

ENHANCING QUALITY IN PODIATRY BY THE EUROPEAN NETWORK OF PODIATRY IN HIGHER EDUCATION (ENPODHE)

Abstract :

OBJECTIVE

This European Network is an organizational framework, aiming to unite the podiatry educational institutions in the European region, following Bologna agreements. ENPODHE brings together and enhances collaboration between podiatry educational institutions in order to:

- provide a forum for interaction and exchange of educational developments;
- promote the convergence of education, respecting differences and cultures;
- stimulate the development of a European dimension in educational curricula;
- facilitate mobility of staff and students between educational institutions;
- encourage and support standards of high quality education in accordance with the recommendations of the FIP;
- advance the body of knowledge of podiatry;
- facilitate collaborative research between educational institutions;
- establish and maintain contacts and exchange information with other national and international bodies, organizations, and with the European authorities.

DESIGN

The design of the network is semi-formal and partners from Belgium, the Netherlands, UK, Spain, Finland and Malta take part; striving after a formal organization with increased number of partners/countries and collaborative activities.

METHOD

By annual meetings in partner Universities (including exchange of students and staff) and participation in conferences (2011 and 2012), consultation and agreements on collaboration in education are established. Website/virtual discussion platform enables communication.

RESULTS

Networking resulted in transparency in curricula (website), collaborative activities in education (guest lectures, curriculum and Bachelor product comparison) and student exchanges.

CONCLUSIONS

Network, although young, is on track. Future focus is on expanding and professionalizing the organization, program development, collaborative research and collaboration FIP. Benchmarking must be accomplished, enhancing quality of education (didactical, pedagogical and professional).