

European Dental Schools' provision of Sustainable Lifelong Learning through an e-module. STEP 1: The CPD Inventory



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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, agree essential components 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 and sustainable technological tools.

The project partners are the Dental Schools of:

- Cardiff University (U.K.)
- Athens University (Greece)
- Helsinki University (Finland)
- ACTA (the Netherlands)
- Rīga Stradiņš University (Latvia), and
- ADEE- Association for Dental Education in Europe



Figure 1. All project partners during their first meeting in Cardiff, Wales, 4-6 January 2011

Aims

The first part of the DentCPD project aims at mapping the current situation in Europe concerning the dental lifelong learning.

Methodology

A questionnaire, developed by the Taskgroup members, was distributed through e-mails to European Dental Schools, professional associations and other stakeholders. It included questions concerning the existing situation on dental continuing professional development, in the respondents' countries, i.e. CPD systems, CPD provision, core CPD subjects, as well as personal views & opinions.

Results

163 responses were gathered (response rate 23%) from 32 European countries.

Table 1. Answers to the question "In your view, which are the three most common ways in which graduate dentists upgrade their knowledge and/or skills in the country you are employed?"

Updating method	N (%)
Courses (lectures and hands-on)	144 (88)
Conferences	107 (65)
Organised seminars	73 (44)
Reading scientific journals or books	52 (32)
Internet usage	16 (10)
Distance learning packages	9 (5)
Informal office-based learning	24 (15)
Journal or study clubs	20(12)
e-learning packages	5 (3)
DVDs	1 (0.6)
Other	34 (20)

Table 2. Positive answers to the question "Do agree with the following statements?"

Statement	N (%)
I think that CPD should be obligatory for all dentists	131 (80)
All countries should have an official, national, accredited CPD system	128 (78)
More CPD should be available electronically (e-learning)	111 (68)

Table 3. Answers to the question "For the following list of CPD topics, please indicate which are currently compulsory / should be compulsory for graduate dentists in your country".

Topic	Currently compulsory N (%)	Should be compulsory N (%)
Cardiopulmonary resuscitation, medical emergencies	122 (75)	155 (95)
Cross infection control/ decontamination & disinfection	106 (65)	148 (91)
Radiation protection	130 (80)	135 (83)
The Medically Compromised Patient	39 (24)	117 (72)
Health and Safety	50 (31)	115 (71)
Evidence-based Dentistry	26 (16)	107 (66)
Child Protection	60 (37)	107 (66)
Health Education and Prevention	40 (25)	98 (60)

Conclusions

The questionnaire revealed that dental continuing professional development differs significantly in the European countries. The necessity for the development of an e-learning module on a core topic derives from the results of the questionnaire, as well as the need for establishing guidelines for the provision of dental CPD across Europe.

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