

**A European Consensus on
Infection Control
Professionals' Training**

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and the DG SANCO Funded HELICS
Education Working Party

**Hospital in Europe Link
for Infection Control through
Surveillance**



Educational Sub Project

Objectives:

- To prepare and disseminate an **inventory** of European training in nosocomial infection control
- Establish a European core standard **curriculum** validated by a DG SANCO funded HELICS education working party comprising people in charge of training programmes
- Ascertain Views on an EU Fellowship

Methods

- 18 experts nominated by 13 Countries' HELICS Advisory Board representatives.
- Questionnaires designed and piloted in two or three volunteer countries
- Email was used to exchange questionnaires, data and views. No funding for meetings!
- Lichart qualitative scorings:
(1 to 5: 3 Neutral: >3 = agree: <3 disagree)
- Excel TM was used for data entry in some instances or to analyse responses.

Methods

- Infection control nursing (ICN) and doctor/epidemiologist (ICD) training requirements and courses explored.

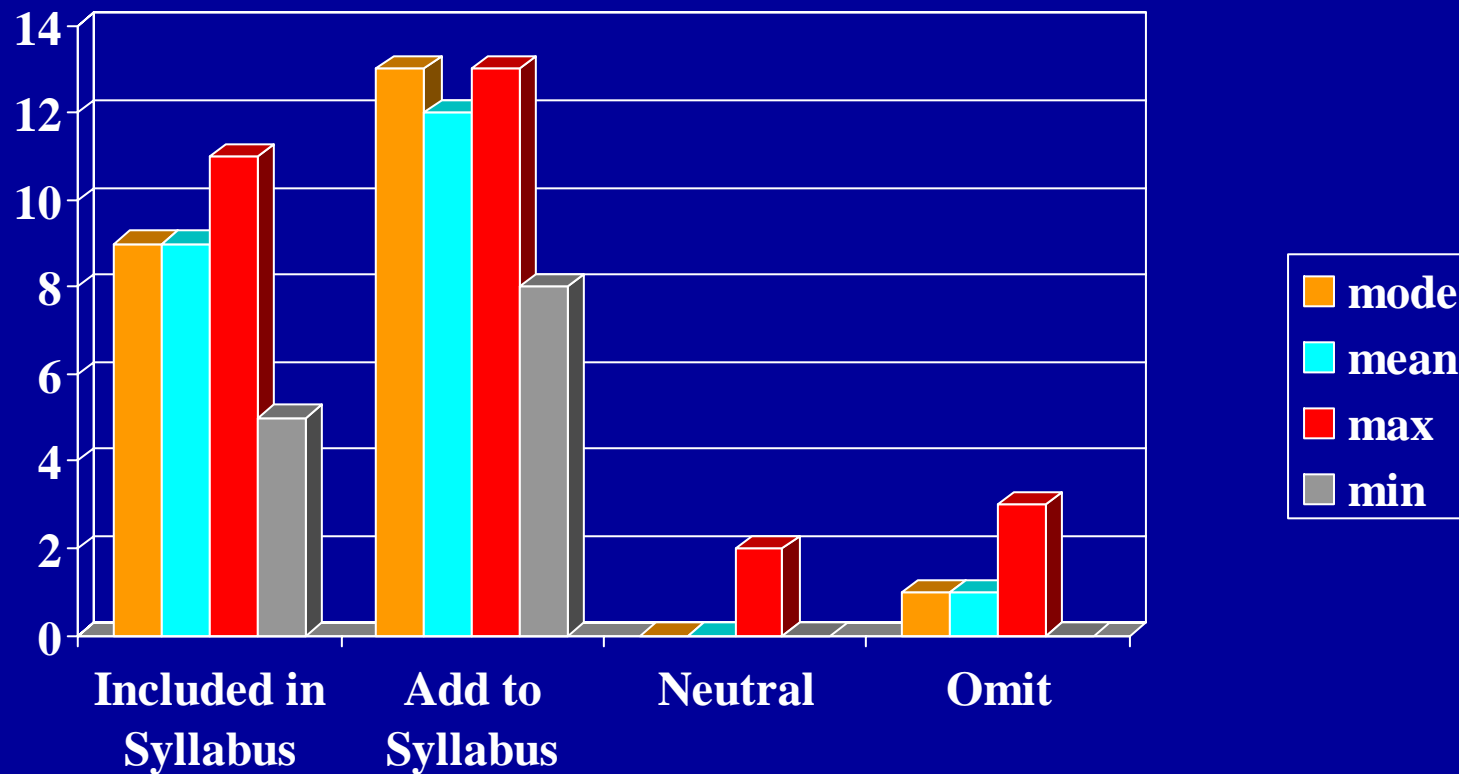
Methods

- Agreed to use a UK syllabus developed by a multi-disciplinary group as a basis for the core curriculum questionnaire design
Cookson et al, *J Hosp Infect* 2001; 48: 146-151)
- Four syllabus templates used to develop audit tools to assess current course content in a “proof of principle.”
Sedgwick J, Cookson B, Diploma of Hospital Infection Course Manual. PHLS and HIS Copyright 2001.

Results

- A good consensus was achieved for the syllabus

13 Countries' Views on 23 Syllabus Topics



Inventory

- Accreditation for infection control nurses and/or doctors established or being considered in all.
- Countries had very different:
 - **Training schemes**
 - **Accreditation requirements**
 - **Time available or expected for lectures and distance, or “own-time,” learning**
(Under-Graduate training also differed)
- Four countries currently had no formal diploma/degree courses
- Available on the www (<http://helics.univ-lyon1.fr/>)

Inventory Example

Qualification	Title	Doctor, Nurse, Other	Comments	Future and funding
Board Qualification	Hospital Hygiene and Environmental Medicine	Doctor	One year clinical training Four years training in hospital	

Note: little opportunity for external funding from other countries:
Exceptions were UK HIS and ESCMID

Methods Of Assessment in 12 EU Countries	Responses	Yes	No	Neutral
		Examinations	9	2
	Interview (viva)	4	3	2
	Reflections	6	2	2
	Examination by multiple choice	4	6	0
	Project	11	1	0
	Outbreak or other problem solving	9	0	1
	Others proposed:			
	Portfolio of evidence of competence	2	0	0
	Period of practices	1	0	0

Competencies and Fellowships

- Core competency initiative was to be considered in the future and **could help rationalise courses**

EU HAI Course

- The consensus syllabus and learning objective templates would be used as a basis for the Fellowship in all options
- An EU committee (this could be a “virtual” inexpensive committee) with representatives from each EU state would also set the standards for assessments of course and project work, reflective portfolios and examination.

- The major stumbling block was identifying sources of funding for possible international activities where “fellows” could travel to other centres for training and reflection.

Fellowship Options

1) Country committees assess applicants for **exchanges** with EU reference and other centres of excellence for **full-time fellowship** training programme agreed by the EU Committee for one or two years.

Score 3.8

2) Country training **complies with a fellowship programme** reviewed by an **EU committee** elected from each member state.

Score 3.7

No Fellowship or EU assessment process

3) Training left to each country to agree based on syllabus and assessment processes. **Score 3.1**

4) Training and assessment would be **left to each country to agree.** **Score 1.7**

Other Options

- **Distance learning packages** would be made available via EU funding that satisfied the EU Committee mentioned above.

Score 3.9

- **Education courses** would be made available via EU funding that satisfied the EU Committee mentioned above.

Score 4.0

If no funding

- There would be the **inventory of courses** and any available **distance learning packages** on the HELICS [www](#) site. **Score 4.3**
- **Interact with any courses** or opportunities for education within the EU e.g. EPIET training days, EU Societies such as HIS, ICNA, IFIC, ECCMID, Surg. Infect. Soc, European Intensive Care Society...
Score 4.3

Prologue

- 2002-04: HELICS IV funded to design and run a “Training the Trainers” module in December 2003
 - WWW site will include lectures and access to educational tools
- 2004-06: IPSE (Improving Patient Safety in Europe) funded and will extend Consensus for an EU Training Programme

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