European Dental Schools’ provision of Lifelong Learning

STEP 2: Design of an e-module for adult learners

Argyro Kavadella, Ioannis Tzoutzas, Anastasia Kossioni, Kostas Tsiklakis
Athens Dental School, Greece

Introduction
The DentCPD project (Dental Continuing Professional Development) aims at the harmonization & standardization of European Dental Schools’ programs of continuing professional development for graduate dentists. The specific objectives are to:
1. produce an inventory of existing CPD programs and providers and identify best practice
2. develop guidelines for dental schools on organization and quality management of CPD programs, including methodology, innovative delivery modes and desired learning outcomes
3. develop an exemplar teaching e-module on a core CPD topic, employing modern technological tools.

Methodology
The team members identified four areas of relevance:
- the educational content
- the methodology of delivery
- the structure and
- the design of the e-pages.

The educational content was developed by an expert on the subject. It was divided in small sub-units, supplemented by explanatory pictures, videos, tables and self-assessment questions. Effort was made to limit the reading text to minimum.

The methodology of delivery was based on the e-learning and the adult learning pedagogical principles.

The structure of the content followed the methodological framework of educational material:

![Methodological framework of educational material for adult distance learning](image)

Conclusions
The development of an educational e-module for dental lifelong learning requires a combination of approaches – pedagogy, design, e-learning, adult learning – in order to be educationally efficient and beneficial for the dental practitioners who will apply it to their everyday practice and their patients.

Acknowledgments
Co-authors of the study are: Jon Cowpe, Alison Bullock, Jan Davidge, Hannah Thomas, Sarah Bailey, Emma Barnes, Richard Thomas (Cardiff University, UK), Terhi Karaharju-Suvanto, Kimo Suomalainen (University of Helsinki, Finland), Henk Kersten, Eva Povel (ACTA, the Netherlands), Majella Giles, Damien Walmley (ADEE, Ireland), Una Soboleva, Andra Liepa (Riga Stradiņš University, Latvia). DentCPD project is co-funded by EACEA. PROJECT NUMBER: 509961-LLP-1-2010-1-UK-ERASMUS-EMHE