

Title: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE “GUIDELINES FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF DENTAL CPD PROGRAMS” INTO THE CONTINUING EDUCATION REGULATORY FRAMEWORK OF ATHENS DENTAL SCHOOL

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Abstract:

Aims. To present the methodology of the implementation of general guidelines into a specific organizational framework developed to address the local continuing education needs of the dental practitioners.

Materials and Methods. The Dental School of Athens University is a provider of continuing education courses for a number of years, yet a comprehensive regulatory and managerial framework did not exist. This regulatory framework was decided to be created during the present academic year and the “Guidelines for the organization of Dental CPD programs” served as guidance. The guidelines were developed under the DentCPD European project, were informed by literature reviews and survey results, and were peer-reviewed and amended. The methodology of adapting the general guidelines into a specific educational and social context is presented here.

Results. The new “Regulatory Framework for the organization and management of Continuing Education activities” of the Athens Dental School aims at encompassing all independent activities under a common framework, which describes and regulates all the relevant parameters: organization, provision, evaluation. The general CPD Guidelines include suggestions on the structure, pedagogy, assessment and quality assurance of the CPD activities offered by dental schools, educators, organizations, etc . Specifically, the topics addressed in the Guidelines are: providers, educators, delivery modes, structure-continuity-learning objectives-learning material, assessment of learning and acquired skills, feedback and credit points. All topics were included in the Regulatory Framework. Each topic was reviewed, analyzed and further specified according to the specific needs of the Greek dentists and the organizational capacity and general educational aims of the Dental School.

Conclusions. The general CPD Guidelines can serve as guidance for the organization of continuing education activities by dental schools, by adapting them into the local educational and professional environment. (Project supported by the Erasmus-LLP project, DentCPD, ref: 509961-LLP-1-2010-1-UK-ERASMUS-EMHE).