

**European Healthcare Students' Associations Summit  
"Interprofessional Education: A way to transform tomorrow's  
healthcare!"**

**Press Release**

**Brussels, Belgium - 14th June 2018**

On 7th of June 2018, the European Healthcare Students' Associations Summit (EHSAS) organised a policy event called "Interprofessional Education: A way to transform tomorrow's healthcare!". It was hosted by MEP Lieve Wierinck (Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe), at the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium.



The moderator of the event was Dorothea Dalig (Vice President of European Affairs, EPSA), and we were fortunate enough to have a panel of distinguished guest speakers from diverse healthcare backgrounds in the event. The panel included Andrzej Rys (Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety, DG SANTE, European Commission), Lilian Azzopardi (European Association for Faculties of Pharmacy - EAFP), Janusz Janczukowicz (Association for Medical Education in Europe - AMEE), Didier Jourdan (Global Health and Education UNESCO Chair), Telmo Baptista (European Federation of Psychologists' Associations - EFPA) and Kaisa Immonen (European Patients Forum - EPF). During the event, they identified key issues and presented best practices of interprofessional collaboration and stressed the importance of adopting a multidisciplinary approach within healthcare. Alexis Delpierre (Dental School, University Clermont Auvergne, France) shared a good example of interprofessional education from his university, where students undertake a 'sanitation' program for a few months following graduation. This was followed by an active and fruitful discussion on how to implement interprofessional education in various health professions' curricula and professional practices.

It is often stated that healthcare professionals do not know how to collaborate, which makes joint education incredibly important, so that it can be taught at an early stage in people's careers. The panel agreed that students and patients can make a difference, and that people's initiatives from different backgrounds should come together as they will be more successful in driving change. It is important to advocate interprofessional education and

collaboration to students, professionals and academia to ensure that changes in the curriculum are supported. We believe that students should advocate for this and not be afraid of innovation. Not all professionals and professors will be comfortable with this topic, however it is important to reassure them and explain the benefits and importance. A lot of the time, however, the lack of implementation is not necessarily a problem of resistance from the tutor's side, but as a result of the systems in place at the moment. It is hard to change curricula and job descriptions. Professors support IPE but it takes time to implement it, therefore it is essential that the students and tutors work together in order to achieve it. One question raised, was that of concern that healthcare professionals may lose their identity within the healthcare field if more interprofessional education/collaboration takes place. However, as healthcare professionals we have a duty to our patients, and should not create borders but increase awareness of what each professional can offer, and ensure we delegate and refer where appropriate. The most important aspect is, fundamentally, to develop a patient-centered mentality that is supported by collaboration, trust and respect for each other.

EHSAS consists of the European Dental Students' Association (EDSA), the European Federation of Psychology Students' Associations (EFPSA), the European Medical Students' Association (EMSA), the European Pharmaceutical Students' Association (EPSA), and together represents over 675.000 European healthcare students. The idea for the EHSAS came up in 2014 with the main objective of bringing together healthcare students from across Europe to work collectively on improving the quality of education that is offered to students. A survey-based policy paper was drafted and adopted by all EHSAS member associations and it was concluded that healthcare students all across Europe strongly agree that IPE is an essential part of their curricula. It would help them become a future part of a multidisciplinary care team, that is centred around and inclusive of the patient. Together with the scientific evidence that proves the need and importance of IPE for healthcare students, this paper calls for action of educational institutions across Europe to implement IPE as a key component of the curricula and to stimulate IPC already from the beginning of undergraduate studies, so that students in all healthcare professions graduate with an open and collaborative mind, to work as part of patient-centred and multidisciplinary teams.



About the EHSAS parties:



#### European Dental Students' Association

[edsaweb.org](http://edsaweb.org) / [@edsaweb](https://twitter.com/edsaweb)

The European Dental Students' Association (EDSA) is a non-profit, non-political organization representing more than 65,000 dental students across the WHO European Region. EDSA was founded in November 1988 in Paris and aims to unite, support and represent students acting as their regional association. We aim to create a platform for the formulation & exchange of students' thoughts, proposals & innovations and to advance research, dental education, teaching methods and philosophy. We strive to give students a voice in the national and international forum, to create a globally connected student community and to develop and promote international contacts.

#### European Federation of Psychology Students Associations

[efpsa.org](http://efpsa.org) / [@efpsa](https://twitter.com/efpsa)

The European Federation of Psychology Students' Associations (EFPSA) was established in 1987 as a nonprofit, student-run Federation, at the first International Congress of Psychology Students in Portugal. EFPSA represents a highly diverse network of psychology students working on a voluntary basis by and for psychology students of Europe. The Federation currently consists of 33 Psychology Member Organisations and one Observer Organisation, which are each represented by a Member Representative. EFPSA attracts more students every year, with the number of its members continually increasing across Europe. The Federation is run by seven Board of Management members and an Executive Board of over 50 individ

#### European Medical Students' Association

[emsa-europe.eu](http://emsa-europe.eu) / [@emsa\\_europe](https://twitter.com/emsa_europe)

The European Medical Students Association (EMSA) is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation representing medical students across Europe. EMSA was founded 1990 and represents more 150.000 medical students from over 90 European faculties. EMSA is forum for high-level advocacy, projects, trainings, workshops and international meetings. Its activities gather around the five pillars medical education, Medical Ethics and Human Rights, Medical Science , Public Health and European Integration and Culture. Our mission is to promote the highest standards in quality of healthcare in Europe, foster a strong sense of European Identity and to facilitate intercultural understanding. EMSA is the students member of the European Medical Organisations and an associated-member of the Standing Committee of European Doctors.

#### European Pharmaceutical Students' Association

[epsa-online.org](http://epsa-online.org) / [@EPSA\\_Online](https://twitter.com/EPSA_Online)

The European Pharmaceutical Students' Association (EPSA) is the umbrella association representing 160 000 pharmaceutical students within 45 member associations from 37 countries across Europe. EPSA is actively engaged on both student and professional levels, bringing pharmacy, knowledge and students together while encouraging personal development of its members. EPSA facilitates discussions between member associations, by being a platform for sharing knowledge and best practices. EPSA also acts as the voice of the pharmaceutical students in Europe and advocates for their interests. By organising events on a European level, EPSA ensures knowledge transfer as well as social and cultural exchange.

