

ERO – POTSDAM – April 2013

Working Group QUALITY

Roland L'HERRON

When we took over this working group in Yerevan, we aimed not to impose a standard of quality, or even suggest recipes, but to instigate a "quality approach" by an exchange of methods, initiatives and experiences, leaving to each country to progress at their own pace according to different criteria, including economic.

At first, we wanted to make an inventory of mandatory and voluntary measures in the different countries of the ERO, going in the direction of improving the quality of care, particularly in the field of training, initial and continuing, since there is no improvement or progress without lifelong training.

Thus, the Working Group prepared a questionnaire which was discussed and finalized at a meeting in Paris in 2011 and was then sent to 28 countries. We received only 12 replies despite our reminders, out of which 10 from EU member countries. This is a low turnout but the results are interesting and they will be presented at our general assembly in Potsdam.

The second phase would consist of exchanges of incentives implemented in favor of improving the quality of care and their environment, on the initiative of the countries, the profession, scientific societies, etc ... as well as of the developed methods to achieve this. The role of the working group would then consist in collecting the different experiences from each country and to inform every other interested member of those experiences. But are Member countries really willing to move to this stage? This is the question that the General Assembly will be asked in order to confirm this working group, to abandon this project ... or to consider another form.