EQF Level 6 Benchmarking Document Evaluation & Update

9th Annual General Meeting

Malta

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Background

- EQF Level 6 Benchmarking document published in early 2014.
- Hoped that document could serve as a benchmark and a point of reference for use by societies, educational institutions, employers, and other relevant bodies throughout Europe.
- Some evidence from members on how the document was being used in their countries.

EFRS implemented a formal evaluation process

Team: Audrey Patterson, Tiina Kukkes, Jonathan McNulty

The survey aims were established as:

- To determine the **value** placed on the document by Member Societies and Affiliate Member Institutions.
- To establish the document's **usefulness** to Member Societies and Affiliate Member Institutions.

Process

- The final surveys were distributed to all Member Societies (n=38) and all Affiliate Member Institutions (n=52) at the beginning of May 2016.
- The survey closed to responses on 31st May 2016.

Value of the document in Europe

The survey of **Member Societies** found that the document

- *had improved understanding of the role of the radiographer in Europe;*
- *had helped to establish that the knowledge, skills and competence of radiographers should be at level 6 of the European Qualifications Framework;*
- *had helped to establish use of the single title 'Radiographer' at the European level; and*
- *was valued by radiographer professional organisations across Europe.*

Value of the document in Europe

- Member Societies also agreed that the document was valued by educational institutions across Europe, by European level professional organisations in the field of radiation medicine and physics, and by radiography regulatory organisations across Europe although there was some disagreement from this view.

- Views were mixed as to whether the document was valued by individual radiographers working in Europe, and by employers of radiographers.

Value of the document in Europe

The survey of **Affiliate Member Institutions** found that the document:

- *had helped to establish that the knowledge, skills and competence of radiographers should be at level 6 of the European Qualifications Framework (Bachelor level);*
- *is valued by educational institutions across Europe; and*
- *is valued by radiographer professional organisations across Europe.*

Language of the document

- Both Member Societies and Affiliate Member Institutions felt strongly that the document should be made available in other languages besides English, with most wanting it to be available in their own language or in all official European/EFRS languages.

Perceptions of Benefits associated with the document

Benefits at the European level, these included:

- Harmonisation, standardisation and uniformity of radiographer education and practice across Europe;
- Benchmarking of the education of radiographers; and
- Increased knowledge of the profession in Europe.

Benefits at the national level:

- Education;
- Increased knowledge and understanding of the profession;
- The European status of the document.

Perceptions of Barriers associated with the document

The majority of Member Societies (n=10) stated that they did not know of any, or that there were none at the European level. The remaining 9 Member Societies identified the following barriers:

- Differences in the levels of education across Europe;
- Problems associated with the document being in English;
- Legislation differences amongst European countries;
- Differing scopes of practice and professional boundaries across countries;
- Lack of knowledge of the document by practising radiographers; and
- Inappropriateness of the professional title ‘radiographer’ (particularly to therapeutic and nuclear medicine practitioners)

Additional comments provided by Member Societies

Discipline	Final Comments of Member Societies
Diagnostic Radiography (n=7)	• There should be more modality specific KSCs • Some competences are too detailed
Radiotherapy (n=6)	• There needs to be KSCs in CT and MR imaging • Some competences are too detailed
Nuclear Medicine (n=5)	• Some competences are too detailed
Key: KSC = Knowledge, Skills and Competences; CT = Computed Tomography; MR = Magnetic Resonance	

Separately……

Detailed feedback from Expert Committees

- NM and RT Committee input received
- MI Committee input coming soon

Next steps…

- Evaluation information and expert committee input to incorporated into 2nd Edition by extended working group.
- Draft available for feedback before Summer.
- 2nd Edition for approval at 2017 AGM.

Working for Radiographers and Student Radiographers across Europe

Thank You

Acknowledgements:
Members EW EFRS

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European Federation of Radiographer Societies

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