaching hospitals in order to ensure quality assessment and improvement of Higher Education ²;
12. Encourages the use of a common definition of language skills for health care professionals moving across the borders to ensure high quality of healthcare across the Union;
13. Requests the Member States to introduce legal means ensuring the liability and social security of all healthcare professionals during undergraduate and postgraduate training;
14. Urges national authorities to also include health care professionals in undergraduate and postgraduate training in regulations regarding the provision of health services;
15. Strongly urges Member States and competent authorities to include teaching on European regulations in the field of health services and training of healthcare professionals in the curricula of health care professionals;
16. Calls upon all Member States to ensure that all patients have equal access to emergency and chronic care within a reasonable amount of time in order to achieve a balanced flow of patients following increased mobility;
17. Requests that all health care professionals should meet the same health requirements (i.e. vaccinations, MRSA screening) to ensure the health and safety of both patients and health care professionals;
18. Resolves to develop policy recommendations and provide non-formal education to promote quality and safety in undergraduate medical education, through Summer Schools, peer education, “train the trainers” courses, on local, national and European levels, as laid down in the priorities of the Medical Education roadmap of EMSA for 2006/2007;
19. Resolves to develop a web-based European Mobility Information Platform for healthcare professionals in undergraduate and postgraduate education in close collaboration with the Permanent Working Group of European Junior Doctors (PWG) and other relevant stakeholders (Euromedmobility project),
 - a. to collect and analyse data on professional mobility,
 - b. to facilitate mobility,
 - c. to exchange best practices in education and training,
 - d. to minimise the bureaucratic burden,





- e. to improve quality of research internships and clinical placements throughout the European Union;
- 20. Resolves to develop and implement interdisciplinary non-formal education, as e.g. the World Healthcare Students' Symposium, in close collaboration with major European and international healthcare student organisations, as well as to introduce an interdisciplinary format to ongoing projects of EMSA Europe, such as the Twinning Project, Eurotalk, EMSCon and EMSA Summer Schools, as well as to create joint promotional material and handbooks to be used in European meetings and by members in local activities, co-ordinate the creation of multidisciplinary communication platforms, and support the development of joint projects;
- 21. Congratulates the European Commission on their commitment to high-quality, efficient and safe Health Care Services across the Union;
- 22. Resolves to remain actively seized of the matter.

REFERENCES

- 1 EMSA/IFMSA: European Core Curriculum - The Students' Perspective, Bristol 2006
- 2 EMSA/IFMSA: Quality Assurance in Medical Schools - Moving from Quality Assurance to Quality Improvement, Copenhagen 2005



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