

Abstract EFAS/DGA 2007

Education in Audiology in Europe

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At the foundation of EFAS in 1992/1993 working groups were formed to investigate the requirements to establish an approach to Audiology that would allow people to move around Europe, both as patients and as professionals. This included research and clinical work. Important in research is the funding of projects by the European Union and this subject will be covered in this panel by others. The clinical aspect of European cooperation was investigated by committees of EFAS and reports were presented at the EFAS congresses in Noordwijkerhout, the Netherlands (Verschuure and Schooneveld, 1995) and Prague, Czech Republic (Kießling, 1997). The conclusion was that services were to a great extent similarly available in all countries within delivery systems that were greatly different by personnel with an education differing in background, length and developed skills and competencies. It was therefore decided to develop a curriculum for a general audiologist with possibilities for differentiation and specialization. The curriculum was developed in a meeting of country representatives in Bad Rauschholzhausen, Germany in 1998, discussed at the EFAS congress in Oulu, Finland (1999) and accepted at the congress in Bordeaux, France (2001). It was also largely accepted by the International Society of Audiology in Phoenix, USA in 2004. It seems appropriate after six years to see what the impact of this curriculum has been and how the situation in Europe has changed. This is important in view of attempts in research to develop a general battery of tests that can be used in clinics in all European countries. A questionnaire was sent to the EFAS representatives in all member states. The results will be discussed with focus on the impact of the curriculum on the educational models. The first impression is that the impact has been rather limited in most countries.

