



INTERNATIONAL THINK TANK – EDUCATION AND TRAINING ON ADDICTION

## International Symposium on Continuing Training in the Addiction Field

### Questionnaire response

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### French Training on Drugs and Alcohol - France

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#### 1. System/Structure

- 1.1 There is no systematic provision of continuing training in the substance-dependence field yet in 2007. However, a recent governmental addiction plan has settled addiction training as one of its six priorities. Even though continuous substance-dependence training isn't yet systematic in France, there are some academic and non academic training based on voluntary participation. There is currently no consensus on the minimal content of substance-dependence training.
- 1.2 The continuing medical training system as a whole (CME) is directed by the government. In the addiction field, continuous training is directed by various providers:
  - academic: "diplomes d'université", for medical and non medical professionals, "capacité d'addictologie clinique" and « Diplome d'Etude Spécialisée Complémentaire » for M.Ds.
  - professional associations: Société Française d'Alcoologie (SFA), Association Nationale en Alcoologie et en Addictologie (ANPAA), IREMA, Réseau Hôpital sans Tabac, Association Nationale des Intervenants en Toxicomanie (ANIT), UNAFORMEC...
- 1.3 There is since 2006 a compulsory status of continuous training in the medical field only (CME). However, there is no obligation to have substance-dependence training. M.Ds. have to justify CME points every five years. The other professionals in the addiction field have no compulsory continuous training.
- 1.4 There is a governmental financial support for continuous medical education (CME) in the private system. In the public system, continuous training is usually at least partially financially supported by the employer.

#### 2. Form

- 2.1 Forms of continuous training
  - off the job: courses (essentially in the academic system), seminars and congresses (professional association). E-learning is not yet developed.
  - on the field: usually part of academic training
- 2.2 No formal regulation of the courses. No formal standards.
- 2.3 Courses and curricula are typically positioned at level 5
- 2.4 Qualification affects employment, but usually not the salary.
- 2.5 There is no systematic agreement on time and costs. There is usually an individual negotiation with the employer.



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### **3. Content**

- 3.1** There is no national guideline for the content of continuing training. However, the Collège Universitaires National des Enseignants en Addictologie (CUNEA) is currently preparing a national guideline for the content of initial training in the addiction field.
- 3.2** This process is not really formalized. Each training provider has its proper process, usually informal.
- 3.3** The knowledge transfer is not formalized. Leaders in the field progressively inject new knowledge into courses, training and practice. This is rather informal.
- 3.4** Most programs in the continuing training are on a cross-occupational basis. Some programs are occupation-specific, especially for M.Ds. of psychologists.
- 3.5** The medical field has a clear lead in both the work with addicts and the continuing training.

### **4. Quality**

- 4.1** The government defines quality requirements for academic training in terms of time volume.
- 4.2** Most non academic trainings have no other quality requirements than the trainers' qualification and a trainees satisfaction rating.
- 4.3** The continuing training is usually evaluated by trainee's satisfaction, and sometimes by tests on the knowledge acquired. Results/effects at the team/institution level are usually not measured.