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Report of the European Board of Psychiatry

ROTATION IN TRAINING FOR PSYCHIATRY WITHIN THE EU COUNTRIES

Results of a Survey

The European Board of Psychiatry of the UEMS acknowledges the fact that rotation in training for psychiatric specialisation in different institutions constitutes an important factor in the acquisition of specialised medical knowledge. The acquisition of knowledge from different sources facilitates the learning of different approaches, treatment-strategies and problem solving, subsequently ensuring a balanced effect of training.

A survey on this topic conducted by questionnaire which was submitted to the UEMS representatives of the Member States (13 replies received) yielded the following results:

- μ Rotation to different training institutions in psychiatric training is practised in 8 member states, in 5 of them mandatory.
- μ All rotation-practising Member States have an organised overall rotation scheme. The schemes are organised by different institutions or the trainees themselves.
- μ In 5 out of 8 cases the cost of moving/housing is covered by the trainees, in 3 instances by official funds of differing origin.
- μ Rotation does not depend on exchange with a professional partner, but may be impeded by bureaucratic factors and lack of training-places.
- μ Duration of training in one institution ranges from a minimum of 1, 3 or 6 months (3 cases) to a maximum of 18, 24, 36 (2 cases), 42 months.

Evidently the majority of UEMS Member States consider rotation in (medical) psychiatric training an issue of some importance. There are regional differences as to the implementation and execution of the different training programmes. Also organisational and structural impediments are observed.

It should be noted that the above mentioned practices and difficulties presently occur within the individual Member States. With the free exchange of professionals being one of their goals, the EU should be made to cope with local and supranational impediments.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The European Board of Psychiatry of the UEMS therefore recommends the Member States of the EU should create new, or harmonise present, procedures for the rotation in training of medical doctors, especially concerning training for specialisation in psychiatry. Rotation within different sections of an institution and similarly in different institutions should be facilitated. It is recommended that the organisation of rotational schemes and questions of their funding should be attended to. This recommendations is not only concerned with national practices but also applies to supranational, EU-wide strategies relating to this matter.

ROTATION IN TRAINING – SURVEY SUMMARY

13 answers

Is rotation to different training institutions in psychiatric training practised in your country? (cross YES)	_____	8
If YES:		
	mandatory _____	5
	with rotational scheme _____	2
	optional _____	3
If YES:		
Does your country have an overall rotational scheme organised by: (cross YES)		
	an official institution _____	1
	a professional authority _____	1
	a local hospital _____	4
	a trainee personally _____	2
Does rotation lead to financial losses (other than moving) for trainee? (cross YES)	_____	2
Are costs of moving/housing covered by trainee? (cross YES)	_____	5
Is rotation financially supported by: (cross YES)		
	official funds _____	0
	professional authority _____	1
	local hospital _____	3
Is rotation dependent on exchange of professional partner? (cross YES)	_____	0
Is rotation obstructed by? (cross YES)		
	bureaucratic impediments _____	2
	lack of training places _____	2
	lack of trainers _____	1
	lack of housing _____	0
	lack of trainees' initiative _____	2
Minimum training duration in one institution	6 (3x), 3, 1	months
Maximum training duration in one institution	42, 36 (2x), 24, 18	months

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