

Dietitians learning more about each other through visiting other dietitians

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Introduction

- As of april 2009, Successor of Elke Naumann, HAN University
- Thanks to EPG
Especially:
 - Karin van Ael
 - Juliana Almeida de Souza
 - Reka Keyges
 - Judith Liddell
 - Anne de Looy



Aims & objectives of EPG

- To encourage networking and to share knowledge, skills and experience amongst educators, dietetic practitioners and students of dietetics of different European countries
- To improve communication between educators and dietetic practitioners
- To develop skills of all teachers (academic and practice) and dietetic students
- To develop quality indicators for practical dietetic education
- To share and disseminate best practice for teaching dietetics in practice
- Completion of data for the description of all areas of dietetic practice, education and training throughout Europe
- To promote evidence based practice

Today's presentation

- **To encourage networking and to share knowledge, skills and experience amongst educators, dietetic practitioners and students of dietetics of different European countries**
- **To improve communication between educators and dietetic practitioners**
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Visits methods - Data collection

- First year: Partners of DIETS (HEIs) were invited by email to participate in a visit about practice placements
- Second and third year: HEIs and practice placement trainers
- Pairs were made of more and less experience
- Visits lasted 3 – 5 days

Participants completed:

- Report of the visit (used for all visits)
- Post visit questionnaires (2007)
- Pre visit questionnaires (2008-2009)
- Data collection over thirty month period

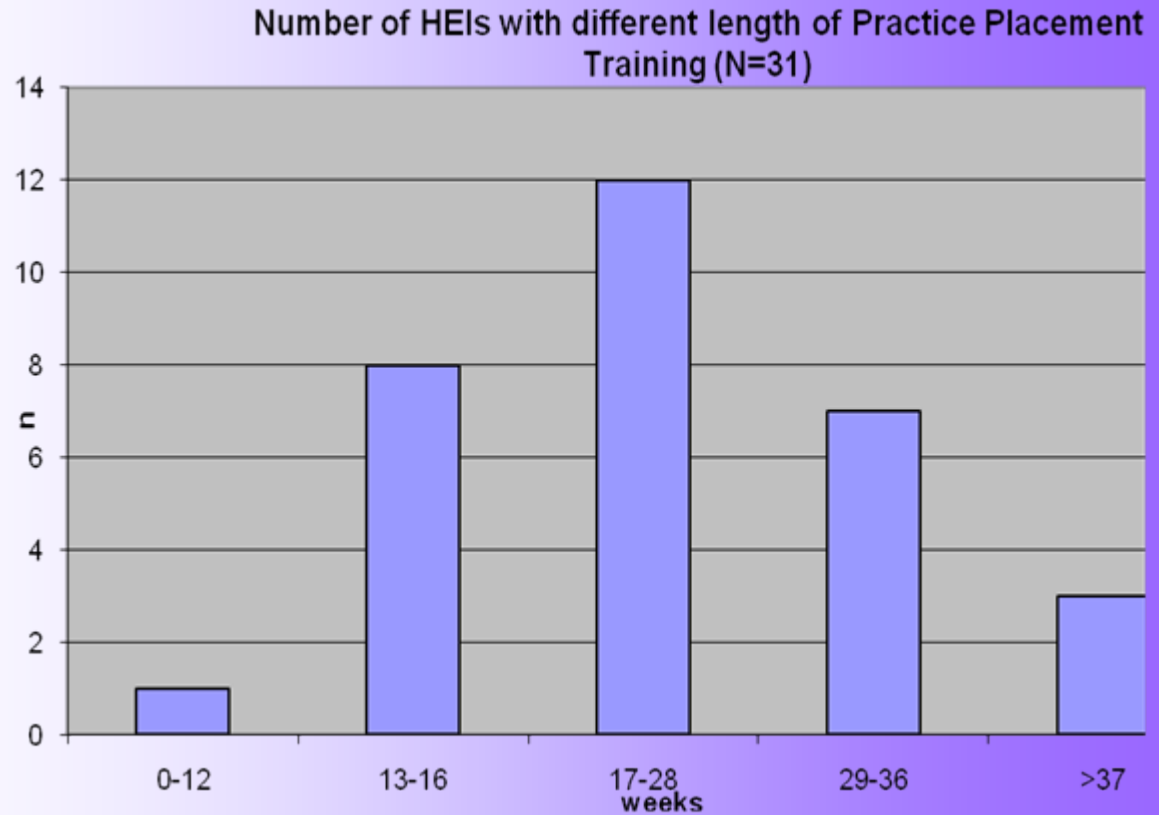
Visits results - Response

- 45 out of 71 HEIs participated
- Response rate of 63%
- HEIs represented 22 different countries

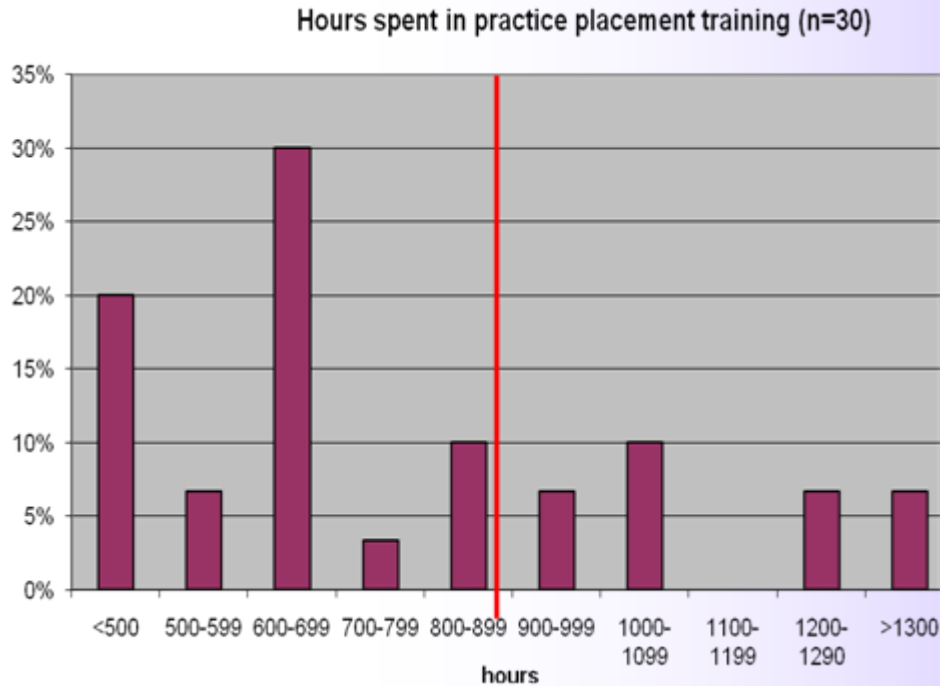
Visits results – Length PPT

Average

- 32 weeks
- weekly 31 hours

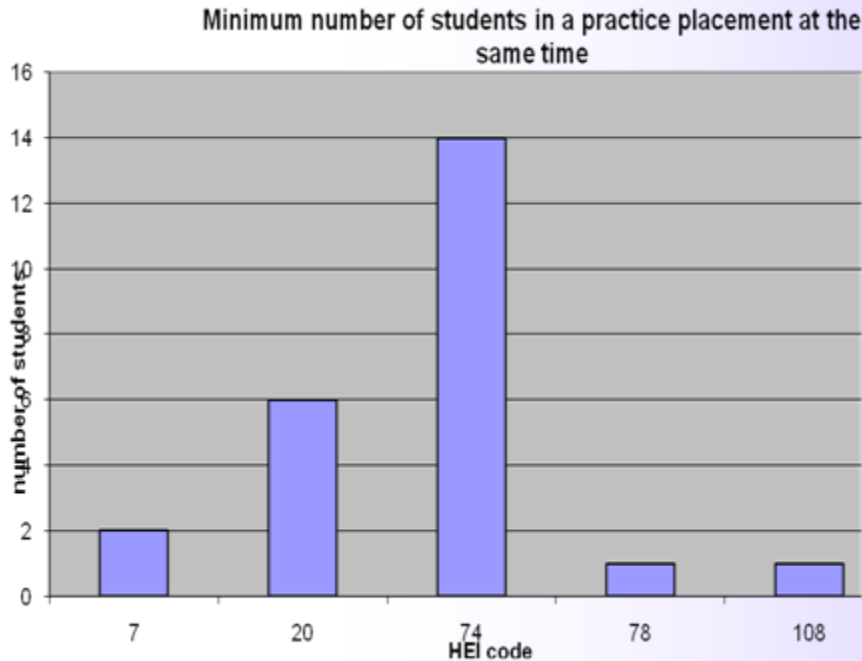


Visits results – Length PPT



- EDBS threshold level of 900 hours
- 30 ECTS credits
- Only one-third of the HEIs provide practice training above this level

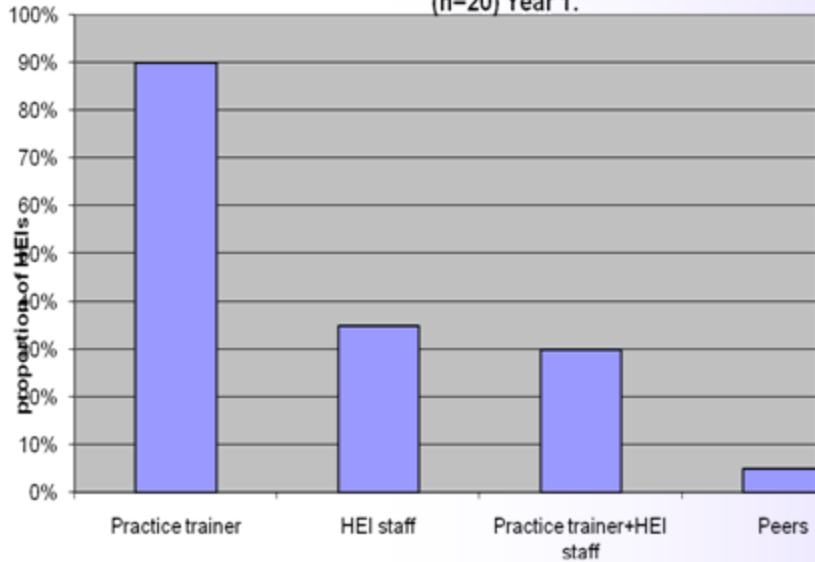
Visits results - # students in PPT



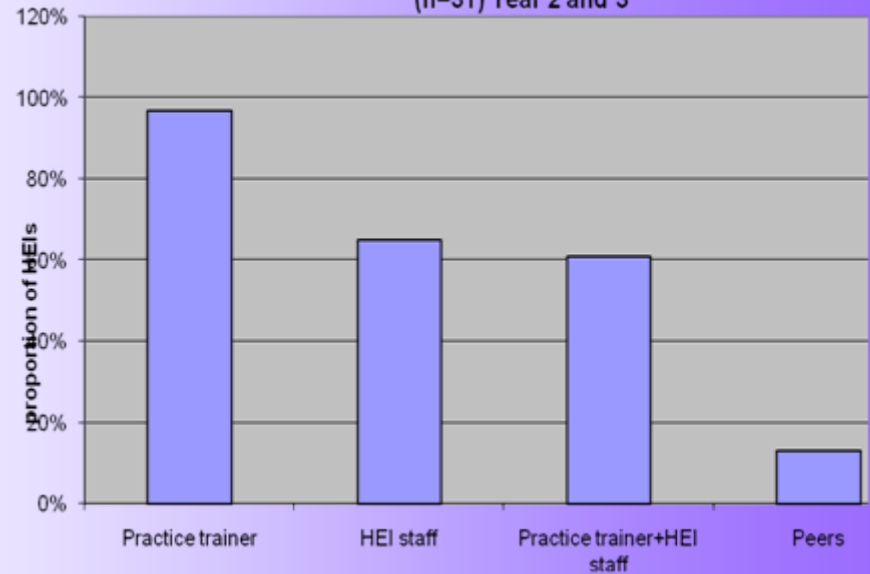
- Minimum number of students is stated in 19% (n=6) of institutions
- Average: 5 students
- Range: 1 to 14

Visits results - Supervision

Who supervises students on practice placement training?
 (n=20) Year 1.



Who supervises students during practice placement training?
 (n=31) Year 2 and 3



Visits results - Training the Trainers

- Half of the HEIs (2008 and 2009) organize training for PPT
- Only in 69% (n=11) of them is this compulsory

Examples:

- Courses (n=4)
- Meetings (n=3)
- Seminars/lectures (n=2)
- Workshop (n=1)

Visits results - Assessment

Method of assessment	Number of HEIs
Exams (oral and/or written)	3
Final clinical exam	1
Performance indicators	1
Assessment tool provided by the HEI	3
Presenting case studies	5
Evaluation of reflective report	3
Preparing an essay and present to other students	1

Visits results – Quality of practice placements

- 42% (n=13) of the HEIs reported having checklist for practice placements

Main point:

- Dietitian in the ward with couple of years of experience

Other important factors:

- Being able to train the required competencies
- The number of dietitians available to train students

Visiting practice placements

- 68% (n=21) of the institutions visit the practice placement
- Usually once in a year

Visits results - Changes

During the period 2007 to 2009 eleven HEIs participated in two visits

A few examples:

- Requirement to have a dietitian in a practice training center involved in student education/training
increased from 5 to 8
- Involvement of practice trainers in the decision about pass or fail
increased from 4 to 8

Visits results - Changes

A few examples:

- Students could fail the placement and pass the academic course (ie qualify as a dietitian but not pass the practical training)
Decreased from 7 to 5
- Decision regarding pass or fail are made with HEI together with the practice teacher
increased from 2 to 6
- Five new Erasmus exchanges!

Visits results - Changes

A few examples:

- HEI staff involved in supervision
increased from 2 to 8
- HEI staff involved in assessment
Increased from 2 to 8
- Five new Erasmus exchanges!

Visits results - Quotes

Wat have you learned?

- *'Accreditation points for practice placement trainer (stimulation for teaching students)' - Portugal*
- *'Split the internship in smaller parts' - The Netherlands, Lithuania, Greece*
- *'Introduction of basics of research into the study programme' - Slovakia*
- *'Combination of theory in class and practice by 'bed-side teaching' - Belgium*

Visits results - Quotes

Wat have you learned?

- *'Devise of training system for practice placement trainers'*- Ireland
- *'Cooking practices for patients having specific dietary requirements'*
- Turkey
- *'More transdisciplinary learning in theory and practice'* – Lithuania, Turkey, Ireland

Virtual visits - Aims

- To inform about use of the visits and possible improvements in education as a result of the visit
- To experiment with different technologies
- To evaluate the use of the technologies dieticians and higher education institutions use for communication
- To trial the development of shared educational resources

Virtual visits - Methods

- Participants in the actual visits were invited by email to take part in a virtual visit
- Virtual visits between visitor and host about one year after the actual visit

Virtual visits - Methods

- 10 HEIs participated in a virtual visit
- In 2009 student session: 8 students of 2 HEIs participated
- Methods of communication:
 - Skype, GoToMeeting, Videoconference, email, phone



Virtual visits - Results

What did virtual visitors learn?

Examples:

- *'The importance to students do PPL in the same period that they have classes'*
- *The Importance for students have PPL in different dietetics areas*

Virtual visits - Results

What did virtual visitors learn?

Examples:

- *'The use of valuable evaluation tools'*
- *All visitors: 'Similarities and differences education programme, an exchange of information'*
- *Students were enthusiastic. They were interested to join other student visits in the future*

Challenges

- Benchmark for length of the practice placement is not being met yet
- There are differences in assessment methods
- Use of new ICT technologies is a challenge
 - Majority not experienced
 - Takes time to get familiar

Things to take home

- Visits help enormously in learning from each other
- Don't waste the ideas that are present in all the EU countries, capture them
- Changing takes a long time, yet we already see them happening
- Use new ICT technologies
 - Headsets
 - DIETS website
- Reports, books, articles are being written

Muito obrigado

Questions?