

Minutes of the 2nd European Orthodontic Teachers' Forum Berlin, 20.06.2007

Chairpersons: A.M. Kuijpers Jagtman, S. Kiliaridis

Registered attendees: see attendance list

Apologies for absence: 7 apologies for absence, see registered attendance list

1. Words of welcome

A representative of the European Orthodontic Society welcomed the participants in the Maritim Hotel Berlin and wished them a fruitful meeting.

2. Introduction

Professor Anne Marie Kuijpers-Jagtman also welcomed the participants. This was the second time European teachers in Orthodontics could meet, thanks to the EOS that sponsored the meeting. She summarized the results of the first meeting in Vienna. The handout of her presentation has been attached to the Minutes.

3. Minutes of the last meeting (Vienna, 2006)

The minutes were discussed -some points are on the agenda of this year's meeting again- and approved.

4. Taskforce 1 progress

Professor Stavros Kiliaridis introduced the members of Taskforce-1:

- Anne Marie Kuijpers-Jagtman (The Netherlands)
- Francesca Miotti (Italy)
- Maja Ovsenic (Slovenia)
- Nazan Küçükkeles (Turkey)
- Peter Schopf (Germany)
- Stavros Kiliaridis (Switzerland)

As was decided during the 1st EOTF in Vienna the aims and tasks of the Taskforce-1 were as follows:

- to develop a Network of Erasmus based Programmes and develop criteria for inclusion of postgraduate programmes in this Network
- to update the contents of the Erasmus programme
- to contact the ADEE and discuss possibilities for use of their accreditation system
- to contact EFOSA for their database

Professor Kiliaridis gave an overview of the work of Taskforce-1 during the year following the 1st EOTF. The handout of the presentation has been attached to these Minutes.

The Network

Taskforce-1 proposed to define the Network of Erasmus based Programmes as follows:

The Network is a group of programme directors or orthodontists assigned by institutes with a structured programme in orthodontics, under the umbrella of the EOS, whose primary concern is education, specifically related to the specialty of orthodontics. Its main purpose shall be the advancement of orthodontic postgraduate training in Europe. This definition was approved by the participants.

Based on the input of the EOTF last year Taskforce-1 developed a set of *minimum criteria* for inclusion of programmes in the Network. The minimum criteria are based on the Erasmus programme and concern the following areas: programme, clinical activity, theoretical education, and research.

Programme

- *Structured programme*
- *Equivalent to a minimum of 3 years full time*
- *Performed in Universities or Institutes with academic affiliation*

Clinical activity

- *Clinic activity (chair-side time) minimum 16 h/week (approx 2000h during the education).*
- *Treatment of at least 50 new cases with a variety of malocclusions*
- *Clinical supervision by an orthodontist specialist*
- *If part of the education is performed in private or hospital clinics, affiliation should exist with Universities.*

Theoretic education

- *Based on a predefined structured programme.*
- *Lectures and seminars equivalent to at least 5h/week (minimum 600h during the education).*
- *Treatment planning or treatment evaluation seminars or discussions equivalent to at least 3h/week.*
- *Assessment of knowledge during the education and a final exam at the end.*

Research

- *Research time and guidance should be provided, leading to a publication or a congress presentation.*

The participants agreed on the minimum criteria. It was stressed by participants that the Network should aim at getting as many programmes on board as possible, fulfilling the minimum set of criteria rather than functioning as an exclusive club. *The objectives of the Network* were underlined by the participants as being:

- to strengthen the level of postgraduate training in orthodontics in Europe
- to exchange information on the educational content of postgraduate programmes
- to establish educational collaborations between orthodontics programmes in Europe
- to advocate guidelines that promote optimal postgraduate training in orthodontics in Europe
- to serve as a knowledge platform to bodies involved in postgraduate training in orthodontics in Europe

Contact with the ADEE

Professor Fons Plasschaert, president of Association for Dental Education in Europe (ADEE), was contacted and there was a discussion for the possibilities of a future collaboration. For the moment the

ADEE is focusing their efforts on undergraduate education, but postgraduate education is also in their scope.

Contact with EFOSA for their database

EFOSA has sent out 250 questionnaires, but only 35 were returned. The questionnaire was probably too complex and too long. A shorter version was circulated and another 5-6 responded. EFOSA will not continue with this inventory.

Update of the Erasmus programme

The Erasmus Programme was developed in the early '90s by a group of influential people at that time and funded by the European Union. Who is going to perform an updating now? After ample discussion it was decided to establish the Network first. This will then be followed by a survey carried out in the Network to find out about redundancies, and outdated or missing subjects in the present Erasmus Programme.

5. Taskforce-2 progress

Professor Birte Melsen introduced the members of Taskforce-2:

- Susan Derringer (UK)
- Marie Filleul (France)
- Anna Komoroswka (Poland)
- Birte Melsen -chairperson (Denmark)
- Moschos Papadopoulos (Greece)
- Timo Peltomaki (Switzerland)

As was decided during the 1st EOTF in Vienna the aims and tasks of the Taskforce-2 were as follows:

- will come up with proposals for collaboration that can be implemented shortly and with proposals for a long-term planning concerning
 - common courses that could be repeated on a 3-year basis
 - use of IT, videoconferencing, Blackboard in postgraduate teaching between institutions
 - EOS supported/endorsed courses, as part of a formal training, that could be repeated on a regular basis in connection to the EOS meeting
- will make an overview of existing collaborations at regional, national and international level.

Taskforce-2 surveyed existing programs and collaborations in Europe and the possibilities of using modern communication means for exchange of teaching modules or teachers. As an example Dr. Friedy Luther, Department of Orthodontics and Child Dental Health, University of Leeds, UK gave an overview of the National Orthodontics Programme that has been developed by cooperation between all orthodontic postgraduate programs in the UK. The program is using the managed learning environment platform Blackboard. Managed Learning Environments are software systems that support a range of learning on texts, ranging from conventional classroom implementation to off-line, distance learning and online learning. The online modules in the program have been developed by all programmes in the UK. Blackboard is accessible through the internet and all participating universities can use the contents. Now the system has been transferred to the British Orthodontic Society Foundation (BOSF).

The participants of the EOTF agreed that such a system could also work at the European level. Academic modules that might lend themselves to sharing eg. embryology; biomechanics; cephalometrics.

6. Breakout groups

The Assembly was then divided into working groups to discuss two issues for which proposals were brought forward by Taskforce-1 (see point 4 of the minutes and the handout that belongs to that):

- Role of the Network
 - Role of the Network towards postgraduate training in Europe
- Functioning of the Network
 - How can somebody become a member?
 - How can the criteria be implemented?
 - What is the controlling body?

The group chairpersons reported the results of their group discussion to the plenary session. These are summarized as follows:

Role of the Network

- Different countries have differing national requirements and frameworks that are not negotiable. Therefore, the network could not be a legal framework but could be advisory.
- Intellectual collaborative network
- Building relationships between programmes
- Exchange of ideas with other programmes
- Exchanges of lecturers. What about costs?
- Exchanges of postgraduate students between universities
- Exchange research
- Develop common exam criteria, minimum requirements
- Knowing where you stand in terms of quality control
- Quality control / accreditation of incorporated programmes
- Update, raise educational standards in Europe
- Prestige to be part of the Network; PG's want to join an institute with good reputation
- Political role and pressure to obtain resources

Functioning of the Network

- How to become a member?
 - Everybody should have to apply, so nobody is automatically a member
 - Members of the Network would establish the body to decide how to advance the profession
 - Start with a form of self assessment in the first instance. The possibility of student input into programme assessment was recognised as valuable but concerns were expressed as to the independence of such comments. The potential for bias in the self-assessment process was also recognised.
 - The director of a programme should apply in a written form
 - Need to have a review template – might be useful to see what others are already available in case these can be adapted/modified
 - Set of criteria needs to be developed
 - Review of application forms with verifiable data
 - Who will do the verification?
 - Common language should be English

- How can the criteria be implemented?
 - o On-site visits including students and staff on a mutual basis to keep costs low (i.e. if each visitor would visit three departments on his own costs and in turn would not need to pay for the three persons evaluating his own department)
 - o Members would have to be monitored – perhaps every five years
 - o A – B – C- D members with a time table to reach level A

- What is the controlling body?
 - o EOS act as the umbrella organisation for the process
 - o Avoid parallel assessments by other bodies
 - o Do we want to have a “European Board” for programmes? No, it should not be EBO
 - o Academic orthodontists should be involved in the process as the quality of the curriculum is being reviewed

7. Conclusions and future follow-up

Participants agreed to establish the Network. Besides that it was felt to be important to continue with the Teachers Forum, which is an open forum for all universities and institutes providing orthodontic education in Europe, regardless whether or not they are members of the Network. Every effort will be made to get as many as possible program directors to the yearly Forum Meetings. Professor Anne Marie Kuijpers-Jagtman will bring the results of the Forum Meeting to the Council of the EOS.

Participants agreed that a quality evaluation system could be instrumental to advance orthodontic postgraduate education in Europe. Taskforce-1 should advance with proposals.

At the end of the meeting, Professor Anne Marie Kuijpers-Jagtman thanked all attendees for their active participation. The next meeting will take place in Lisbon in June 2008, prior to the EOS meeting.

Nijmegen and Geneva, October 2007

Anne Marie Kuijpers-Jagtman
Stavros Kiliaridis