

Risskov, 2.3.2020.

Report to NFGP on “Nordic committee on GP specialist training” – progress since April 2019.

The composition of the committee is now:

*Katrina Tibballs, NYGP
Elinborg Bardardottir, Iceland
Hans Høvik, Norway
Christina Vestlund, Sweden
Arja Helin-Salmivaara, Finland
Roar Maagaard, Denmark (chair).*

We had a very fruitful meeting during The Nordic Congress of General Practice in Aalborg in June 2019 – and afterwards we have tried to do the further work via e-mail communication. I think the organisational conclusion for this work-method is that it is difficult to keep the communication running with optimal speed – but as we are all busy people I think it is a condition, that we have to tackle as good as possible.

We will continue our work in this way – and already look forward to our next physical meeting during the 2021 Congress in Stavanger, Norway!

In Aalborg the committee ran a well visited workshop on the different GP training programs in the 5 Nordic countries: Many similarities – but also many differences – were noted and discussed. We ended up discussing an optimal model for GP training – no consensus could be reached. There were many interesting arguments – and especially the young doctors’ arguments stood out very clear – it is for them it really gives meaning that we can deliver excellent GP training. My personal observation was also, that we all “love our babies” – so it seems that we all are rather satisfied with our national schemes...

First step in our work was to create an overview of the different 5 training schemes. This overview was presented at the latest NFGP meeting – and was the background for our workshop in Aalborg.

Next, we decided to look more into the different assessment methods used in as well hospital setting as in GP setting when it comes to GP training. A recent EURACT course on assessment was also fuelling input to our work, as there was participation in this course in Lisbon from our committee. In some Nordic countries it is very structured, compulsory and well described – and in other countries it is more an overall assessment of the trainee. In many European countries a GP specialist exam exists – in the Nordic region such exams are not widely used – and when used it is more as an “add-on”.

There is an educational phrase “Assessment drives learning” – and it is well established that assessment is important – and it is fair to say that we in the committee has not finished our exploratory work in this area – and I would hope we could reach consensus for some recommendations – and this should be possible to the Stavanger meeting and congress.

Attached you will find our preliminary work on assessment.

We have also worked somewhat on the educational politics – and inspired by the NFGP chair we have produced a proposal for a NFGP statement on GP training and education. We hope the NFGP will embrace (or modify) our proposal during the upcoming meeting in Copenhagen – see attached proposal.

NB! Elinborg Bardardottir suggests that the recommendation of minimum 6 months GP training in “turnus” should be changed to 4 months – but I hope we will be able to discuss this in Copenhagen where both Elinborg and I will be present.

The committee tries to follow European trends on GP education closely – for example during the yearly AMEE conferences (this year Glasgow) and the biannual EURACT Educational conferences (next September in Budapest).

Bw,

Roar Maagaard.