



DentCPD: a new European project for dental lifelong learning



“Harmonization & Standardization of European Dental Schools' Programs of Continuing Professional Development for Graduate Dentists”

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Introduction

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) is essential to the maintenance of dentists' knowledge and skills, underpinning safe clinical practice. However, there is no harmonization on the 'essential' content or regulation of CPD for graduate dentists in the EU. CPD is provided by a variety of enterprises, including dental schools in Higher Education Institutions, as well as public sector organizations and industry. Not all are subject to quality management.

A new European project has started since October 2010, initiated by **ADEE** (Association for Dental Education in Europe). The project is entitled “Harmonization and standardization of European Dental Schools programs of continuing professional development for graduate dentists”.

Aims & Objectives

To identify agreed essential CPD requirements of an EU graduate dentist and provide guidelines for the management and delivery of high quality CPD by European dental schools.

The specific objectives are to:

- ➔ produce an inventory of existing CPD programs and providers, agreeing essential components and identifying areas of best practice
- ➔ develop guidelines for dental schools on organization and quality management of CPD programs, including methodology, innovative delivery modes and desired learning outcomes
- ➔ develop an exemplar teaching module on a core CPD topic and develop guidelines for the creation of e- modules

Methodology

A Taskforce Group, comprised of representative members from partner institutions, organizes and coordinates the different actions, supported by Working groups and other experts. The methodology includes literature and internet search, questionnaires & surveys and consensus methods.

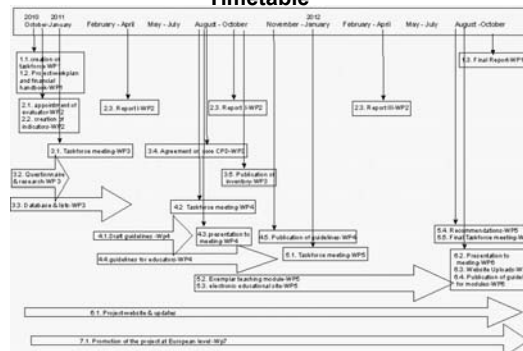
Partner Institutions

- Cardiff University –Dental School (U.K.) -coordinator
- Athens University –School of Dentistry (Greece)
- Helsinki University –Institute of Dentistry (Finland)
- ACTA (the Netherlands)
- Rīga Stradiņš University –Dental School (Latvia)
- ADEE (Association for Dental Education in Europe)



The Taskgroup members during the 1st project meeting in Cardiff, Wales, 4-6 January 2010

Timetable



Work Packages

Work Package - Title of Work Package

1. Management - Establishment of a Task Group and Project Management
2. Quality Plan - Evaluation & Creation of Indicators
3. Development - CPD Survey and Inventory
4. Development - Continuing Education Guidelines
5. Development - Teaching Module for a Core Dental CPD subject
6. Dissemination - Publicity Activities
7. Exploitation - Promotion and Utilisation of the Project outcomes

Results & Conclusions

Outputs:

1. Inventory - existing CPD programs & providers; agreement on core components; identification of best practice.
2. Guidelines for dental schools - organization, quality management & assurance of CPD programs.
3. Guidelines for delivery of competence-based CPD modules & a core topic, exemplar teaching module.
4. Dental CPD Reference Manual
5. Publications - European Journal of Dental Education