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EQuiP Summer Schools

Ulrik Bak Kirk(1), Z Klemenc-Ketiš(1,2), A Nguyen Van Nhieu(1,3)

(1) EQuIP (European Society for Quality and Safety in Family Practice)

(2) University of Maribor, Slovenia

(3) Paris Diderot University GP Department, Paris, France

Corresponding author: Mr Ulrik Bak Kirk, EQuIP, EQuIP, Copenhagen S, Denmark. E-mail: equip.we@gmail.com

Background: Summer Schools are a traditional method for teaching research in quality improvement in primary care settings organised by the European Society for Quality and Safety in Family Practice (EQuIP). The initiative started in 2008, as there was an interest in many countries for summer courses in English. The new tradition of summer courses, organised in different countries and on different locations, as to ensure people to have an easy access, started off successfully in Tuusula, Finland in 2009. It continued in Ghent, Belgium in 2011, Berlin, Germany in 2013 and Middelfart, Denmark in 2014. From 2013-2015, the EQuIP Summer Schools have also been conducted in French in partnership between EQuIP, the “Société Française de la Thérapeutique du Généraliste” (SFTG) and the “Fédération Française des Maisons et Pôles de santé” (FFMPS).

Aim: EQuIP wants to support and catalyse the training of researchers, trainees and family physicians/general practitioners by organising international summer courses. Summer Schools aim to bring knowledge about quality improvement (QI), initiate or improve a quality improvement project and share innovative ideas with other participants on QI in primary care.

Method: Summer Schools are organised in a four-day course, including a social program to support networking. The program alternates lectures, small group work, case studies, individual work and workshops. European experts on QI and research are engaged as teachers and participants from different background contribute to rich exchanges.

Results: The participants have to develop and present a personal plan/project of research in QI in primary care and perspectives. The participants have built a solid European network that ensures multiple feedbacks on their own project when needed.

Conclusions: The EQuIP Summer Schools offers a great opportunity to learn about research in QI, to exchange ideas and to get targeted feedback from very experienced researchers in the field.