



Report of the ERO WG “Relations between dental practitioners and universities”

Running project: “Interprofessional education (IPE) and collaborative practice”.

30.10. 2020

Our group has continued to work despite the restrictive measures of travel and meetings. Initially distributed questionnaire was not so well returned. So we resent the questions to the DA-s of the ERO member countries once more, and now instead of 11 countries we have received information about understanding the IPE from 25 countries including Latvia and Lithuania as non-members.

WG will proceed with data analyses. I shall hereby present only some preliminary information to the board about the data collected by the team. IPE topic has been discussed in half of these corresponding countries on dental association to university or government levels. 96% of the respondents are of the opinion that implementing interprofessional education would increase awareness of other graduates in medicine about oral health as well as awareness of dental graduates about general health, also enhance holistic view of patient, develop patient centered approach in health care and promote teamwork. At the same time majority of respondents are sceptical about economical benefits. By their estimation introduction of IPE in dental curriculum will not decrease costs of education. Lack of financial resources, interest of stakeholders and manpower could be potential barriers to implement IPE in most of the countries. Therefore we have to analyze the evidence based pros and cons to draw attention of all possible stakeholders to this potential innovative approach in education of dental professionals. This will be our task for the coming months. To succeed I expect input from as many of the WG members as possible.

On behalf of the working group

Professor Mare Saag
Chair of the WG