A founding member of the Platform for Better Oral Health in Europe, which is calling upon European decision-makers to take action on oral health. Since its official launch on World Oral Health Day 2011, the Platform has succeeded in raising oral health as an important issue on the European agenda. The EOHP aims to foster greater policy action with focus on prevention, best practices’ sharing and evidence gathering.

The Platform for Better Oral Health in Europe is a joint initiative of ADEE, CECDO (Council of European Chief Dental Officers), EADPH (European Association of Dental Public Health) and IDHF (International Dental Health Foundation), scientifically supported by Associate Members and financially supported by Wrigley Oral Healthcare Program and GlaxoSmithKline, with administrative support from Hill + Knowlton Strategies in Brussels. Prof. Heikki Murtomaa, Past ADEE President and Dr. Ronald Gorter, Executive Member currently represent ADEE in the Platform. On Tuesday, 18th March 2014, the Associate Members of the Platform gathered in Brussels for their first annual meeting. The existing Associate Members of the Platform were represented at the meeting (i.e. the Alliance for a Cavity Free Future, the European Dental Hygienist Federation, Ivory Cross, and the Union Française pour la Santé Bucco-Dentaire). They were joined by new Associate Members, namely the European Association of Oral Medicine, the European Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, the European College of Gerodontontology, the European Organisation for Caries Research and the Pan-European Region - International Association for Dental Research. The meeting offered a good opportunity for the Associates to become better acquainted with the Platform's history, achievements to date and goals for the future. It also gave them the chance to present their respective organisations and highlight the areas where they would like to contribute to the work of the Platform. Participants agreed that the main areas of interest for Associate Members were increased presence in policy and engagement, networking, and being informed of key decisions on time.

Recently, the Platform has been invited to participate as a Collaborating Partner to the EU Joint Action on Addressing Chronic Diseases and the Joint Action for Healthcare and Workforce Planning & Forecasting. For more information on the BOHEP, you may visit the Platform’s website (http://www.oralhealthplatform.eu/), follow on Twitter @EUOralHealth, or contact the Secretariat (secretariat@oralhealthplatform.eu).
ADEE Newsletter

European Activities Update 2014

**ADEE & CED COLLABORATION**

The collaboration between the two European organisations, **ADEE and CED** (Council of European Dentists) continued during the past year. The Taskforce members met in Brussels, in March 2014 to further discuss and finalize a joint position on the Annex V of the Directive.

The Annex to the Directive includes the study program for dental practitioners (point 5.3.1), described by a list of subjects. Both organizations propose that this “subject list” is replaced by a description of educational competences/learning outcomes that the graduate dentist should possess upon graduation.

This position reflects the current concept of outcome-based dental education. Based on the well-established documents “Profile and Competences for the graduating European dentist” and “Curriculum structure, content, learning and assessment”, a joint document was developed, including a shorter version of the extended ADEE Competences’ document.

This working document represents a joint proposal of both organisations in relation to this specific issue. The individual positions of each organisation on educational competences of European dental graduates are expressed through their individual documents:

1. ADEE’s “Profile and Competences of the Graduation European Dentist (2010)” and

Annex V is estimated to be reviewed in the course of next year 2015.

**POLICY MAKING IN BRUSSELS**

In June 2014, while in Brussels, the ADEE Executive Committee members had a series of meetings with Commission officials to discuss issues regarding education and professional qualifications.

The President, Secretary General and Administrator met with Mrs Debiais-Sainton and Mr Pirozzi from DG Education and Culture and discussed the recent Modernisation of Higher Education agenda and the new Erasmus+ funding opportunities. ADEE officers will explore the relevance of the calls for proposals to the aims of ADEE with the purpose to identify suitable funding for the ADEE activities.

The second meeting was held between the ADEE Committee members and Mr Tomaras and Mr Zsigmond from DG MARKT. The Commission stated that their immediate priority will be implementing the instruments of the Directive i.e. the Professional Cards, the Alert Mechanism and the Common Training Frameworks. The Commission intends to agree on the implementing acts with the EU Member States by the end of 2014 and they hope that by 2015 the electronic platform would be developed and the first Professional card would be launched physically early 2016.

Regarding Annex V, the Commission will present a consolidated version after discussions with EU Member States. This update will only concern the Commission and the EU Member States, who will provide updates of the formal qualifications before the end of 2014. Commission officials
proposed that in order to move towards a competence-based approach in the Annex, it is necessary for ADEE to outreach in the relevant authorities of the EU Member States and promote this idea.

### STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION ON THE EUROPEAN AREA OF SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS

In April 2014, ADEE participated in the Public Consultation on Skills and Qualifications, launched by the Directorate-General for Education and Culture of the Commission under the framework of the Europe 2020 strategy.

Through this public consultation the Commission wished to explore the extent and nature of the current obstacles to the recognition and transparency of skills and qualifications across Europe, possible solutions and the potential value added of EU action in the current and future economic and technological context.

The consultation addressed in particular the following issues:

1. How to place a stronger focus on higher and more relevant skills
2. Further strengthening links between education/training, mobility and the labour market
3. Adapting to internationalisation trends
4. Ensuring overall coherence of tools and policies and further implementing the learning outcomes approach
5. Ensuring clarity of rules and procedures for the recognition of skills and qualifications for further learning
6. Increasing the focus on quality assurance
7. Providing learners and workers with a single access point to obtain information and services supporting a European area of skills and qualifications.

The results of the consultation were published in June 2014. Of particular interest to ADEE are the following conclusions:

- **There is almost unanimous support for a full implementation of the learning outcomes approach across all EU tools on all levels of education and training** (as opposed to input measures such as workload or time spent in a course or programme). This includes strong support to systematically describing qualifications and study programmes in terms of learning outcomes (62% strongly and 27% partially agree) (graph 20a). 53% of respondents to the on-line questionnaire strongly agree (30% partially agrees) that the learning outcomes approach could support the validation of non-formal and informal learning (graph 20c).

- **A clear and detailed definition of learning outcomes, corresponding to qualifications or parts of qualifications, ensures transparency and understanding, thus supporting recognition and portability of skills and qualifications.** Some respondents, in particular among national authorities, stress however that rewriting standards, curricula and qualifications in terms of learning outcomes should be a longer term goal as it requires investment in terms of time and resources. To implement the learning outcomes approach appropriate information and training for the main stakeholders involved is required (e.g. for teachers, assessors, people working in guidance services, etc.). Not all competences can be described in terms of learning outcomes (e.g. civic competences, philosophy).


At the event, the Platform presented the preliminary results of its European Oral Health Report Card detailing the status of oral disease prevention policies throughout Europe.

The Report Card is based on the Platform’s 2020 Targets, which had been presented in the European Parliament on World Oral Health Day 2013. Its findings are based on a survey which was answered by representatives from 25 of the EU’s 28 Member States, covering 98% of the EU’s population.

Prof. Heikki Murtomaa, ADEE representative, discussed “Dental Public Health and Implications of the Results of the Report Card”. He also introduced the Platform’s White Paper which gives advice to Member States, the Commission and MEPs on how to go about achieving the targets by 2020. Prof. Murtomaa mentioned the Platform will further collate data from the Member States to present the findings at the Second European Oral Health Summit in March 2015.

In addition, the Platform will continue its stakeholder engagement with the new European Parliament and European Commission in the second half of 2014.