

Association for Dental Education in Europe

European Activities of ADEE Special Edition

Damien Walmsley and Argyro Kavadella

ADEE organises a policy event in Brussels:

“Defining common skills and competences: how higher education institutions can contribute to increasing the mobility of healthcare professionals?”

On Thursday 4 June, the Association for Dental Education in Europe (ADEE) organised a roundtable debate in Brussels on the **“recognition of professional qualifications and the portability of skills, what role for Higher Education Institutions?”**

ADEE President Prof. D. Walmsley, explained that ADEE has worked for years to establish a harmonised profile and set of competences for dental practitioners. Prof. Walmsley exposed ADEE’s work on undergraduate dental



Corrado Paganelli, Andras Zsigmond, Argyro Kavadella, Damien Walmsley

education and school visitations, lifelong learning, European and international collaborations, European projects and affairs, the quality-assurance “LEADER” programme for Dental Schools, and concluded that “harmonisation in Europe is still a work

in progress”.

Mr Andras Zsigmond, on behalf of the European Commission, congratulated ADEE and other associations active on dental care for their constructive contribution to the work of the Commission on the update of the Professional Qualifications Directive.

Mr Zsigmond gave a brief overview of the state of play of the transposition process of the new Directive, highlighting three areas of particular importance for the dental professions: the modernisation of the minimum requirements for dentists; the ongoing work of the Commission on Continued Professional Development; and the possibility of adding dental specialties to the list of professions benefitting from the automatic recognition.

Mr Zsigmond strongly encouraged the three main dental associations, the ADEE, the Council of European Dentists (CED) and the Federation of European Dental Competent Authorities and Regulators (FEDCAR), to work together to submit a coordinated input on the update of the minimum requirements contained in Annex V of the Directive.

Dr. Argyro Kavadella, ADEE’s Secretary General, reported on the policies and tools currently in place, which aim to promote the portability of skills and qualifications.

She called on the EU Higher Education institutions to



“implement the relevant tools facilitating the mutual recognition of qualifications and the free mobility”. Dr Kavadella called on the Commission and policy-makers to “ensure representation of all stakeholders, focus on quality assurance, simplify the current rules, improve transparency and focus on the individuals and the end users”.

During the roundtable debate, participants discussed the possibility of having a recognition system based on competences, as it is the case for nurses. ADEE and CED expressed their hope that this could be achieved in the next revision of the Directive.



Mr Andras Zsigmond from the European Commission during his presentation

Inside this Special European Update issue:

1. ADEE organises a policy event in Brussels
2. ADEE & CED Collaboration, Introducing Cabinet DN
3. ADEE & FEDCAR
4. Alliance for Cavity Free Future , The Platform For Better Oral Health In Europe

ADEE & COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN DENTISTS (CED) COLLABORATION



On 20 February 2015, the ADEE-CED Taskforce group met in Brussels, in the CED offices to discuss the current status of the updating process of the Annex V.3, point 5.3.1- “Study program for dental practitioners”.

ADEE was represented by its President D. Walmsley, Past President W. Harzer and Secretary General A. Kavadella. Mr András Zsigmond, Legal Officer of the Free Movement of Professionals Unit, European Commission, joined the group to offer the Commission’s approach on the Annex and discuss the Commission’s legal powers in this regard.

The Taskforce members reiterated their position on the Annex, namely the replacement of the “subject list” with a



Members of the ADEE—CED Taskforce at the February 2015

“learning outcomes/competences list”, which would better describe the qualifications of the graduate European dentist and is in line with the current educational concepts.

The ADEE-CED document comprising a *Joint Position on Competences* was presented to Mr Zsigmond, who congratulated the two major European organisations on their fruitful cooperation which led to the achievement of a common position. Mr Zsigmond presented the Commission’s views and immediate priorities on the implementation of the new Directive at a European level. He stated that the new Directive does not equip the Commission with the necessary legal power to conduct a major update of the Annex. Mr Zsigmond advised that the positions of the member states are of major importance in this regard, as they are consulted concerning any possible amendments of the Directive.

In view of this information, the Taskforce members decided to further discuss the issue and organise a follow-up meeting in October in Brussels. All Taskforce members agreed that the ongoing cooperation of the two dental European organisations is of major importance, as it promotes mutual understanding and strengthens the joint policy-making in Brussels for the benefit of dental education and profession. The Taskforce members strongly support the continuation of this cooperation in the future on this or another issue of common interest.

INTRODUCING ‘CabinetDN’: ADEE’s NEW EUROPEAN POLICY ADVISERS



In the second semester of 2014 ADEE changed European Policy Advisers in Brussels to CabinetDN. CabinetDN is one of the most innovative and successful independent

Brussels consultancies with offices in the heart of the EU quarter in Brussels. CabinetDN is a self-owned company offering public affairs and media services to clients seeking to influence the European Union. With a team of 25 in house staff and a broad range of external advisers the organisation is headed by Timme Dossing, Jacob Lund Nielsen and Mark Cunningham.

In changing service provider to CabinetDN the ADEE Executive recognised the need for a partnership with a smaller organisation which closely aligns with the ADEE operating

philosophy. CabinetDN’s management philosophy which places emphasis on openness, responsibility, transparency and results, seemed a logical match for ADEE.

Being a small sized organisation CabinetDN is able to offer clients close and effective engagement while at the same time drawing on their strong relations with the Parliament, Council and Commission, thus effectively communicating with them to deliver client requirements. Each engagement is tailored to client's individual needs and visions resulting in the development of a tailor-made policy program, which is agreed within budgetary parameters in advance.

What has resulted is an excellent value for money offering for ADEE in a key but expensive and very necessary area of our business strategy. The strength and benefit of utilising CabinetDN can be seen through their recent organisation of

(Continued on page 3)

ADEE ENGAGEMENT WITH FEDERATION OF EUROPEAN DENTAL COMPETENT AUTHORITIES AND REGULATORS (FEDCAR)

ADEE Secretary General Argyro Kavadella was invited to attend and address the autumn General Assembly of FEDCAR (Federation of European Dental Competent Authorities and Regulators), which was held in Paris on November 28th, 2014.

The panel comprised of the dental regulators of the 28 member states of the EU and the meeting was additionally attended by relative regulators from Canada. Officials from the European Commission -András Zsigmond and Caroline Hager- discussed the issues of the revised Professional Qualifications Directive 2005/36 and the new Action Plan for Health professionals respectively, and former Chair of the Platform for Better Oral Health in Europe, Professor Ken Eaton updated the panel on the recent activities of the Platform.

Dr Kavadella’s presentation included two sections: in the first section, she presented a general overview of ADEE (aims, membership, activities, annual meetings and SIGs, European policy-making) and in the second section she presented the series of activities and contributions ADEE performed within the framework of the revision of the Professional Qualifications Directive 2005/36/EC, recently replaced by the new Directive 2013/55/EU. Dr Kavadella invited

FEDCAR to participate to the future update of the Annex V.3, point 5.3.1- “Study program for dental practitioners”. The joint ADEE-CED relative document, including a list of learning outcomes/competences to replace the current list of subjects, was presented to the panel. Immediately after the end of the presentation, the participants voted and decided to participate in the consultation process; they will present their views and feedback after discussing with their relevant authorities.



Cédric Grolleau (FEDCAR), Argyro Kavadella (ADEE) and Ken Eaton (PBOHE)

(continued from page 2)

the very successfully event ‘Recognition of professional qualifications and the portability of skills, what role for Higher Education Institutions?’.

CabinetDN delivered a strong and co-ordinated event, with a well targeted list of invitees from the Parliament, Commission, Council, Scientific Organisations, Professional Associations, and other key stakeholders. The recent event in Brussels



Copy of the invitation to the recent ADEE event in Brussels

provided an opportunity for the incoming ADEE Executive to also meet CabinetDN staff and the ADEE account manager and Partner Timme Dossing.

The Executive looks forward to continuing to grow our EU profile with the assistance and

expertise of CabinetDN.



Interiors of the CabinetDN offices in the European Quarter in Brussels

ADEE PARTICIPATES IN THE ACCF MEETING



A meeting of the Pan-European Chapter of The Alliance for a Cavity-Free Future was held in Paris on 12 November 2014 and ADEE's President Prof. Damien Walmsley participated in it.

Prof. Walmsley delivered a speech, presenting ADEE's aims and achievements and outlining the common interests between the two organisations. The ACFF was joined by experts from King's College London's Dental Institute and a World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre at a meeting to address the inequalities of tooth decay across Europe.

“Changing our dietary habits to reduce sugar intake is essential in preventing tooth decay and improving general health” – this is the message from the Alliance for a Cavity-Free Future (ACFF) Pan-European Chapter in order to

address the significant public health issue of tooth decay across European states. The ACFF added that dental practitioners should work closely with individuals to help reduce their dietary sugar intake to help combat the problem, which would have additional benefits on their general health.



Participants attending the ACCF meeting in Paris

Update on Platform for Better Oral Health in Europe

ADEE continues to promote oral health at European level through our active participation in the Platform for Better Oral Health in Europe. The Platform met to discuss achievements thus far in 2015 and plans for the second half of the year in Brussels on 29th June. The main topics on the agenda were:

Meeting with the Health Commissioner – the Platform had a meeting scheduled with the EU Commissioner for Health, Vytenis Andriukaitis on 14th July. Members discussed different topics to be raised during the meeting, including oral health education and healthcare workforce planning.



Dr Gorter and delegates attending a recent Platform Meeting

- At the meeting with the Health Commissioner, the Platform presented its concept to establish an EU Joint Action on Oral Health in 2016. This idea has been presented to various Members of the European Parliament, the World Health Organization and other EU officials in recent weeks.

Collection of best practices - the Platform will shortly share a template in order to gather best practices in oral health promotion and prevention from across Europe. These will then be compiled in a toolkit and shared at the Platform's Second European Oral Health Summit in the European Parliament in October 2015.

- The goals of this exercise are to foster understanding of importance of oral health promotion and prevention amongst policymakers in the EU; to demonstrate the cost effectiveness of prevention; to raise awareness and disseminate good practices across Europe; and to increase the Platform's focus on providing concrete solutions to the unmet needs in access to quality dental care, and ultimately seeking to improve general health and overall quality of life.

Save the date:

The Platform's Second European Oral Health Summit will take place on the 13th October in Brussels, Belgium. You will shortly receive a personalised invitation. The Platform will also launch a new website in the coming months – please continue to check out www.oralhealthplatform.eu for updates.

