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Using comparative experiences of Turkish and Irish general practice as a basis for designing the model consultation: a workshop

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Background: in October 2015, while attending the WONCA Istanbul conference, an Irish GP spent a day visiting Turkish general practice. Subsequently, the Turkish GP paid a visit to Ireland and spent 24 hours visiting Irish general practice. These visits provided for contextual identification of and discussion about similarities and differences between general practice in Turkey and Ireland.

Aim: The aim of this workshop is to identify strengths and weaknesses of general practice in different countries, and in doing so, arrive at a generic model that draws on the very best aspects of a range of primary health care systems.

Methods: During a brief introduction, the workshop leads will compare their personal experiences of Turkish and Irish general practice, as well as highlighting positives and negatives of each. After dividing into groups, facilitators will engage participants in discussion about their own primary care systems using the framework of a SWOT analysis; namely strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. By focusing on maximising the identified opportunities and strengths and minimising the identified weaknesses and threats, each group will be tasked with designing a generic high quality model of primary health care.

Results: At the end of the workshop, each group will present and discuss the generic model they have designed. These findings will subsequently be summarised to arrive at a single generic model for primary health care. The group outcomes and overall findings will then be written up for publication.

Conclusions: in addition to designing a high quality generic model for primary care, this workshop will also encourage participants to critically appraise the positives and negatives of their health care systems, appreciate the potential advantages and disadvantages of alternative systems, and in doing so. develop an understanding of how primary health care systems might be improved.