



ASSOCIATION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS DES HÔPITAUX
EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF SENIOR HOSPITAL PHYSICIANS
EUROPÄISCHE VEREINIGUNG DER LEITENDEN KRANKENHAUSÄRZTE
EUROPESE VERENIGING VAN STAFARTSEN
DEN EUROPÆISKE OVERLÆGEFORENING
ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟΣ ΣΥΛΛΟΓΟΣ ΝΟΣΟΚΟΜΕΙΑΚΩΝ ΙΑΤΡΩΝ ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΤΩΝ
ASSOCIAZIONE EUROPEA DEI MEDICI OSPEDALIERI
DEN EUROPEISKE OVERLEGEFORENING
ASSOCIAÇÃO EUROPEIA DOS MÉDICOS HOSPITALARES
ASOCIACIÓN EUROPEA DE MÉDICOS DE HOSPITALES
EUROPEISKA ÖVERLÄKARFÖRENINGEN
EVROPSKO ZDRŽENJE BOLNIŠNIČNIH ZDRAVINIKOV
EUROPSKA ASOCIACIA NEMOCNICNÝCH LEKAROV
EUROPSKA UDRUGA BOLNIČKIHI LIJEČNIKA
ΕΒΡΟΠΕΪΣΚΑ ΑΣΟΪΑΪΑΪΑ ΝΑ ΣΤΑΡΣΗΤΕ ΒΟΛΝΗΪΝΗ ΛΕΚΑΡΗ

Document :	AEMH 08-063
Title:	REGULATION OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN THE MEDICAL PROFESSION
Author :	Dr Thomas Zlling
Purpose :	Proposal for AEMH Policy
Distribution :	AEMH Members of the Board
Date :	10 November 2008

BULLET POINTS CONCERNING REGULATION OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN THE MEDICAL PROFESSION

- AEMH supports the Bologna Process for higher education adjusted for medical education.
- The bachelor exam should be valid for entrance into the second step in any medical faculty throughout the EU, in order to harmonize medical education within Europe.
- License to practice is a degree issued by national authorities or chambers. According to the AEMH, the task of issuing licenses should be a national responsibility. The EU directive on the recognition of professional qualifications (2005/36/EC) lays down the minimum prerequisites for acquiring a license to practice, and the compliance to these prerequisites can and should only be supervised by those authorities which are closest to the activities in question; namely national ones. Thus, national supervision of medical education and issuing of licenses to practice is a condition for the free movement of doctors within the EU.
- Countries that offer internship as a way of introduction into the medical profession, should allow foreign doctors with a license to practice but without trainee experience to participate in the national internship system.
- AEMH proposes the establishment of a European advisory committee on medical specialties, in order to facilitate the free movement of health care professionals. This is important also in view of the fact that health care services are not covered by the EU Services directive.
- In the opinion of the AEMH, the recertification or revalidation of specialists as a part of the CPD process is a solely national responsibility. Every country should specify which organizations or authorities that carry this responsibility.

Regulation of pre-, per- and post-graduate medical education in Europe

Results of the enquiry presented at the AEMH plenary meeting in Zagreb, Croatia 2008.

By Thomas Zilling, MD, PhD

Medical education, postgraduate training and Continuing professional development (CPD) are major issues for the AEMH. With the enlargement of the European Union (EU) migration of hospital physicians is becoming more common. EU regulations and directives are created to facilitate this development with mutual recognition of diplomas and specialist exams between member nations. However, this new situation requires agreement concerning harmonization of medical education, specialist training and regulation of CPD. To give a view on the present situation in Europe, the member countries of the AEMH were asked to answer an enquiry before the AEMH Plenary Meeting in Zagreb 2008. An enquiry was also sent and answered by a representative from the United Kingdom, Island and Finland.

Medical education

According to the Directive No93/16/EEC the medical educations shall consist of 5500 hours of structured schooling or six years of medical studies. All countries report six years of medical studies except Denmark with 6.5, Sweden 5.5 and UK 5. Sweden report 8 800 hours of structured education to fulfil the criteria.

The majority of countries have national core curricula regulating medical studies with the exception of Italy, Sweden, Island, Luxembourg and Portugal. Thirteen countries (76%) report on a final exam before receiving the university medical degree.

Since 1999 there is an ongoing process for the development of higher education in Europe called the Bologna process. The main goal for the Bologna process is to facilitate academic mobility within Europe by the convention on the recognition of qualifications concerning higher education in the European region. Each program within the process shall be divided into three steps. The first step for medicine lasts for three years and gives the degree; Bachelor of Medical Science with a Major in Medicine. The second step which also is the end of medical training offered by the University gives the degree; Master of Medical Science with a Major in Medicine. Finally the third step is merely for research and is finalised by a doctors degree (PhD).

The process is scheduled to be completed in 2010. For medicine there is today no current European standard for the content of Bachelor-, Master- or Doctors-degree.

Today only Austria issues a Bachelors exam. The degree Master is issued in Austria, France, Island, Sweden and Switzerland and France. Thirty-five of the replying nations have a mandatory scientific work within the studies according to Bologna. This shows how implementation of Bologna regarding medicine is struggling. European recommendation for harmonization will benefit the process. A European regulating body is missing.

A harmonisation regarding academic degrees between European countries is also requested. The demands for the title professor, associate professor, doctor of medicine and PhD varies today both within and particularly between countries. This is a big issue for the AEMH for the coming years.

Internship (Turnus)

Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Luxembourg, United Kingdom, Island, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, Greece report that they have internship. The majority for 12 months with two exceptions one for 18 and one for 6-9. In most countries this is divided between internal medicine and surgery. In the other countries specialist training starts once the University medical degree is achieved.

The fact that some European countries have and some haven't internship creates problems. Internship is a trainee post that when properly used is beneficial for the young doctor and for the patients. Countries without internship must work hard with their medical curricula to achieve practical training within medical studies.

Regulation of Specialist training

Seven out of 17 nations have Chambers run by the profession who issue the specialist diplomas (Austria, France, Portugal, Luxembourg, United Kingdom, Germany and Switzerland). In the rest of the countries specialist diplomas are issued by a National authorities.

Most countries have training programs in family medicine which vary between 3-6 years.

Regulation of continuing professional development (CPD)

The official European standpoint on regulation of CPD for the medical profession is given in the Consensus statement of December 14th 2006 supported by the EU Commissions, DG Sanco during the Finish presidency. CPD is according to the document regarded as the major

key to improve and develop health care. It is important that the individual doctor is supported in the CPD process irrespective of healthcare system and that sufficient resources are allocated to ensure the individual doctors participation. There is no evidence that mandatory systems with recertification of the individual doctor will improve healthcare. On the contrary these systems will create heavy bureaucracy and are expensive.

In our investigation half of the countries reported that CME is mandatory by law. Four out of them reported on recertification system. These countries have in common that recertification is managed by a national Chamber run by the profession and not by national authorities.

Acknowledgements

Edwin Borman (UK), Tomas Gudbjartsson (Island) and Hannu Halila (Finland) for there contribution.

Result of the AEMH enquiry 2008

Country	Years	Bologna	Three step	Scientific work	Bachelor	Master	Core curriculum	Responsible body for core	Final exam
Norway	6	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Dep of edu	Yes
Austria	6	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	University	No
Denmark	6,5	Yes	n/a	Yes	No	No	Yes	Health aut	Yes
France	6	No	No		No	Yes	Yes	Dep of edu	Yes
Portugal	6	No	No	No	No	No	No		No
Luxembourg		No	No	No	No	No	No		Yes
UK	5	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	GMC	Yes
Germany	6	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Government	Yes
Croatia	6	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Dep of edu	Yes
Finland	6	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Dep of edu	Yes
Island	6	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No		Yes
Spain	6	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Dep of edu	No
Sweden	5,5	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No		Yes
Switzerland	6	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	University	Yes
Greece	6	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	University	Yes
Italy	6	No	No	Yes	No	No	No		No
Slovakia	6	?	?	No	No	No	Yes	Dep of edu	Yes

Country	Who issues MD diplomas	Intern-ship	Length	Intern med	Surg	Family med	Psych	Who issues specialist d
Norway	Med faculty	Yes	18	6	6	6		Government
Austria	Med faculty	No						Chamber
Denmark	National gov board	Yes	12	6	6			Gov
France	Med faculty	No						Chamber
Portugal	Med faculty	Yes	12	6	3	3		Chamber
Luxembourg	Chamber	Yes	12					Chamber
UK	Med faculty	Yes	12	4	4	4		Chamber
Germany	National gov board	No						Chamber
Croatia	Med faculty	No						Gov
Finland	National gov board	No						Gov
Island	Med faculty	Yes	12	4	2	2		Gov
Spain	National gov board	No						Gov
Sweden	National gov board	Yes	18	6	6	3	3	Gov
Switzerland	National gov board	Yes	12	4	4			Chamber
Greece	National gov board	Yes	12	12				Gov
Italy	Med faculty	No						Gov
Slovakia	Med faculty	Yes	9					Gov

Country	National program for GP training	Number of years GP train	Mandatory CPD	Recertification	Responsible body for recertification
Norway	Yes	3	No	No*	
Austria	No		Yes	Yes	Chamber
Denmark	Yes	4	No	No	
France	Yes	3	Yes	No	
Portugal	Yes	4	No	No	
Luxembourg	Yes		No	No	
UK	Yes	3	Yes	Yes	Chamber
Germany	No	5	Yes	No	
Croatia	Yes	3	Yes	Yes	Chamber
Finland	Yes	6	No	No	
Island	Yes	5	No	No	
Spain		4	No	No	
Sweden	Yes	5	No	No	
Switzerland	Yes	5	Yes	Yes	Chamber
Greece	Yes	5	Yes	No	
Italy	Yes	3	Yes	No	
Slovakia	No				

*Norway has a mandatory recertification system for GP:s