

Continuing Dental Education in The Netherlands

Why harmonisation in continuing education?

- Europe without boundaries
- Equal quality of care and equal access
- Harmonisation of undergraduate teaching
- Free movement of care professionals
- But without harmonisation of continuing education this will lead to dissimilarity and a wide variety of levels of actual knowledge, skills and delivered care

POLDER



Verb: ‘polderen’ which means
seeking for compromises

‘poldermodel’

Continuing education



- free market
- lot of players
- free fees for courses
- no obligations
- variety of courses
- different quality level
- no interference of government

Chaos!

30 years ago

- Congresses of a few scientific associations
- Few courses mainly by academic teachers
- Crown-bridge and endodontics
- 20% regular customers
- 2 enterprising dentists in luxury course centre

Mid eighties

- Independent organisations supported by grant from Minister of Education
- Responsible for supply of courses, format and pricing
- Universities and dental association established foundation with own office and personnel

Qualities

- Joint marketing with annual course guide
- Quality control
- All players participated
- Number of courses grew
- Participation grew
- Number of teachers grew
- But still no obligations

End eighties: economic depression

- Minister ceased grant
- Too many dentists – lower average income
- Closing schools brought new players
- Office had be maintained by course providers, resulting in dissatisfaction
- Balance became imbalance: it all collapsed

Government policy

- Continuing education is task university but non financed
- Other course providers is positive development
- Participation is responsibility of trade itself
- When things grow out of hand Minister will interfere

polderen

Present



- >8000 dentists
- 5200 participants in quality registered meetings
- 800 in non registered
- 2000 non participants or irregular

Change

Who are the current players

- Registration of participation
- Some quality control
- Credit point system
- Quality register of dentists



Government

Register of Professional Care Providers

- acknowledged diploma or comparable expertise
- being competent qualifies
- minimum number of clinical hours

Dental Associations

Establishment of Quality Register in 2008

- 3000 dentists
- participation in continuing education
- distinction as return on investment
- ultimate goal is union with Government Register
- progressing in small steps

Scientific associations

- In every dental discipline an association resulting in 13 associations
- Together around 4000 members
- Annual or biannual meetings
- Limited number of smaller courses

Dutch Dentist Association

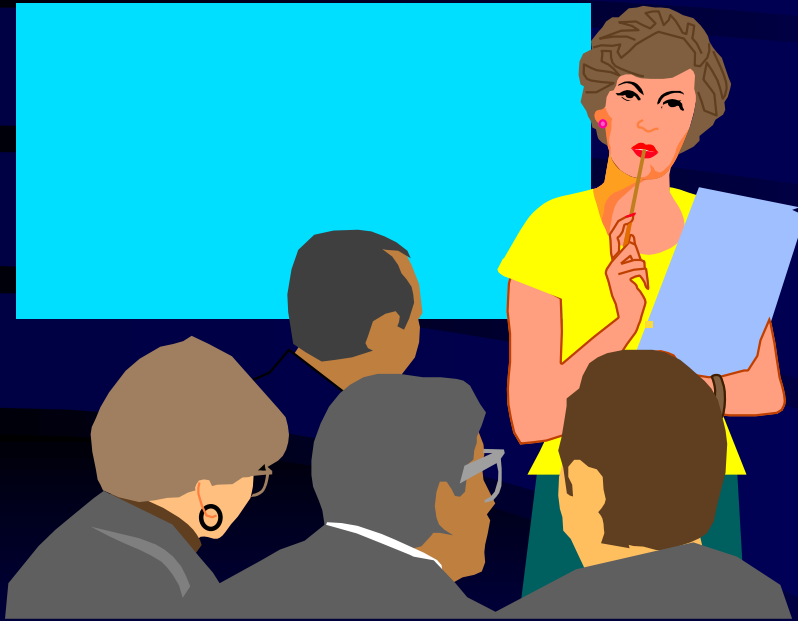
- The oldest and biggest of these 13
- General scope, not ruled by university staff
- Active in pursuing higher quality in dental care, a.o. through quality of CE
 - establishing of Q-Hallmark:
 - requirements and periodically controls
 - dental schools and other big providers
- Foundation of Quad, bearer of hallmark

The Quality Register acknowledges Quad as an independent organisation that provides a hallmark, next to possibly other hallmark providing agencies or organisations.

Quality Register and Quad work together, especially in providing each other with information.

Providers

In 2009:



- 71 providers in total
- universities among biggest
- associations
- foundations
- dental industry
- publishers
- private companies
- 37 providers use Q-Hallmark

ACTA

- Owns a company that is commercial and more or less independent, both in order to operate professionally
- Market leader with market share of 35%
- Short and longterm courses, symposia
- Dentists, hygienists, assistants, technicians
- Total course days per year 174 courses
- Total course participants 3214

Thank you