



# Newsletter

## February 2019

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# 55th EQuIP Assembly Meeting and European Conference

## - Welcome Letter from our Host President

### Dear colleagues,

It is a great honor for me to invite you to attend the 55th EQuIP Assembly Meeting, which will be held 29-30 March in Thessaloniki, Greece.

EQuIP - the European Society for Quality and Safety in General Practice - in collaboration with ELEGIA - the Scientific Association of General Practitioners in Greece - organize the 55th EQuIP Assembly Meeting under the main theme:

**Healthy Practices, Healthy Professionals, Healthier Patients.**

It will be a beautiful journey of learning and interaction about these three main topics of quality and safety in Primary Care.

**Healthy Practices** are essential for the better performance of Primary Care Professionals, which finally contribute to the best possible outcome of the patient's health.

Practices are both the infrastructures, equipment, procedures, staff, ways of payment, patients list and many other things that affect the primary care setting on one hand and on the other hand the protocols, guidelines, disease thresholds, medication choices, communication skills, teaching patients ability and many others that we use in our everyday life in our work.

In Greece, especially during the financial crisis, all these quality parameters were severely affected. But also Europe faces similar problems due to instability of the population like aging and immigration.

Regarding to **professionals' health**, I invite you to discuss not only about the continuing growth of burnout and the urgent need to manage the maintenance of our own health, but also the important role we play as health models to our patients.

Finally, healthy practices and healthy professionals must have, as a rational result, **healthier patients**. Don't you agree?

We wait for you in Thessaloniki to discuss, reflect and interact with experts in the field, across Europe and Greece, about topics that are affecting all of us, in order to provide qualitative healthcare, without harming our own health but improve it along with our patients' health.

I am looking forward to welcome you in our beautiful Thessaloniki, which combines more than 3,000 years of history with a modern way of living and many entertainment opportunities.

Kind regards,  
Sofia Dimopoulou  
President of the Conference  
Greek Delegate in EQuIP  
ELEGIA's Chairwoman of Quality Assurance Committee GP in Greece

**Website:**  
<https://www.equip2019.eu>

**Facebook Page:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/equip2019eu>





# REPORTS

## EQuiP 54th Assembly Meeting - 22-24 November 2018 in Zagreb, Croatia

By Felicity Knights, EQuiP-Vasco da Gama Movement Liaison

It was my first meeting, and I was delighted to attend to represent Vasco da Gama Movement (the network representing family medics-in-training and new family medics across Europe) as the EQuiP-VdGM Liaison.

The first thing that struck me was the diversity of individuals in the room. Experts rubbed shoulders with enthusiasts, whilst old friends greeted each other warmly, but also welcomed new faces like my own.

As the meeting went on, I enjoyed the opportunity to learn about the situation and organisation of general practice in different countries, and the issues and solutions we had in common at both practice and national levels.

The passion of the council members for improving quality and safety shone through, and it was really inspiring to hear how many of the members are advocating and changing systems in their local practices and national councils.

The agenda covered reports from a range of recent meetings such as WONCA Europe 2018, and upcoming events and plans were discussed.

I particularly enjoyed the opportunity to learn more EQuiP's face-to-face training in its 'Summer Schools', to see the film produced by the EQuiP working group on patient safety, and to hear about collaborations with other WONCA networks such as EGPRN.

These more formal sessions were interspersed by longer sessions of 'group work', where individuals with particular interests gathered together to discuss and progress the working streams of EQuiP.

I had the opportunity to debate the role of social media in teaching quality to family medics and witness some impressive data around use of social media across different platforms.

In another session, I learnt about the Teaching Quality's fantastic work on a European Teaching Quality agenda and to discuss methods of practically implementing this.

These interactive sessions were fantastic opportunities to learn from one another, and throughout, the voice of younger family medics was very much welcomed, and our role in the future of general practice was noted.

Overall, I found the council to be a warmly welcoming community of likeminded individuals, embedded in improving quality and keen to collaborate for the benefits of patients across Europe.

As we discussed our common challenges, and the political changes affecting different countries, Ecclesiastes 1:9 came to mind: *'What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun.'*

On the basis of this truth, networks such as EQuiP provide an unparalleled opportunity to learn from one another – a problem may be new to us, but it is very unlikely to be new for everyone in the room.

Crowd-sourcing both practical solutions, and implementation methods will enable us to improve primary care faster and more effectively than if we struggle alone.



# TEACHING

## EQuIP Training for Young Family Medics

By Felicity Knights, EQuIP-Vasco da Gama Movement Liaison

I'm delighted to be representing the Vasco da Gama Movement - the WONCA Europe network representing new and future family physicians across Europe - within EQuIP.

The increasing interest in and emphasis on patient safety and quality in many European countries is not yet matched by effective training and mentorship at either undergraduate or post-graduate training levels.

I'm fortunate enough to have had some basic training during my training in the UK, however I have much more to learn about practically applying this, and many of my colleagues in other countries tell me that they are not so lucky.

As we look to the future, we can see that in order to deal with increasing patient expectations and demographics shifts, we will need to strengthen our primary care in terms of both efficiency and quality.

In order to do this, we need a new generation of family medics enthused and equipped to improve care locally and beyond. The EQuIP Summer Schools are a key step towards this aim.

If you are interested in teaching quality to young family medics, or a young family medic with interests in quality, why not get involved with the Teaching Quality working group?

### 2 workshops + 1 EQuIP-VdGM Summer School in 2019

One of the programmes we are collaborating on is a redesign of EQuIP's Summer Schools - 3 day programmes which aim to empower primary care practitioners to undertake a quality improvement project in their local area.

In 2018, a joint workshop between EQuIP and VdGM in 2019 was proposed. This builds on the work of the Teaching Quality working group of EQuIP which has been bringing together skills and expertise to develop an agenda to underpin teaching in quality improvement across Europe. This workshop will provide a platform for the exchange of ideas and perspectives on the optimal format for the **joint EQuIP-VdGM Summer School** in September 2019. Please find the abstract on the following page.

Come along to EQuIP's 55th Assembly 29-30 March in Thessaloniki (Greece), or attend the teaching quality workshop at WONCA Europe's 24th Conference 26-29 June in Bratislava .



# Time for a change?

## - tailoring EQuIP summer school for young family physicians

By Felicity Knights, Zalika Klemenc Ketis, Claire Marie Thomas, David Rodrigues, Piet Vanden Bussche.

### 24<sup>TH</sup> WONCA EUROPE CONFERENCE

 Bratislava  
June 26-29, 2019



#### Background

EQuIP is WONCA Europe's network for quality and safety in primary care (PC). EQuIP's Summer Schools are three day training workshops which have been running since 2008, with the aim to enable health care professionals to develop their own quality improvement project.

In 2018, a joint summer school on quality and safety in PC organized by EQuIP and VdGM - WONCA Europe's network for new and future family physicians - has been proposed.

The aim of this workshop is to identify the best format and content of joint EQuIP-VdGM summer school related to quality and safety educational needs of young family physicians.

#### Methods

The workshop will consist of three parts.

In the first part, the plenary presentation will be given to present the existing format and content of EQuIP's summer school.

The participants will then be divided into small groups to analyze and tailor the existing summer school format to the quality and safety educational needs of young family physicians.

This will be followed by plenary presentation and discussion.

#### Results

The expected results include development and promotion of a framework for the new collaborative WONCA network summer school.

This workshop is likely to interest those teaching quality, and young/future family physicians with interests in quality and safety.

#### Conclusion

Teaching quality and safety in family medicine must be tailored for different levels of expertise.

This workshop will provide a platform for the exchange of ideas and perspectives on the optimal format for the joint EQuIP-VdGM summer school.

# Safety culture in the primary health care settings based on workers with a leadership role

– the psychometric properties of the Slovenian-language version of the safety attitudes questionnaire (short form)

By Zalika Klemenc Ketis

## Keywords

Patient safety, Validation studies, Questionnaires.

## [Link to article](#)

## Background

Safety culture describes leader and staff interactions, attitudes, routines, awareness, and practices within an organisation. With this study, we aimed to determine the psychometric properties of the Slovenian-language version of the Safety Attitudes Questionnaire (SAQ) – Short Form in primary health care settings.

## Methods

This was a cross-sectional study in the largest primary health care in Slovenia. We invited all employees with a leadership role to participate in the study (N = 211).

We used the Slovenian-language version of the SAQ – Short Form.

## Results

There were 154 participants in the final sample (73.0% response rate), of which 136 (88.3%) were women. The mean age of the sample was  $46.2 \pm 10.0$  years.

Exploratory factor analysis put forward six factors:

- 1) Perceptions of Management
- 2) Stress recognition
- 3) Teamwork Climate
- 4) Communication
- 5) Safety Climate
- 6) Working Conditions and Satisfaction

This model explained 61.7% of the variance of the safety culture in the primary health care setting. The reliability of the whole scale and of the six factors, assessed using Cronbach's alpha, was all above 0.78.

## Conclusion

The results of our study suggests that the Slovenian-language version of the SAQ – Short Form with six factors could be a reliable and valid tool for measuring the safety culture in the primary health care workers with leadership role in Slovenia.

The Slovenian version differed from the original SAQ – Short Form and the majority of other translated versions. Also, the data was from one health centre only and therefore we cannot draw strong conclusions on its external validity.

## Citation

Klemenc-Ketis Z, Makivić I, Poplas-Susič A. Safety culture in the primary health care settings based on workers with a leadership role: the psychometric properties of the Slovenian-language version of the safety attitudes questionnaire - short form. *BMC Health Serv Res.* 2018;18(1):767. Published 2018 Oct 11.

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