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Experience of quality improvement projects in primary care: the Equip-inspired French summer schools

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Background and Aims: The European Society for quality and safety in family medicine (Equip) has developed since 2008 Summer schools as a method for teaching research in quality improvement (QI) in primary care to support the training of healthcare providers. The Société Française de la Thérapeutique du Généraliste (SFTG) organizes since three years french-speaking Equip-inspired summerschools on quality improvement where many projects were born from participants with diverse backgrounds (GPs, pharmacists, nurses).

Learning goals:

- 1) Raise the awareness about the Summer courses
- 2) Promote the importance of diverse backgrounds participants in enriching the exchanges
- 3) Understand how summerschools can help in achieving a quality improvement project
- 4) Display breathtaking Quality Improvements Projects (QIP) from the summer schools

Methods: Three 4-days summer schools took place in a charming place near Paris during the summer. The summer schools are held in French language and are not restricted to GPs. Experts on quality are invited for interactive plenary sessions and to facilitate workshops « à la carte » in small groups. Workshops on individual QIP are gathered per topic to allow exchanges and sharing ideas including self working time.

The french participants are financially supported by the national organism for continuing medical education.

Results: From 2013 to 2015, there were approximately 16 participants per summer school (total of 49 participants: with mostly GPs or GP trainees and nurses, pharmacists, healthcare managers), 7 European Quality experts invited. Participants were from Belgium, Switzerland and France. A total of 24 QIP dealt with: patient safety, therapeutical education and chronic diseases, set up of a healthcare centre, social inequities reduction, etc.

Conclusion: The SFTG summer schools are a relevant work-catalysing QI tool in primary care.