



Medical Education across Borders: The Croatian Experience

Nada Cikes
University of Zagreb
School of Medicine



Schools of Medicine in Croatia - experience in creating the graduate study program



Schools of Medicine in Croatia: Universities of Zagreb, Rijeka, Split and Osijek





Schools of medicine in Croatia: Interest for change

- To raise the standards of medical education at all levels
- To achieve integration into the international community
- To preserve and maintain specific traditional components in education



Bologna Process and legal framework in managing educational changes

The goal of the Bologna Declaration

- to establish the European area of higher education
and to promote the European system of higher
education world wide

Legal framework in Croatia:

- National Health Care Law, 2003
- The Law on Scientific Activities and Higher Education, 2003



Application of Bologna process in Croatian medical schools

- To formulate ECTS as an indicator of student workload
- To emphasize quality assurance
- To promote mobility within Croatian universities
- To develop life long learning skills
- To define national standards and qualification - competencies framework
- To work on national network/joint degree in doctoral studies
- To enhance European cooperation in doctoral studies
- To influence health care system in Croatia



Bologna process and Qualification framework

Qualification framework in Bologna process:



In each country:

- Produce the framework of comparable and compatible qualifications in the higher education system
- Describe qualifications with respect to:
workload, level, learning outcomes, competences and the profile

In EHEA

- Devise the overarching qualifications framework: learning outcomes should be defined for each academic degree, profile



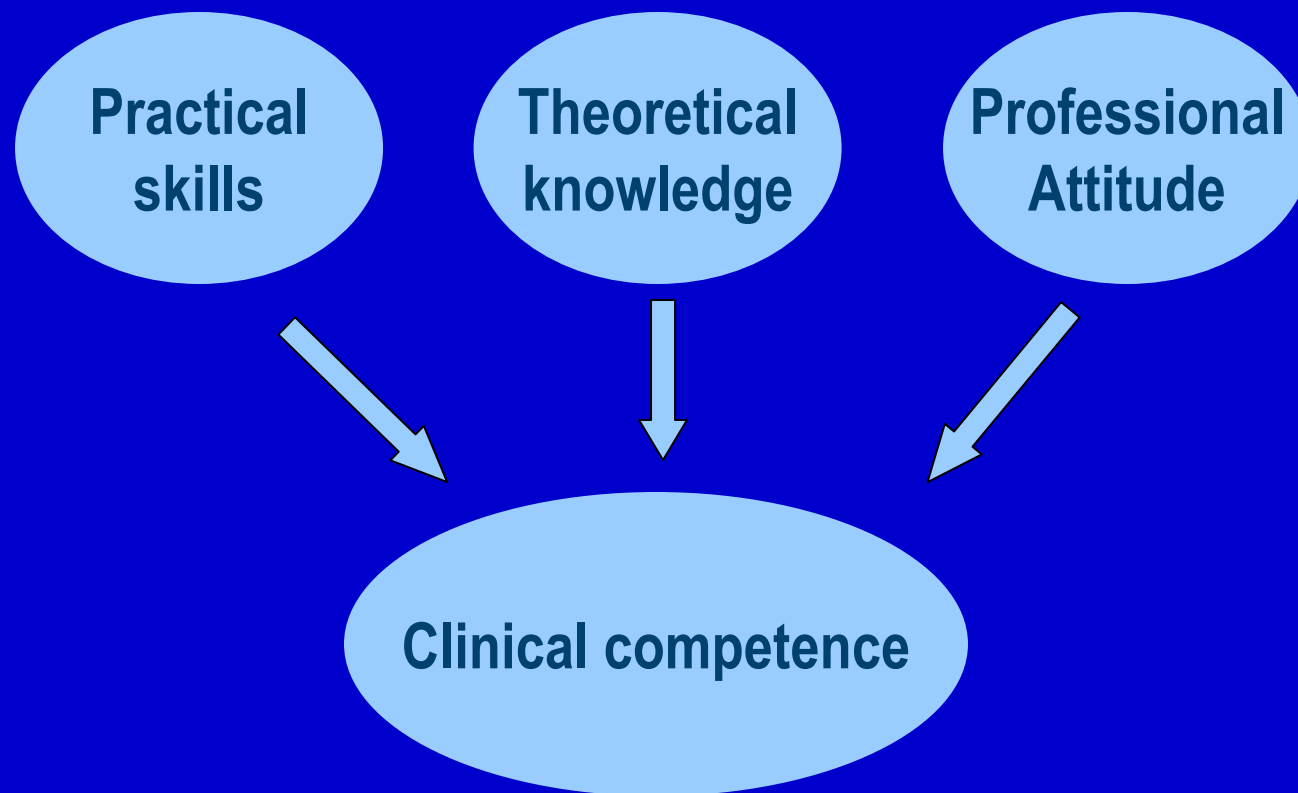
Definition of national standards and national qualification framework

Common core curriculum

Catalogue coordinated by all schools (definition of knowledge, skills and competencies) – competencies of the Croatian MD

Enhanced mobility: elective courses within Croatian universities promote specificities of medical schools

Program objectives





Defining the level of knowledge and skills in

- Medical expertise
- Other physicians' roles:
 - Communicator
 - Collaborator
 - Scholar
 - Educator
 - Manager
 - Professional
 - Health advocate.....



Specificities of quality assurance in Zagreb School of Medicine

- Students' evaluation of teaching and teachers
 - years long experience
- “Art of Medical Education”
 - a week long course obligatory before habilitation



Development of doctoral study program
in Croatia:
national network, joint studies,
enhancement of European cooperation



Zagreb initiative for European harmonization in doctoral studies

First and Second European Conference on Harmonization of PhD Programs in Biomedicine and Health Sciences

School of Medicine, Zagreb 2004 and 2005

Participants from 33 universities and institutions, from 21 countries



UNIVERSITY OF ZAGREB
MEDICAL SCHOOL
*PhD Programme:
Biomedicine and Health Sciences*



EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON
HARMONISATION OF PhD PROGRAMMES
IN MEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCES
*University of Zagreb – Medical School
Zagreb, Croatia, April 24 - 25, 2004*

The Declaration of the European Conference on Harmonisation of PhD Programmes in Medicine and Health Sciences

**Convened in Zagreb on April 24 – 25, 2004
(hereafter referred to as the «Zagreb Declaration»)**



Prospect of doctoral studies

Croatia:

- Network of doctoral studies in biomedicine and health (medical faculties at 4 universities; Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Faculty of Dental Medicine, Faculty of Sciences, Faculty of Biochemistry and Pharmacy, University of Zagreb)
- Doctoral study in English (Zagreb)

Europe:

Joint doctoral studies (Slovenia)

ORPHEUS – presidency in Zagreb



Lifelong learning In medicine: CME/CPD



Croatian experience

Well-organized tradition in:

- Continuing medical education/professional development
- Collaboration between academia and profession
- “mobility” in CME/CPD
- established independent credit system



Training of medical specialists in Croatia



Role of academia and profession in specialist education program

Agreement on collaboration in development of specialty education program between:

- all four medical schools
- Croatian Medical Association
- Croatian Medical Chamber
- Croatian Academy for Medical Sciences



Definition of specialties in Croatia

- Definition of present specialty/subspecialty status in Croatia – tradition
- Harmonisation with EU recommendations and regulations (EU directive 36/05, UEMS recommendations)
- Proposals for:
 - new specialties
 - new common trunks
 - reforming old specialties



Regulations for specialists education in Croatia

- Program of specialist education defining competences for each specialty
- Requirements for training institution
- Requirements for mentor
- Requirements for trainee and logbook



Program of specialist education defining competences

- Duration of training
- Definition of common trunk (where appropriate)
 - duration
 - theoretical knowledge
 - skills.....
- Definition of “main” specialty program
 - duration
 - theoretical knowledge
 - skills (+ general skills!).....



Relevant Croatian regulations

Committees should

- suggest changes in National Health Care Law (2003)
- Induce new regulations on:
 - institution visitations
 - accreditations
 - quality assurance
 - planning strategy



Summary

Goal of medical education on all levels

Competence-based education

- focuses on learner performance (learning outcomes)
in reaching specific objectives (goals and objectives of the curriculum)

Number of MDs, graduated from Medical schools and obtained licences in Republic of Croatia



Year	No of graduated	No of first licence
2002	312	316
2003	425	447
2004	421	380
2005	439	425
2006	407	409
2007	482	412



- Educational system in Croatia cares for quality on all levels
- Croatian physicians are prepared for European requirements
- Concern for the competencies of physicians whose education is without quality control



Thank you

