



Dietitians ensuring education, teaching and professional quality (DIETS2)

Mid-point Report 2010- 2012

Project information

Project acronym: DIETS2

Project title: **Dietitians ensuring education, teaching and professional quality**

Project number: **177201-LLP-1-2010-1-UK-ERASMUS-ENWA**

Sub-programme or KA:

Project website: www.thematicnetworkdietetics.eu

Reporting period: From 1/10/2010
To 31/3/2012

Report version: first

Date of preparation: February 2012

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This project has been funded with support from the European Commission.

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Welcome and Summary

It gives me very great pleasure on behalf of the Network Management Group to write at the beginning of this Interim Report for the DIETS2 Network. The Network has once again proved to be a very fruitful opportunity for partners across Europe to work together to promote excellence in the education of dietitians. The DIETS2 Thematic Network is now a partnership of 101 European National Dietetic Associations, Higher Education Institutes and Non-governmental Organisations, private enterprises and 6 Associates, two of whom are internationally based. We have grown!

The DIETS2 Network aims to make a difference to dietitians' preparedness to meet challenges of improving nutritional health in Europe through education. Higher Education Institutes that teach new students and practicing professionals in Europe engage within the Network to improve educational standards and prepare for Lifelong Learning. To do this our partners and practising dietitians engage proactively with the Network, whose own activities present a model for how this can be facilitated and achieved. A major partner in the DIETS2 Network is the European Federation of the Associations of Dietitians (EFAD) and it is estimated that in partnership over 30,000 dietitians and over 60,000 student dietitians can access information and engage in activities of the Network.

Over the past 18 months the Network has held 2 conferences, one of which saw 70 student dietitians attend, and published 3 Newsletters about its activities. A consultation on second cycle and third cycle competences for dietitians working in Europe has been undertaken and after further testing will eventually come together with a Lifelong Learning Strategy for European Dietitians. The use of Information and Communication Technology is a major theme of the Network and surveys have been undertaken to assess barriers to its use. A Facebook page has been established and populated together with interactive information on our Website to encourage more widespread use of ICT. An e-journal for student research has established its Editorial Board; an e-course on methods used for enquiry-based learning has been devised and will shortly be piloted. By making use of ICT at every level the Network is setting itself as a model for the future education and interactivity of dietitians in Europe.

Such is the interest in the activities of the DIETS2 Network that a symposium specifically on the Network will be held at the International Dietetic Congress in Sydney later this year, (expected attendance 2000+). The Network is seen as a model for other countries at international level in terms of its vision, coordination, achievements and attention to quality.

We hope that you enjoy reading through this report which provides a summary of all our activity (please look at the website for more details). Over the next 18 months we will hope to achieve, with your support, the rest of our objectives. Thank you for all your work and activity on behalf of the Network and European dietetics



Anne de Looy and the Network Management Group

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1. Project Objectives (See Section C of the bid pg 256)

The aim of the second DIETS Thematic Network (DIETS2) is to promote excellence in the education of dietitians across Europe at undergraduate and post-qualifying level. Dietetic education is a partnership between the dietetic profession and academia and the Network reflects and builds on this partnership across its 101 partners in 31 countries, plus its associated partners internationally. The partnership also includes non-governmental agencies and as such represents a key cohesive resource of dietetics and nutrition in Europe. Dietitians have a fundamental role to play in promoting nutritional health through the life cycle in sickness or health and increasingly in preventative nutrition. To enhance the impact of the European dietitian, maintain their competence in the rapidly evolving areas of nutritional science, social and demographic change in Europe and to meet future challenges, dietitians need increasingly to embrace the full power of information communication technology (ICT) and their own lifelong learning. DIETS2 is therefore promoting the use of ICT not only as a communication tool but also to demonstrate its potential as both an education and professional development tool. To this end DIETS2 has three major objectives:

- To promote, encourage and support dietitians to use, exploit and create new ways of communication and learning between themselves, the people they serve and dietitians who are innovative users of ICT
- To define the competences required for post-qualification dietitians and provide support and encouragement for dietitians to engage in Lifelong Learning once qualified
- To emphasise the centrality of work place (placement) learning, the need for evidence based practice and to produce guidance for effective learning.

Any Network engaged in the objectives of providing new opportunities and promotion of new concepts can only be effective if it maintains engagement of key stakeholders. To this end the DIETS2 Network engages in a number of strategies through its working groups, its website and Facebook pages, its conferences, publications and Key Contacts to open and extend its reach. The Key Contacts in each partner institution provides a direct dissemination and exploitation link and foster a culture of sharing and engagement. Further they become a direct beacon for dietitians in their own country.

The ultimate target group must be the individuals in Europe who will enjoy a better quality of life through improved nutrition and food choice/provision. This noble ambition however must start with a highly informed and proactive group of experts in the field of nutrition and dietetics. Therefore our primary target group must be the future and current dietetic workforce. By increasing educational standards and providing them with the tools, know-how and encouragement a multiplier effect is already and will be increasingly seen. Engaging the expertise of the DIETS2 Network partners and through innovative use of ICT (eg Facebook) HEIs will enable dietetic students to learn about enquiry based learning, Lifelong Learning (LLL) and how to reach new enterprise environments to support better nutrition. A multiplier effect may not be realised directly in future target groups during the lifetime of the DIETS2 Network but through the close affiliation of the Network with the European Federation of the Associations of Dietitians (EFAD), and its established networks in Europe, this can be a long term sustained goal. For example through EFAD's membership of the EU Platform on Nutrition, Physical Activity and Health (DG SANCO) the commitment by EFAD to share information about DIETS2 Network reaches all the members of the Platform including policy makers (eg WHO Europe), the food industry and Non-governmental Organisations.

The DIETS2 Network therefore is working towards a sustainable partnership of higher education, professional dietetic associations and NGOs who will work together to ensure that the dietetic workforce now and into the future is able to provide a healthful nutrition service. Further that the dietitians will engage demonstrably in LLL to extend their competence, be ICT literate dietitians fully informed through enquiry lead learning. In this way dietitians can respond to the needs of a changing Europe.

2. Project Approach

The Network has recently expanded to 101 EU partners of whom a third are professional associations and two thirds Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) representing 31 countries in Europe. The Network also has six associate partners, two of whom are international partners, including the International Confederation of Dietetic Associations. The particular expertise of each partner was used to initially populate the five DEV work packages (**WP**). As the project has progressed there has been some movement between work packages which has allowed individuals and their institutions to be engaged in areas that will benefit them as well as DIETS2.

Coordination of the project rests with the work package leads, the project coordinator and the project manager. Together they form the Network Management Group, encouraging upward and downward dialogue and engagement. A particular feature of the approach is the combination of clear quality guidance and continued focus on the needs of the stakeholders to guide the outputs of the project. A Management Strategy together with Quality Assurance Guidance maintains the active coherence and function of the Network. A Users Group is established and the Quality Assurance **WP7** not only actively seeks the views of the stakeholders but also produces regular reports on achievement of project milestones which are used by the Management team and also feedback to the work packages. Dialogue among the partners, our primary target group, is actively promoted as they teach and engage with over 50% of the dietitians in Europe. DIETS2 does this primarily through regular targeted briefings of Key Contacts but also through;

- Regular newsletters
- Conferences
- Website/Facebook
- Questionnaires

The project website is a key communication and management tool. The Extranet promotes the work of DIETS2 to visitors and over the past year recorded visits from 12500 people from in 149 countries. The Intranet is open to all partners and has over 1200 subscribers. All WPs post information about their meetings and ongoing work but also partners can find other postings of products and outcomes from DIETS2 and also DIETS, for example Re-useable Learning Objects (RLOs). A combination of 'products', postings and discussion for management information is a deliberate policy to encourage users to find elements of the project with which they can engage. Posting information is easily accomplished and open to all users. Notifications of all new posts are sent to all subscribers on a weekly basis. A particular feature is that all subscribers have access to Go-to-Meeting (GTM) a VOIP facility which enable easy and reliable virtual meetings to take place, with the added advantage of simultaneous document viewing by all participants.

A Network with the size and reach of DIETS2 requires accessible and coherent communication channels and the GTM option allows all work packages to have frequent virtual meetings which encourages networking and cohesion (as well as enhanced language skills). Section 3 will provide details of the outcomes of the project arranged by each work package. The approaches adopted by the work packages are a reflection of the overall approach to the project of the Network which can be summarised as;

- Coordination through partnership
- Development through engagement
- And quality through awareness.

Regular meetings of partners through coordinated working groups build trust and cohesion. Some partners chose to send more than one representative to the meetings to build partnerships. This is also reflected in countries where Key Contacts come together to share and work more effectively in partnership.

To gather information members of the Network or those attending conference or visiting the website are asked for information and their opinions and views. The project teams have learned to use electronic/online surveys to gather information. These surveys have been staggered and this ensures meaningful engagement of our partners and others. The Network values its respondents, actively encourages their engagement, develops its own learning and distributes outcomes so that feedback is provided.

The outcomes of a Network need to be seen to be of value to the stakeholders. This is an inherent principle of a quality service or product. The Network seeks on a regular basis to be informed and to inform our partners and stakeholders of our activities. Through requesting feedback from users of our products and by being aware of their views and the impact of the Network adjustments to working practices, outputs and approaches can be made to ensure, as far as possible, a quality approach to the project.

3. Project Outcomes & Results

This section reports on the achievements of the working groups in the Network in the context of their objectives.

Work based and placement learning (WP 1)

Over this period of reporting the objectives were:

- a) To map current diversity of practice placement/work based learning opportunities and supporting infrastructure (eg guidelines, teacher preparation) used by dietetic higher education
- b) To analyse practice placement/work based learning data

And more specifically;

Map current diversity of practice placement/work based learning opportunities and supporting infrastructure (eg guidelines, teacher preparation) used by dietetic higher education (Del 1.2)

To map the placements for dietitians in Europe (Del 1.2), a questionnaire was developed. This tool comprised 29 questions and was divided into 3 sections, namely an administrative section for identification of the respondent; a second section to identify the type of placement and lastly a section to check and access the presence and quality of supporting documents for the placements.

HEIs in all DIETS partner countries and, if not represented national associations, were asked to complete the online survey within six weeks. A response rate of 58% (39 out of 67) was achieved.

Make a database of courses/modules which will be used or developed to support a high quality learning experience (Del 1.4)

To develop the database (Del 1.4), we focussed on the content since supporting documents for placements had already been collected via the survey. Currently, a proposal for a user-friendly frame has been made and is being discussed within the work package.

Second and third cycle specific dietetic competences (WP2)

Over this period of reporting the objectives were:

- a) To map working patterns of dietitians in key areas of dietetic practice, throughout Europe in order to identify Life Long Learning requirements and associated competences
- b) Using Tuning methodology to develop specific second and third cycle competences for dietitians

And more specifically;

Lifelong learning needs analysis of dietitians (Del 2.2)

To map the Lifelong learning needs for dietitians in Europe (Del 2.2), a questionnaire on *Second and third cycle specific dietetic competences* was developed. In addition to the eight members of WP2 a number of dietetic professionals were involved in developing the questionnaire. The questionnaire included 20 questions divided into four sections; 1) background factors such as age, gender, and education, 2) work experience and further education after graduation, 3) what competences they expect from a specialist working as an advanced practitioner within a dietetic field, and 4) how they viewed their own level of

practice. The questions in the first part were answered by 80-100% and the remaining parts by about 35-45%.

The questionnaire was sent out to all partners in DIETS and all national dietetic associations in EFAD who in turn forwarded it to their members (maximum reach being about 30 000 individual members). A total of 2030 dietitians from 35 countries completed the questionnaire.

Consultation 2nd and 3rd cycle specific competence (Del 2.4)

The results from the questionnaire are being analysed and the LLL needs analysis will be produced and published as a report. A consultation phase for 2nd and 3rd level competences with professional associations will be made using a modified Delphi technique. HEIs, students and service users (eg doctors/nurses) will also be included in the consultation. A final analysis of the consultation will result in proposed 2nd and 3rd level competences, with a proposed strategy for LLL, to be submitted to the EFAD delegates at the EFAD General Meeting for agreement and acceptance as policy for dietitians working in Europe. The policy will be widely distributed to governments and a paper will also be delivered at the DIETS/EFAD conference.

Life Long Learning for Dietitians in Europe (WP3)

Over this period of reporting the objectives were:

a) Describe, analyse and compare the courses, modules and programmes available in Europe for dietitians (and other nutrition experts) make recommendations regarding omissions and development

And more specifically:

Database of courses for LLL in Europe (Del 3.2)

WP3 has developed a questionnaire about LLL of Dietitians in Europe. As LLL is not just a matter for the HEIs the aim is to collect information about all opportunities for LLL. The questionnaire will investigate if LLL is mandatory in each country and if there are any consequences for dietitians if they do not undertake further education. Questions concerning units of learning (use of ECTS), payment, and benefits of LLL for the individual dietitian, models of controlling and models of documentation will also be requested. The questionnaire will be sent to all members of DIETS and its partners in March 2012. To obtain as much information as possible any data missing from the survey results will be supplemented by web-based research. Omissions will be identified and institutions encouraged correcting and improving their submissions, for example with regards to access or ECTS.

Dietitians' engagement with ICT to improve learning (WP4)

Over this period of reporting the objectives were:

- a) To describe, analyse and identify barriers/innovations to use of ICT in higher education and the profession in Europe
- b) To undertake a scoping exercise of innovative use of ICT by international dietetic partners

And more specifically;

Using Social Networking sites (Del 4.2)

WP4 started a DIETS-Facebook Page at the end of June 2011. 125 unique visitors had clicked the "Like-button" on the Diets page by 17th October 2011. The following week this number doubled, a remarkable event which was attributable to the introduction of the Facebook page to delegates attending the DIETS Conference in Barcelona. In addition, the

adding of new posts lead frequently to new “Likers’, clearly showing the impact of keeping items on the Diets page up-to-date.

281 unique visitors clicked the “Like-button” on the Diets page by the end of January 2012, mostly originating from Portugal (90), Greece (24), Austria (24), UK (19), Spain (16) and Belgium (16). The proportion of this total that was female was 85%, where only 12% of them were male (3% unknown). When considering the number of persons reached (as defined by Facebook as the number of persons that viewed content about the Diets page), this proportion changed to 1/3 male and 2/3 female.

From the end of June 2011 until the end of January 2012, the most popular section on the Diets page was the notice board, with 2014 views. This was respectively followed by the photos section (78), information section (76) and events (64). Most of the visitors that were externally redirected came from the Diets website www.thematicnetworkdietetics.eu (91), or through Google redirection (15).

394 unique visitors viewed content that was linked to the Diets page in one week during the month of January 2012.

In 2012 WP4 will develop a guide on use of innovative ICT-tools in the education of future dietitians and in the LLL of dietitians in practice.

Innovative use of ICT (Del 4.3) and survey on barriers to innovative use of ICT (Del 4.4)

WP4 designed an on-line questionnaire to survey the use of ICT in the education of dietitians. The aim was to identify innovative educational/instructional use of ICT, to identify the successes (examples) of innovative use of ICT, to identify the barriers and to identify the strategies behind the successes on how to overcome the barriers. The examples of good practice will be included in the deliverables for 2012. HEI’s were the target group, they were asked about all ICT-use within the dietetics course programme of the institution. The results of the survey have been written in a scientific report.

Teaching enquiry based learning (WP5)

Over this period of reporting the objectives were:

- a) to describe and analyse methods used by Partners to teach enquiry/systematic investigation and research methods to students at first, second and third cycle
- b) make recommendations about tools for teaching and sharing of research methodologies
- c) to encourage sharing of research and research expertise in the student dietetic profession through the website, conferences and pilot of an e-journal

And more specifically;

Database of materials used to teach enquiry (Del 5.2)

A pilot was carried out in June 2011 to collect partner’s feedback. Based on this feedback the structure for the database was agreed and a call for materials used to teach enquiry-based learning and research methods was put out through a webinar and discussion board/alerts to DIETS2 partners and others. The collection of materials will be catalogued and a database posted. A paper/report describing and analysing the methods used by Partners to teach enquiry/systematic investigation and research methods to students at first, second and third cycle will be produced and distributed/published.

The newly developed database (*DIETS database*) will be available to all DIETS2 partners.

Establish editorial panel for e-journal (Del 5.4)

An editorial board with 9 members from 6 Higher Education Institutes in Austria, Greece, Spain and UK, has been established to review abstracts for publication. Abstracts will be accepted from students, not from teaching staff.

Pilot e-course on teaching enquiry (Del 5.5)

A first draft of an e-course has been prepared and will be piloted in the coming months on the topics of the database, which will be referred to in this e-course. In addition, more information on research topics will be provided. The information will mainly be found on the internet and YouTube will be used frequently to build this e-course.

Additionally two other activities have contributed to the objectives of this WP. A report about current teaching of research in HEI across Europe based on a questionnaire that has been sent out to partners in 2011.

And, at the 6th DIETS conference in Barcelona four workshops were held to support the research methodologies required by dietitians to support an evidence based approach to practice. These workshops (the presentation and feedback data is posted on the DIETS2 website) were attended by both students and qualified dietitians. Reports were also given in plenary session on the results of the methods used by partners to teach enquiry based learning which made a significant contribution to the theme of the conference 'Building a strong evidence-based approach to nutrition and dietetics'.

Network Management Group (NMGT)**Over this period of reporting the objectives were:**

- a) to develop a robust system for monitoring the progress of each of the work packages.
- b) establish a risk management process and monitor performance indicators
- c) to receive a quarterly budget review to ascertain that accounts are being timeously and accurately kept and are being used effectively
- d) to report regularly to EACEA, the Coordinating Institution, all partners and other stakeholders
- e) to receive and act upon quality assurance reports

and more specifically;

A management strategy for DIETS2 Network (Del 6.1)

The Management Strategy was drawn together by the Network Management Group (NMG). It focussed primarily on the working of the Work packages and their relationship to the achievement of the Network deliverables. The EACEA Handbook was seen to complete the Strategy as it provided more specific day-to-day information about financial management and reporting process and so forth. A Risk Management Strategy and a Publications Policy were also developed. The Management strategy, the EACEA Handbook and the Quality Assurance Process (WP7) were seen to complete the Management process for the Network.

Management and quality report #1 (Del 6.2)

The first management and quality report highlighted some of the difficulties that the Network had experienced during the first months of its work. Two work packages experienced difficulties when their Leads took leave from their institutions due to personal circumstances. This meant that deliverables were delayed. Other delays were also sanctioned by the MNG when it was anticipated that more fruitful responses could be obtained by extending deadlines (WP2). The NMG therefore took strategic decisions and acted to achieve the most beneficial outcomes for the project. The quality Reports were very valuable for informing decisions and the Work package was commended for its thoroughness and quality reports.

DIETS2 Annual Report 2010-11 (Del 6.3)

The Report was delayed to make a more profitable report to our Partners and Stakeholders by waiting to include the information that would be gathered for the Progress Report. The Progress Report (Public Part) will be sent to all Partners and Stakeholders together with information about the Reports from the Work package.

Progress Report to EACEA and Partners (Del 6.4)

This report will be dispatched as required.

Assuring Project Quality (QPLN)**Over this period of reporting the objectives were:**

- a) To define the quality expectations of our partners and undertake audits of the quality of the deliverables to check that they are meeting the needs of the users, partners and beneficiaries of the Thematic Network
- b) To produce a quality methodology establishing quality criteria, defining quality standards and establish quality tools
- c) To identify and then establish quality assurance activities
- d) To make quality reports transparent and responsive

And more specifically;

Establishing DIETS2 quality assurance process (Del 7.1)

The QA work package developed and published 3 documents to enable quality of the network to be monitored:

1. Quality Assurance monitoring system (published 12/10)
2. Quality assurance reporting guidelines (published 3/11)
3. Activity log template (published 11/11)

Quality Assurance Methods used by DIETS2 (Del 7.2) and First quality review report (Del 7.3)

Templates were developed to collect information about the quality plans of each work package and the progress each work package was making on meeting deliverables. Using these templates the work package leads regularly reported on progress and quality. The data from these reports was collated into 5 reports:

1. Quality plans drawn up by each WP (published 3/11)
2. 2 Monitoring reports published (published 8/11 & 11/11)
3. 2 Quality review reports published (published 9/11 & 10/11)

Midpoint DIETS2 Quality Review (Del 7.4)

A draft of this report has already been drawn up but because the deliverable also requires that the Quality Advisory Group be asked to comment on the Progress Report it cannot be finalised until the Progress Report has been completed.

Terms of reference for a Quality Advisory Group (QAG) were written (6/11) and four people were invited to join, including representatives from two other healthcare professions (The International Diabetes Federation and the European Nurse Directors Association) to enhance working together to facilitate greater reach of healthful and reliable nutrition education. The quality review and monitoring reports were sent to the QAG for evaluation and one member responded, confirming that the network was meeting quality guidelines as far as monitoring of deliverables was concerned.

A survey of members of partner organisations was carried out during the EFAD/DIETS conference in November 2011, to elicit their level of satisfaction with the quality of the network and a report published (10/11). In summary, of the 52 conference delegates who

responded 88% reported that the DIETS network was meeting their needs and expectations and 94% thought the network operated in a non-discriminatory and ethical manner. There was a high level of satisfaction with the website. 76% said they could navigate the website easily and 80% had downloaded information from it. 79% claimed they found all DIETS information readable and easy to understand. 77% had read a DIETS newsletter and 55% had recommended or sent the newsletter to someone else. Almost 60% claimed to regularly inform others of the work of DIETS. Over 90% of respondents said they would attend another DIETS conference and would recommend DIETS conferences to students as well as colleagues. 86% said they had informed others about the project and 60% had passed on materials from DIETS2 to someone else, including colleagues and students. 52% claimed that participation in DIETS had resulted in additional benefits such as Erasmus placements, exchanges, international activities, networking, and increased knowledge about the profession of dietetics in other countries and improved English.

Embedding and driving change (EXP)

Over this period of reporting the objectives were:

- a) ensure synergy between project, local & national policy so outcomes are transferred to new policies, commercial products at regional, national & European level
- b) tailor products to make relevant beyond life of the project
- c) use mechanisms to understand target groups, develop flexibility in response to meet any changing need
- d) add value by exploiting results through developing and submitting applications for additional funding/commercialisation
- e) appoint a users advisory group

And more specifically;

Valorisation a quality strategy for DIETS2 & DEV8 (Del 8.1)

The strategy was developed during the first months of the Network and has been used to inform and also instruct the work of WP8. The Strategy has also supported the work of the other WPs as they began to understand the potential for mainstreaming and multiplying the effects that their work could have if managed in this pro-active way.

A Users Advisory Group (UAG) was also appointed, its terms of reference agreed and the members of the UAG invited to the second DIETS2 conference (DIETS V).

Guide to Stakeholders views of deliverables (Del 8.2)

The guide has proven too been very useful document as it clearly states who our stakeholders are likely to be and how they can be approached to ensure a positive and successful outcome. A diagram is also presented for the work packages to consider when putting together their plan for deliverable exploitation.

Focus paper 'Driving change through knowledge' (Del 8.3)

This focus paper has been delayed but is now in draft form. The paper was awaiting the results from the Key Contact survey which has now been completed. The focus paper also required input from the Users Advisory Group and this too has now been obtained. The focus paper therefore now has all the required elements and has been drafted. .

Exploiting diversity of placement; opportunism (Del 8.4)

Due to illness and the need to appoint a new work Package Lead for WP1 the work of this work package has been delayed and subsequently the information required for the 'short' options paper has also been delayed. However all information has now been obtained and the short paper has been drafted and is being looked at prior to circulation to our Stakeholders.

Alerting, Networking and Sharing (DISS)**Over this period of reporting the objectives were:**

- a) To use dissemination tools such as print products, e-zines, websites, targeted mailing lists, conferences, press releases and others to ensure a wide reach of information and engagement
- b) To craft information suiting the end-user/audience to encourage active promotion and publicity to promote a multiplier effect.
- c) To devise tools to monitor the dissemination activities in a structured way, provide feedback, review user needs and make changes as required to ensure effective activity.
- d) To respect the principles of equality, diversity and ethics in dissemination activities

And more specifically:

*Quality plan for creating effective dissemination (Del 9.1)**Newsletters and briefing papers (9.4)*

A quality plan for effective dissemination using the competences of thirteen DIETS2 partner organisations specified in the DIETS2 bid was created by WP9 in the second quarter of year 1 of the project. This plan included the use of a diversity of media to disseminate information from other WPs. The main media used to date (project mid-point) to ensure that DIETS2 partners are actively engaged in and informed about the work of DIETS2 are the website, the two conferences (Amsterdam; December 2010 and Barcelona; October 2011) and the DIETS newsletter (three editions; March 2011; July 2011 and February 2012).

Networking through Key Contacts (Del 9.2)

The key contacts network which was created during DIETS1 has been reactivated for the purposes of dissemination for the DIETS2 project. Commitment to dissemination was demonstrated by registration by 56 key contacts for the key contacts briefing held at the 5th DIETS Conference on the 21st October 2011 and the return of 40 questionnaires providing information on dissemination and exploitation activities undertaken by these key contacts. Key contacts also completed two exercises during the key contacts briefing; firstly, describing what they understood by the DIETS2 project (DIETS consists of dietitians who want to optimise the quality of learning and practicing in the profession by sharing information, documents, experiences, evidence-based practice and networking). Secondly, they outlined the issues relevant to the profession that DIETS2 can help with.

Building a distinctive and useful DIETS2 Website (Del 9.3)

Reports of the distribution and use of the media (metrics) to DEV, EXP, QA and MAN have been provided on request from these work package leads. Stakeholder/end-user/partner and project feedback has been obtained through the exercises completed during the key contacts meeting in Barcelona and from analysis of the questionnaires returned by the key contacts and conference evaluation forms received from 64 attendees. The relationship between WP9 and WP8 works effectively. Membership of the WP9 lead in WP6 facilitates communication to WP9. The relationship with other WPs will develop as outcomes from the WPS are produced as briefing papers which will require dissemination. The relationship between WP9 and WP4 is developing with the introduction of a DIETS2 Facebook page in the third quarter of 2011.

First DIETS2 Conference & workshop (Del 9.5); Second DIETS2 Conference (Del 9.10)

The workshops included in the 4th and 5th DIETS conferences brought together specialist dietitians from across Europe in core areas of dietetic practice e.g. obesity, diabetes mellitus, care of the older person, renal nutrition, public health nutrition and administrative dietetics.

These will form a basis for the development of international standards of dietetic practice in these core areas of practice and are integral to the development of evidence-based practice.

DIETS2 learning episodes and social networks (Del 9.7)

The recent development of a Facebook page (third quarter 2011) should facilitate the engagement of a younger group of dietetic professionals and students of dietetics who are already proficient in the use of social media. Partners have actively used web links and social media for purpose of engagement and dissemination. The outputs to be disseminated will increase as the work packages finalise these over the second half of the project. New methods of dissemination and potential partnership are under review.

4. Partnerships

The DIETS2 partnership began with 95 partners in 31 countries across Europe and 3 Associated Partners (based in Israel, Switzerland and Australia). During 2011 a further 6 partners joined the Network and 3 further Associated Partners (based in Switzerland, Macedonia and Pakistan). The Network now has 62 Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), 31 National Dietetic Associations (NDAs) and 8 other partners as NGOs, Enterprise and Public Bodies. It is estimated that with EFAD as a key networking partner a total of 30,000 dietitians and about 60,000 student dietitians are in partnership with the DIETS2 Network. Networking through Facebook, the website and at our successful conferences shows an increasing confidence and competence.

The practice and education of dietitians varies widely across Europe. In Finland dietitians qualify with a Masters degree while in Germany it is at Diploma (120 ECTS) level. Iceland, Estonia, Malta and Lichtenstein do not have academic programmes that lead to dietetic qualifications while some countries, for example Germany, have over 100 HEIs. The opportunity to share information and learn from each other is therefore greatly enhanced by partnership with DIETS2. While the importance of nutrition for a healthy Europe cannot be denied the ability of dietitians to work at all levels of society and in a diversity of situations from tertiary healthcare to local schools and health promotion is highly differentiated across Europe. Specialist groups of dietitians in Ageing and malnutrition, Administrative dietetics, Diabetes, Obesity, Renal and Public Health came together for the first time as a result of meetings initiated at the DIETS IV and DIETSV conferences. These groups will now be taken over and promoted through EFAD (P2). These key networks have played an important role in setting competence standards at second and third cycle (WP2).

Dietetic Students in Europe came together for the first time (>70 students) at the DIETSV conference and will continue to grow across Europe providing a forum for new dietitians. The Dietetic Student in Europe Group will continue to meet at the conferences. This enthusiastic group have provided materials for the DIETS Facebook pages and will be key to the success of the e-journal (WP5).

Recognition of dietitians within Europe is also varied and the Network is able to provide valuable insights across the whole of Europe to support partners to develop successful strategies for strengthening the expertise and education of dietitians. Higher Education and Dietetic Associations have shown willingness to work together to standardise and enhance the quality of dietetic education. For example through the work of the first DIETS Network the Ministries of Health and of Education in France agreed that French dietitians should be educated to degree level and this will start during the life of DIETS2. The work of partners will lead to a better educated and competent workforce of dietitians across Europe and because of the geographical coverage this workforce will have a better understanding of cultural and linguistic issues through membership of DIETS2. Further the DIETS2 Network has been made into a commitment (Action 282) by EFAD (P2) to the EU Platform for Action on Diet, Physical Activity and Health (DG SANCO) which demonstrates how partnerships can also lead to wider promotion of best practice. The action description is: "DIETS established a network and described first cycle dietetic competences. To contribute to policies and practices that will avert the European health crisis (WHO, 2007) dietitians now also need to make effective use of *lifelong learning*."

The Work Packages draw on member expertise across the Network and are lead by experienced and well qualified academics and dietitians who ensure a quality outcome which is also relevant to needs of the partners and others. A key effect of the strong partnerships is

innovation and formation of new partnerships. The following are examples of some of these developments.

Applications and engagement by partners in new projects

“InGREEDients project- development of ICT tools for dietitians” education (International Healthcare and Health Insurance Institute-Bulgaria) including partners; Plymouth University (P1) and Alicante University (P39) with others. Submitted to EACEA; Leonardo

“DIETALK” Dietetic language and social innovation for active and healthy ageing through nutrition and food” including partners Plymouth University (P1), EFAD (P2), Ulster (P85) and Thessaloniki (P44) to FP7

DEBATE (Dietitians’ energy balance tools for engagement) e-tools with EFAD (P2), EUFIC (P12) and members of VDD (P18), Portuguese Dietetic Association (P67) and National Association of Hungarian Dietitians (P46) funded through Brunel University

New initiatives with European Federation of the Associations of Dietitians (EFAD)

The relationship between DIETS and EFAD was consolidated further over the 18 months of DIETS2. This is significant as EFAD, the Federation representing all dietitians in Europe, will engage in sustaining the work of the Network when DIETS2 comes to the end of its funding period. P2 (EFAD) has received applications for membership from dietetic associations in Latvia, Romania and Czech Republic, who came to know EFAD through DIETS

The close cooperation of DIETS2 with EFAD was further consolidated when EFAD voted in 2011 to merge their Annual General Meeting with future DIETS conferences to enhance collaboration between practising dietitians and the academics that teach and train future dietitians. The DIETS V conference was advertised as EFAD/DIETS.

Additionally the Leads for the Work packages on second cycle competences (WP2) and evidence-based dietetics (WP5) have been invited to lead the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee and the Research Committee of EFAD respectively. This close cooperation ensures the sustainability of the work of DIETS through the professional Federation for European dietitians.

Finally the DIETS2 project will be showcased at the International Congress of Dietetics in Sydney, Australia with EFAD in September 2012. The two Symposia that have been accepted are titled *‘Investing in a Dietetic Network of Excellence to advance dietetics throughout Europe’*. The Network and its achievements are seen as a model of great interest to international dietetics.

5. Plans for the Future

The DIETS2 Network has a busy agenda for its final eighteen months of activity. Underpinning all the work packages and their activities is the need for monitoring of quality by **WP7**. Quality audit reports will continue to be undertaken by each work package and is not reported on individually below as it is applicable to all the work of the Network.

Work package 1: Work based and placement learning

A guide to best practice for student placements will be completed and published (Del 1.5) together with pedagogic standards for dietetic teachers (Del 1.7). A strategy will also be developed to support the diversification of placements that are used in the training and education of students (Del 1.9) and presented to European Federation of the Associations of Dietitians (EFAD) for their adoption of policy. The results of these initiatives will be disseminated widely and their exploitation will be monitored through **WP8**.

Work package 2: Competences (at second and third cycle)

The consultation (Del 2.4) on the European Dietetic Second Cycle and Third Cycle competences will continue and the results evaluated and developed into a Policy on Lifelong Learning together with recommendations on second and third cycle competences (Del 2.5) to the EFAD General Meeting in October 2012. EFAD will then take forward the implementation of the Policy and recommendations. The recommendations will be put onto DVD and disseminated widely **WP9**. This work package finishes its work at this point.

However as a result of the DIETS2 Network a collaborative group of five partner institutions have come together and are actively working on an application to EACEA for 2013 proposing an MSc in European Dietetics.

Work package 3: Lifelong Learning (LLL) for Dietitians in Europe

This work package began its work in October 2011 and during the next eighteen months it will develop a database of courses available in Europe for LLL for dietitians (Del 3.2). This database will be available in several European languages as well as in English and posted on the DIETS2 website. A webinar about ECTS and LLL will be developed (Del 3.3) and a discussion board started for further information exchange. Following a call to the National Associations of Dietitians in Europe for their insights into how LLL can be recorded a draft 'toolkit' will be drawn together representing best practice (Del 3.4). A consultation of the 'toolkit' will be undertaken (Del 3.5) to test its acceptability and usability. Finally a booklet will be produced with the all information pertaining to LLL for dietitians in Europe (Del 3.7). All the information and consultation will be web-based and **WPs 8&9** will be involved in this WP.

Work package 4: Information, communication and technology

The survey to barriers of use of ICT will be completed and a group of experts within DIETS2 will identify where best practice has occurred in overcoming difficulties in introduction and successful use of ICT (Del 4.4). An interactive site on the website will be used to promote introduction of ICT and a guide to e-learning will be developed using e-materials to promote their use in learning (Del 4.5). Using the expert group identified previously others case studies of successful innovation will be identified and made into a report/guide (Del 4.6). Finally using information previously collected from Google analytics and website surveys this WP (with the support of **WP8**) **WP4** will evaluate the impact it has had in supporting the Network to become more innovative in its use of ICT (Del 4.7). The evaluation report will be widely distributed by **WP9**.

Work package 5: Enquiry Learning

The e-courses developed will be piloted and trials will be conducted on an ongoing basis by this work package and its members (Del 5.5). The first 2 or 3 editions of the student e-

journal will be published and its use and acceptability monitored, through a discussion board/questionnaire on the website and Facebook and modified as appropriate (Del 5.7 & 5.8). The use of enquiry-based learning materials, either on the DIETS2 website or elsewhere plus the continued use of the e-learning courses and their future development will be pro-actively sought and a report written for dissemination and publication (Del 5.9). **WP 9 & 8** will be used especially in the delivery of Del 5.9.

However as a result of the discussion following the establishment of the Editorial Board for the student e-journal a recommendation to EFAD will be strongly made that a European Journal for Dietitians is started. The success of the posters presented by dietitians at the conferences indicates that there is a requirement for such a journal in Europe.

MAN (Work package 6): Management

The management of the Network will continue building on best practice. The Management Group will be particularly concerned that the work packages continue to produce their deliverables to a high quality and also on time. While there have been unavoidable delays to some deliverables during the first 18 months, largely due to illness and work pressures, the Network has demonstrated its resilience and determination to achieve its goals. In October 2012 an annual report will be delivered to the partners in the Network (Del 6.5) and a management/quality report (Del 6.6) in April 2013. Of particular interest in this report will be the use of the sub-contracting monies. A final report will be made (Del 6.7) for the Network and delivered to the Agency.

QA (Work package 7): Quality Assurance

The work package will continue its monitoring over the final 18 months. A second quality review will be made (Del 7.5) to indicate progress by the work packages and monitor their deliverables specifically and reported to **WP6**. A feature of this report will be the emphasis on the transversal policies and impact that the work of the Network is having on. The Report will be published on the extranet portion of the website. The Quality Advisory Group (QAG) will be invited to appraise the fitness for purpose of the deliverables and a report made (Del 7.6). A final quality assurance will be made (Del 7.7) and this will be used to inform the final report for WP6. As the quality monitoring systems adopted for DIETS2 is further refined and has, to date, been successful a final report about methodology undertaken and its impact on quality assured working will be made (Del 7.8) and exploited by **WP8** eg posting on EVE. A discussion board will be started and facilitated by **WP9**.

EXP (Work package 8): Exploitation

Due to the late completion of some deliverables it has not been possible to exploit all the materials coming from the Network as previously anticipated. However the focus paper (Del 8.3) and the 'short' options paper (Del 8.4) are now underway and will be published very shortly. The Users Advisory Group (UAG) together with the results of a survey of Key Contacts will enable WP8 to monitor the use and exploitation of the Network activities (Del 8.5). A particular feature will be to identify activities that have lead to new partnerships. Using the results of WP2 the LLL Strategy and Policy will be formed into a 'trigger' paper to be published and act as a discussion point for mainstreaming (Del 8.6). A discussion paper on LLL will be formed and sent to National Dietetic Associations for further dissemination eg to Ministries of Education for multiplier/mainstreaming (Del 8.7). The LLL 'toolkit' will be exploited with the support of WP3; the possibility of marketing the 'toolkit' on an international basis will be explored (Del 8.8). The UAG will be asked to report on information collected about the use of the e-journal and the e-learning course with particular reference to its impact on stimulating research or enquiry based learning in students and in HE generally. The report will be published and sent to a variety of stakeholders to raise awareness of network activities (Del 8.9). Finally the work package will evaluate its own success in exploitation (Del 8.10) and compare this to DIETS (2009) *Report 4: The Dissemination Potential of a European Network (2006-09)* (found at www.efad.org) which reviewed not only dissemination but exploitation of the first DIETS Network.

DIS (Work package 9): Dissemination

Many of the activities of WP9 continue from the first eighteen months of the project. The website (Del 9.3), the Newsletters and briefing papers (Del 9.4), materials produced within the Network (Del 9.8) and conference (Del 9.12) will continue to be organised. The Key Contacts continue to be a prime source of information exchange (Del 9.1). During the next eighteen months a specific debate about the sustainability of the activities of the Network will be started and in particular discussions about work with EFAD and the possibility of applying for further European funding (Del 9.9). Conference proceedings will be published of the second conference (Del 9.11) and Key Contacts will be invited to review their performance and collect data on dissemination activities (Del 9.11). The potential for website sustainability will be reported on together with a review of usage (Del 9.12). The proceedings of the third conference will be published (Del 9.13). A final report will be undertaken to evaluate **WP9** performance (Del 9.13).

Overall a busy agenda is set for the remaining eighteen months of the project.

6. Budget Update

During the previous 18 months more partners joined the Network and this required a re-working of the budget which was undertaken and approved by the EACEA. It largely concerned the re-allocation of funds for travel and subsistence. The following Table provides a summary of the budget for the project at this half-way point. At this stage there are two budgets that provide cause for concern. The first is the reluctance of claims for staff expenditure. It is expected that staff expenditure will rise during the second part of the project.

All Euros

Costs	Agreed budget	Actual Expenditure	Comments
Staff costs	234,358.00	72,947.54	The staffing expenditure is 31% of the total for the project. This budget is under spent at the half point stage.
Travel and Subsistence	256,353.00	101,613.85	
Equipment	0	0	
Subcontracting	69,826.00	9,668.44	This budget is only 14% committed. The major expenditure in this budget is expected over the remaining months. However claiming money for subcontracting remains less than expected at this stage of the project.
Other	0	934.54	
Total direct costs	560,537.00	185,164.57	
Total indirect costs	39,200.00	12,949.09	
Total Amount	599,737.00	198,113.46	

However of more concern is the very low expenditure for sub-contracting. The activity in this budget is largely expected to occur during the second half of the project but there does seem to be reluctance for claims to be made against this budget. During the second half of the project the Management Group will write to remind partners who hold a sub-contacting budget of the need to use this money to support project activities.

In summary the budget is on target and more expenditure can and should be made.

7. Examples of Partnership and exploitation/value added of being in the partnership of DIETS2; collected Spring 2012

Survey of Partners (n=52 or 50% response):

Summary

When asked about the valorisation, or impact of DIETS2, 86% said they had informed others about the project and 60% had passed on materials from DIETS2 to someone else, including colleagues and students. 52% claimed that participation in DIETS had resulted in other benefits such as Erasmus placements, exchanges, international activities, networking, increased knowledge about the profession of dietetics in other countries and improved English. Concrete outcomes included the creation of a master degree in Belgium, the development of national transcripts and high quality teaching materials. Some claimed that new ideas for education and for modifying concepts had been introduced as a result of DIETS. It had also inspired some to improve education, to make quality improvements and had caused others to share ideas and information.

Many respondents said they also anticipated more benefits, further projects and publications in the future.

88% reported that the DIETS network was meeting their needs and expectations and 94% thought the network operated in a non-discriminatory and ethical manner.

Some of the most popular planned deliverables of the project were “Database for practice placement teachers”, “Guide to best practice for student placements”, “Pedagogic standards for dietetics teachers”, “Database of Life Long Learning courses and materials”, “Dietetic e-journal” and “Database of materials used to teach”. However, it was reported that all the planned deliverables would be useful.

Judith Liddell, DIETS2 Network Manager

Partner number	Specific Activities and valorisation What they had to say:
P1	<p>The Coordinator of DIETS was invited to lead workshops on ‘<i>Quality assurance and evaluation mechanisms</i>’ in 2011 and “<i>Contributing to the efficiency and effectiveness of Networks</i>” in 2012 at the EACEA Network Coordinators’ meetings (23/24 January 2012). This enabled her to disseminate information about the DIETS network to all other EACEA funded projects attending those meetings.</p> <p>Anne de Looy, University of Plymouth, UK</p>
P2	<p>The DIETS Thematic Network is one of EFAD’s commitments to the EU Platform on Diet, Physical Activity and Health. By improving education and training standards of dietitians throughout Europe, from first cycle to life-long learning, DIETS contributes by assuring a dietetic work force that is trained and able to help combat obesity.</p> <p>EFAD officers are regularly asked to speak about DIETS at National Dietetic Association (who are also partners in DIETS) conferences, including The Netherlands, Greece, Italy, Germany, Turkey. The EFAD Secretary General has been invited to attend the 2012 European Nutrition Leader’s Programme Advanced Seminar. It is believed that membership of the DIETS network contributed to securing this invitation.</p> <p>Judith Liddell, European Federation of the Associations of Dietitians</p>
P13	<p>Diabetes European Education Project (DEEP) is a European initiative directed by me. The aim of the DEEP Project is to provide professional and trusted information about diabetes to both patients and doctors. I have learned from DIETS that the concept of lifelong learning in diabetes is the key to better outcomes in this chronic disease.</p> <p>Starting with 3rd January 2012, the main dissemination tool is through the official website at www.educationdiabetes.com. You can also follow us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/pages/Diabetes-European-Education-Project-DEEP/149566765153245. Information is available mainly in English language, but translations in every European language will be also implemented.</p> <p>I have started a very good collaboration with one DIETS partner (Angela Garcia Gonzales, MD, PhD, Profesor Asistente del Departamento Farmacéutico anf Ciencias de la Alimentación, Universidad de San Pablo, Madrid, España), who volunteered to translate the website from English into Spanish. A student was also implicated into this project: Arturo Esteve (Universidad de San Pablo, Madrid, España).</p> <p>Moreover, I have submitted a request for a grant for my project to European Foundation for the Study of Diabetes (EFSD), with the occasion of a recent competition (deadline 15 January 2012). I am waiting for the result (by April).</p> <p>The project is still young, but my intention is to create a Diabetes Wiki, which will be trusted (strict medical control), helpful, accessible in as many languages as possible and not least European.</p> <p>Sorin Ioacara, MEDIS, Romania</p>
P38	<p>The IUT in Lille has not participated actively in the DIETS2 program because actual training in dietetics in France is very short (only 2 years) and thus does not match very well to the aims of DIETS2 (and European exchanges). The structure of the French training will be changed, hopefully within 2-3 years. Training of a minimum of 3 years is requested and active work has been undertaken in several Ministries already and will continue.</p> <p>Jean Lesage, Lille University, France</p>
P52	<p>We strongly believe in multi-country partnerships and we intend to establish them in the consortium.</p> <p>This would also be a great chance to increase students and staff exchanges in</p>

	<p>order to learn from our differences and experiences. Manon Khazrai Yeganeh, Rome University, Italy</p>
P56	<p>The Luxembourg Dietetic Association thinks that there is an enormous added value of communication, partnership and of recognizing Life Long Learning from various member countries. As an example: because there are a lot more lifelong learning opportunities in our neighbour countries, quite a few dietitians from Luxembourg attend these sessions (mostly in Germany, France and Belgium). Since we ask all our members to keep us updated on every Life Long Learning session they have attended and to provide a certificate of proof, we received some certificates for courses with doubtful content and quality (not evidence-based etc.) Before we could accept or refuse these certificates it was important for us to contact our neighbour associations to check if these LLL courses were recognized in their own country. In many cases they were not. DIETS made this quality check an easy thing to do. Patricia Marx – Luxembourg Dietetic Association</p>
P57	<p>An added value is that projects from DIETS are also related to EFAD’s work. For instance, working together on international dietetic and nutrition terminology (IDNT/ICF) and probably collaboration with WHO on this subject. Wineke Remijnse, Dutch Dietetic Association</p>
P58	<p>Participation in DIETS has developed more opportunities to hold virtual meetings using different techniques (Skype, Go to meeting, video conference, MSN). It has also created the possibility to develop a network of administrative dietitians and in this also to transfer knowledge from the Scandinavian countries who have been working in this area for a long time to partners in other countries who are interested in this area. Through DIETS conferences individuals with specialised dietetic interests (for example sport nutrition) have the opportunity to meet individuals from other countries with the same interest. Multi-country partnerships frame an overall understanding of different cultures and similarities and how dietitians work all over Europe and the world. Cooperation between EFAD and DIETS has also lead to development of EFAD. In addition every individual who belongs to a partner organisation has a great opportunity to develop their skills in English. In a research application I stated DIETS as an important network for dissemination of research results. Ylva Mattsson Sydner, Uppsala University, Sweden</p>
P67	<p>There were great advantages of working together with other dietitians at a European level. Sharing professional and educational experiences allowed us to improve our Life Long Learning courses and programs and gave us ideas on developing new programs. One of the advantages of the geographical coverage was the possibility of learning about the dietetic and nutritional needs of other communities. This “in loco” knowledge guarantees the development of guidelines and reports that truly represent and are adapted to Europe. When the Portuguese Dietetic Association was organizing their National Congress the people that we met through DIETS2 were of great value. We know that some Higher Education Institutes have created new ERASMUS protocols after meeting other dietetic lecturers in the DIETS2 Projects and conferences. Also I, personally, now collaborate with EUFIC and other dietitians as a result of meeting people in the DIETS project. Vera Ferro Lebres, Portuguese Dietetic Association</p>
P69	<p>Being part of the DIETS2 network presents a fantastic opportunity to all dietitians</p>

	<p>in our country to interact with other European professionals in this area. Moreover, the aim of the network is to construct a uniform practice of the profession [in all its dimensions (education, clinical practice, etc.)] in Europe. This year has been very important for us in relation to our partnership with the DIETS2 network since our university has hosted the 5th DIETS2-EFAD conference. It has been a great experience and a great opportunity to make our university known around Europe. Working in this European partnership enables all dietitians to share professional experiences and knowledge in different fields of Nutrition Sciences.</p> <p>As a University, belonging to the DIETS2 network has been very useful for our students since they have been able to access information about nutrition studies and also to interact with students and professionals from other European countries. It is also very important for us to compare learning methodologies with other European Universities. A great deal of information and protocols are available from the network so information can be used and compared to the one we have and the protocols we are currently using. Some collaboration with other European universities has been made via the DIETS Network (students stages, Practical placements, Erasmus exchanges, etc.).</p> <p>Begoña Caneda, Blanquerna, Spain</p>
P71	<p>Getting the chance to see and discuss what dietitians and HEI's in other countries are doing is strengthening – partly because we get new ideas and partly because we can see that we are quite “advanced” and do a lot of things very well. Seeing things from other’s viewpoints is important and mostly positive, but at the same time collaboration can be time-consuming and frustrating due to technical problems and language barriers.</p> <p>The importance of the Nutrition Care Process and a joint vocabulary for dietetics was first brought to our attention through DIETS. The Swedish Dietetic Association has been very active in launching this in Sweden and our department has also started to work with it. At the end of 2011 the department arranged a 2-day conference together with the Swedish Dietetic Association, attended by more than 50 clinical dietitians (the majority practical placement supervisors from the field, with the addition of some of our teachers). The Nutrition Care Process is now taught to all our students in clinical dietetics.</p> <p>Agneta Hörnell & EwaCarin Sehlstedt, Umeå University, Sweden</p>
P89	<p>In France, we are changing our curricula and DIETS has supported us in this change, which is necessary in order to obtain the expected education and learning outcomes in Europe. The “European dietetic competences and their performance indicators” which describe both generic and specific competences for dietetics helped us to set up our competence standards. The “European practice placement standards” were useful to set up our standards too. Both these sets of standards were produced by DIETS.</p> <p>DIETS representatives (Anne de Looy, Judith Liddell) were in Paris for a meeting with the representatives of the Ministry of health, medical nutrition teachers and HEIs.</p> <p>Practice placement teachers and teachers from HEIs participated in visits with colleagues from Belgium and Portugal, organised by DIETS, in which they exchanged knowledge about practice placement and prepared to welcome students.</p> <p>Practitioners who are not partners of DIETS also participated to DIETS conferences</p> <p>We received students from other European countries (including Slovenia and Germany) who wanted to compare the practices.</p> <p>Anne Marie Favreau, French Association of Nutritionist Dietitians</p>
P91	<p>EuroFIR AISBL did investigate and suggest the use of the "Open Platform", which was developed from the Josef Stefan Institute, Slovenia, in the project.</p>

	<p>In doing this, EuroFIR AISBL prepared PowerPoint slides together with Dr Barbara Korousic Seljak from JSI and sent them to the WP4 partners in June 2011. Some of the WP4 partners tested the system and recognized the usefulness of the system for Dietitians and health and food professionals involved in the DIETS network.</p> <p>On a long-term basis, the use of the system by partners of the DIETS network will contribute to the further development of the system at content level.</p> <p>Additionally, the participation of EuroFIR AISBL in the DIETS network contributes to the better understanding of Dietitians' wants and needs in their everyday working life. This helps EuroFIR AISBL to refine its products, which are also supposed to support dietitians in their work. The information on the composition of foods (nutrients, energy values) is available for single foods, recipes and sometimes branded foods and can be used for dietary assessment, menu and recipe calculation, advising patients and their families on nutritional principles and any consultation during the daily work.</p> <p>Simone Bell, EuroFIR AISBL</p>
P93	<p>The added value of the multi-country partnership is the possibility to learn about the different levels in different countries. Those who are already highly developed can be taken as role models and additionally it shows where the whole profession is heading.</p> <p>Working together in a European partnership shows how the field of dietetics is positioned in other countries.</p> <p>One of the benefits is, for example, the enrichment through information exchange regarding the doctorate. Also, the master-programmes in England present interesting aspects.</p> <p>Birgit Abfalterer, Tirol University, Austria</p>
P97	<p>An important feature of DIETS is that it helps us to promote the importance of international studies within the University (lecturers, students, etc). We have increased the number of international agreements for students. For example two summer internships for University of Navarra students will go to Charite Hospital in Berlin for their practical placements. Daniel Buchholz (P20) gave us the contact of the Head of the School of Nutrition. The agreement with Berlin is for undergraduates students as well.</p> <p>Member of DIETS have been invited to University of Navarra for an E-MENU Master Conference (next academic year)</p> <p>Ana Artal, University of Navarra, Spain</p>

Partners as of September 2011

Partner Number	Full name of the institution in English (formal or informal translation)
1	University of Plymouth
2	European Federation of the Association of Dietitians
3	Austrian Association of Dietitians
4	National Food and Nutrition Institute Warsaw Poland
5	Tallin Health Care College
6	The Netherlands Institute for Health Services Research
7	Kempen University College
8	Catholic University College Ghent
9	Catholic Highschool of Bruges-Ostend
10	Erasmushogeschool Brussel
11	University College Ghent
12	European Food Information Council
13	“Medi`s” Outpatient Clinic
14	Liechtenstein Association of Nutritional Advisors
15	Cyprus Dietetic and Nutrition Association
16	Czech Association of Nurses - Sections of nutrition therapists and assistants
17	University of Nicosia
18	German Dietetic Association
19	Bulgarian Society of Nutrition and Dietetics
20	Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin
21	The Danish Diet and Nutrition Association
22	Bulgarian Association for the Study of Obesity and Related Diseases
23	University College Sealand
24	Lucia de Brouckere Higher School- Arthur Haulot Institute
25	Lleida University
26	Spanish Dietetic Association
27	Polytechnic Institute of Braganza
28	Haute école Leonardo de Vinci
29	Vic University
30	University of Zaragoza
31	Norwegian Association of Dietitian affiliated with The Norwegian Association of Researchers
32	Catholic University of Portugal- College of Biotechnology
33	FH JOANNEUM University of Applied Sciences
34	University of San Pablo -CEU

- 35 The Association of Clinical and Public Health Nutritionists in Finland
- 36 University of Eastern Finland
- 37 International Life Science Institute-Europe a.i.s.b.l.
- 38 Lille University Institute of Technology (IUT-A)
- 39 University of Alicante
- 40 Plantijn Hogeschool van de provincie Antwerpen
- 41 Tours University Institute of Technology Department of biological Engineering
- 42 Hellenic Association of Dietitians -Technologists of Nutrition
- 43 Hellenic Dietetic Association
- 44 Higher Technological Education Institution of Thessaloniki
- 45 Harokopio University
- 46 Magyar Dietetikusok Országos Szövetsége
- 47 University of Pecs Faculty of health sciences
- 48 Semmelweiss University
- 49 Irish Nutrition and Dietetic Institute
- 50 Dublin Institute of Technology
- 51 St. Pölten University of Applied Sciences
- 52 University Campus Biomedico Rome, Italy
- 53 Ghent University
- 54 Nutritionist-Dietitian 's Association of Latvia
- 55 Kaunas University of medicine
- 56 National Dietetic Association of Luxembourg
- 57 Dutch Association of Dieticians
- 58 Uppsala University
- 59 HAN University of Applied Sciences
- 60 Norwegian Association
- 61 Technological Education Institute of Crete
- 62 The Swedish Association of Clinical Dietitians
- 63 Portuguese Nutritionists Association
- 64 Laboratory of Nutrition of the University of Lisbon
- 65 Higher School of Health's Technology of Lisbon
- 66 Faculty of Nutrition and Food Sciences, University of Porto
- 67 Portuguese Dietetic Association
- 68 Higher School of Health of the University of Algarve
- 69 Blanquerna School of Health Science, Ramon Llull University
- 70 The Swedish Association of Dietitians
- 71 Dept of Food and Nutrition, Umeå University
- 72 Vilnius College of Higher Education
- 73 Slovene Nutritionist and Dietetic Association
- 74 University of Primorska College of Health Care Izola Slovenia

- 75 British Nutrition Foundation
- 76 The Turkish Dietetic Association
Erciyes University Ataturk Health School Department of Nutrition and
77 Dietetics
- 78 The Icelandic Dietetic Association
- 79 Wageningen University
- 80 British Dietetic Association
- 81 Universidad Francisco de Vitoria
- 82 Universität Hohenheim
- 83 Warszawski Uniwersytet Medyczny
- 84 Comenius University in Bratislava, Faculty of Medicine
- 85 University of Ulster
- 86 German Nutrition Society (DGE)
- 87 University of Northumbria at Newcastle
- 88 University of Chester
- 89 French Association of Nutritionist Dietitians
- 90 University of Malta, Institute of Health Care
- 91 European Food Information Resource
- 92 The Hague University of Applied Sciences
- 93 University of Applied Sciences Tyrol
- 94 University of Applied Sciences
- 95 Katholieke Hogeschool Leuven
- 96 University of Granada
- 97 University of Navarra
- 98 University Rovira I Virgili
- 99 University of Gothenburg
- 100 Italian Association of Dietitians
- 101 Hanzehogeschool Groningen, University of Applied Sciences

Associated Partners

- Swiss Dietitians Association
- International Confederation of Dietetic Associations (ICDA)
- Israeli Dietetic Association
- Bern University of Applied Sciences
- Ran Laiqar Ali Khan Govt. College of Home Economics
- HEPA Macedonia (Nat Organisation for the promotion of Health-
enhancing Physical Activity)