

PHAR-QA

by PHARMINE

Quality Assurance in European Pharmacy Education and Training.

The Newsletter

June, 2013



Lifelong
Learning
Programme

PHAR-QA Quality Assurance in European Pharmacy Education and Training.

The PHAR-QA newsletter

June, 2013

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Quality Assurance in European Pharmacy Education and Training: the PHAR-QA project

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A message from the PHAR-QA administrator

Bart ROMBAUT, Brussels



Trained as a pharmacist Bart Rombaut has a long-lasting worldwide reputation in pharmaceutical scientific research and in research and development of numerous projects in pharmacy education and training.

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Lifelong Learning Programme

PHAR-QA Quality Assurance in European Pharmacy Education and Training.

PHAR-QA – by PHARMINE

The PHAR-QA (*Quality assurance in pharmacy education and training in Europe*) is funded by the European Union ERASMUS Lifelong Learning Programme.

The PHAR-QA project focuses on the competences and quality assurance (QA) in the education and training of European pharmacists extending the study initiated by PHARMINE.

(Pharmacy Education in Europe).

A second round of PHARMINE funding from the European Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)

The PHAR-QA (*Quality assurance in pharmacy education and training in Europe*) is funded by the EU ERASMUS Lifelong Learning Programme. The PHAR-QA project will focus on competences and quality assurance in the education and training of European pharmacists extending the study initiated by PHARMINE (*Pharmacy Education in Europe*).

The adoption of a European QA system in pharmacy education is necessary to face up to the specific challenge of ensuring that the formation produces a qualified professional who is capable of working efficiently in a profession within a regulatory framework independently of the institution in which you study. In addition, competences should be redefined according with the current trends such as:

- University re-organization and movement towards the European Higher Education Area with emphasis on the Bologna principles and – amongst others – considerations of the bachelor/master organization of courses;
- The economics and organization of healthcare systems with community and hospital pharmacists playing an increasingly important role in European healthcare systems that are becoming more and more streamlined;
- Advances in the pharmaceutical – biotechnology industry with a move from small molecule medicines to therapy of biomedical origin produced by SMEs.

The bottom line to all of the above is patient safety. This is the primordial preoccupation of the pharmacist be it in everyday practice in community or hospital pharmacies, or in an industrial setting ensuring the research, development and production of efficient and safe medicines. The ultimate stakeholder of the PHAR-QA project is, therefore, the European population.

PHAR-QA is run jointly by a consortium of universities at the forefront of educational research and development in pharmacy. Led by the Pharmacy Faculty of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel and the Pharmacolor Consultants, Nancy in France and the participation of:

- University of Granada, Spain
- National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece
- University of Tartu, Estonia
- University of Helsinki, Finland
- University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
- Jagiellonian University of Cracow, Poland
- Medical and Pharmaceutical University Carol Davila of Bucharest, Romania

PHAR-QA will also work in close collaboration with the European Association of Faculties of Pharmacy and other European organizations, as well as with MEDINE (*Medical Education in Europe*). It has an international advisory board with experts in QA in pharmacy education from the USA, UK, Spain and elsewhere, as well as a representative from TUNING.

The project outcomes will be used by 200 HEIs in Europe; education and healthcare sectors of national governments; EU DGs and the professional organizations of pharmacists. PHAR-QA outcomes will also be disseminated to:

- Students and staff in the faculties;
- EU pharmacists (community, hospital, industrial and others);
- National and European healthcare specialist groups;
- Members of the European pharmaceutical, biotechnological, chemical, agricultural (especially pharmaceutical food science) industries.

Information will also be provided to non-European countries wishing to follow the work of the consortium and possibly to implement the PHARMINE and PHAR-QA paradigms.

The School of Pharmacy, *Vrije Universiteit Brussel* (VUB), Brussels, Belgium

The *Vrije Universiteit Brussel* (VUB) is the offshoot of the French-speaking *Université Libre de Bruxelles* (ULB) that was founded in 1834 by a Brussels lawyer with Flemish origins, **Pierre-Théodore Verhaegen**. He wished to establish a university that would be independent from the state and the church, and where academic freedom would reign.



With the 28th May 1970 act, the *Vrije Universiteit Brussel* and the *Université Libre de Bruxelles* officially became two separate legal, administrative and scientific entities.



The VUB has two separate campuses, one in Etterbeek, located close to the centre of Brussels, and the other in Jette. Life sciences (medicine, pharmacy, dentistry, and the biomedical and paramedical sciences) courses are given in Jette. The School of Pharmacy is part of the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy in Jette and has a long tradition of excellence in research. The four main research topics are *in vitro* toxicology, analytical chemistry and data analysis, neuropharmacology and neuro-virology.



For the past fifteen years, the School of Pharmacy VUB has also invested in education and research on education. VUB collaborates with other institutions in the forefront of pharmacy education such as Utrecht, Groningen and Paris. The School works closely together with The European Association of Faculties of Pharmacy (EAFP). The Dean of the School of Pharmacy – Bart Rombaut is presently president of EAFP.

The projects on innovation in education were initially funded by the university; later grants were obtained from the government under the “Program for Innovation of Higher Education and Policy Making Research Projects”.



Recently projects have been submitted together with other European partners to the Erasmus program of the European Commission (Lifelong learning, DG Education and Culture)

In 2008, the PHARMINE “Pharmacy Education in Europe” project was funded. In 2012 the project PHAR-QA “Quality Assurance in European Pharmacy Education and Training” was funded.

The PHAR-QA kick-off meeting was held in Brussels on the 30/10/2012.

In addition to the partners (page 3) and advisory board, various stakeholders were present.

The programme centred on the introduction to the work programmes. There were also contributions from P. Ryan, NUI, Galway, a member of the advisory board of PHAR-QA on the Bologna Process and the role of Tuning, and from Natalia Riesgo Figuerola-Ferretti, EACEA, Brussels who discussed several practical matters.

Details are available at:

www.pharmine.org/PHAR-QA/



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