



EUROPEAN  
FEDERATION OF  
THE ASSOCIATIONS  
OF DIETITIANS

## **EFAD Professional Practice Committee (PPC)**

February 2013

### SUMMARY of PPC observations on Nutrition Care Process (NCP)/Standardized Language (SL) Report 2012

**BACKGROUND:** In Europe and other countries, healthcare is moving toward the use of electronic health records. The main motivation is that electronic health records help to coordinate the total care of each, improve continuity of care and interdisciplinary communications among health care professionals.

#### **FINDINGS**

1. As various healthcare environments are moving towards the use of electronic health records, dietitians have recognized the need to support methods of systematic documentation (initial PPC survey, 2011). Based on the initial PPC survey (2011), and the current study, there is a definitive and progressive change in the work method of surveyed European dietitians, to actively incorporate:
  - a. step-wise nutrition care process as a framework of practice and
  - b. a standardized language in documentation
2. Throughout Europe, more than one defined nutrition care process is being used to facilitate dietetic practice and encourage a systematic record of dietetic care.
3. Throughout Europe, more than one defined standardized language is being used to document dietetic care. The application of standardized language is the necessary foundation to facilitate pan-European sharing of information on dietetic practice.
4. Data collected in the current study indicated that the NCP (Nutrition Care Process (NCP) by Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND) was used by the majority of respondents (p13 of full report).
5. Data collected in the current study indicated that the standardized language 'International Dietetic and Nutrition Terminology (IDNT; AND) was used by the majority of respondents (p23, 48 of full report).
6. Other standardized languages applied by European dietitians (ICF-dietetic by the Dutch, Polish SL language) may be/are in a position to use and combine features of IDNT to facilitate comparison/sharing of data for major research projects.



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## **IMPLICATIONS FOR EFAD**

### **Introducing NCP/SL for professional practice**

EFAD members perceive education (in HEIs) and ongoing training for dietitians as a crucial factor in the successful use of the Nutrition Care Process and Standardized Language (p26 of full report).

EFAD members perceive the process of translation, and additional costs as the most significant barriers to adopting a SL in practice.

The Nutrition Care Process and Standardized Language surveys have opened very active discussions within Europe about how dietitians work and what groundwork is still needed to compare, share, and analyze recorded data on dietetic related outcomes.

### **Role of EFAD**

Collected data show that EFAD members anticipate EFAD to spearhead guidance and leadership in the area of NCP/SL (p38 of full report).

### **Professional Practice Committee**

Constantina Papoutsakis, Chair

Ylva Orrevall, Member

Pauline Douglas, Member

Kerry Yuill, Project Officer



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