



EUROPEAN  
FEDERATION OF  
THE ASSOCIATIONS  
OF DIETITIANS

## **Mission, vision and priority statements for the EFAD Education and Lifelong Learning Committee**

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### **Background**

Since the establishment of EFAD in 1978 many initiatives have taken place to support the development of dietetic professional practice in Europe. EFAD has developed standards for the education, training and practice of dietitians in Europe (adopted in 2005 and 2009)<sup>1,2</sup>, a European standard for practice placement requirements (adopted in 2010)<sup>3</sup>, a European standard for advanced dietetic competences (adopted in 2012)<sup>4</sup>, pedagogical standards for practice placement teachers (adopted in 2013)<sup>5</sup> and a lifelong learning (LLL) strategy for EFAD (adopted in 2013)<sup>6</sup>.

These initiatives have provided a solid basis to build on and we are grateful to the individuals who contributed to them. But the job is not yet finished. Changes within EFAD, including the cessation of the thematic networks for improving education and training standards for dietitians in Europe (DIETS1 and 2)<sup>7</sup>, and the introduction of higher education institutions (HEIs) as Education Associate Members, provide new challenges but also opportunities. The development of frameworks and criteria for registration, training and LLL, which includes continuous professional development (CPD) for the dietetic workforce, are all part of the support to national dietetic associations (NDAs).

In addition, HEIs will be supported in establishing effective models of pedagogical practice within Europe.

### **Mission and vision of EFAD**

The mission of EFAD is to support member Associations in developing the role that dietitians have in the improvement of nutritional health in Europe.

The vision of EFAD is that NDAs and dietitians are recognized leaders in the field of dietetics and nutrition. EFAD will continue to pro-actively initiate and grow partnerships in order to improve nutritional health, reduce socioeconomic health inequalities and contribute to economic prosperity.

To achieve this vision EFAD supports the highest quality of dietetic education, professional practice, research activity and partnership. EFAD's focus is on advocating for the profession in Europe and internationally whilst supporting its members who undertake their responsibilities as professional bodies.

## The vision and mission of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee

**The vision of ELLLC** is to support EFAD in achieving the highest quality of education and learning for the dietetic workforce in Europe.

**The mission of ELLLC** is to ensure that under- and post-graduate education of dietitians is of the highest standard and to enhance the individual dietitian's practice through education and continuous professional development (CPD). This is achieved through supporting students, dietitians, EFAD National Dietetic Associations (NDAs) and the higher education institutions (HEIs).

Broader key benefits include ensuring the safety and welfare of dietetic service users, building societal trust in the dietetic profession and maintaining the integrity of the profession. This is achieved through partnership working (with NDAs, HEIs and the two other EFAD committees; Research and Evidence-Based Practice Committee (REBPC) and the Professional Practice Committee (PPC), and the European Specialist Dietetic Networks (ESDN)), to define and share best practices in the areas of education and LLL.

The priorities and current tasks for ELLLC are:

### Priorities

- To support the Executive Committee in developing policies related to education and LLL for example by performing scoping and mapping activities such as surveys on educational practices Europe wide.
- To support EFAD members in facilitating communication on issues related to intrinsic strategies for continuous professional development by disseminating new initiatives, providing tools, and best practice descriptions.
- To liaise with other Committees of EFAD to ensure a seamless and transparent approach to effective use of resources and implementation of initiatives.
- To continue to make HEI's aware of and test the usability of outputs from the DIETS projects.
- To monitor pertinent European directives and developments of other professions (in collaboration with other committees of EFAD) and how these can inform the work of the NDAs, HEIs and EFAD.

### Tasks

- To disseminate and support increased utilization of outputs from the DIETS projects, e.g., the European Dietetic Advanced Competences (EDAC) for continuous professional development (CPD) and lifelong learning (LLL).
- To support CPD and monitoring the development in Europe with regard to registration and CPD-requirements together with the PPC.
- To investigate the feasibility of certifying/endorsing LLL courses.
- To develop networking, information provision and use of appropriate media to support dietitians in their CPD.

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<sup>1</sup>EFAD. European Dietetic Academic and Practitioner Standards. 2005.

<sup>2</sup>EFAD. European standard for dietetic education and training (EDC). 2009

<sup>3</sup>EFAD. European standard for practice placement requirements. 2010

<sup>4</sup>EFAD. European standard for advanced dietetic competences (EDAC). 2012

<sup>5</sup>EFAD. Pedagogical standards for practice placement teachers. 2013

<sup>6</sup>EFAD. Strategy for Lifelong Learning for dietitians in Europe. 2013

<sup>7</sup>DIETS is the acronym for the first dietetic thematic network 'Dietitians Improving the Education and Training Standards' (funded by ERASMUS, 2006-09). DIETS2 is the second network 'Dietitians ensuring education, teaching and professional quality' (funded by the EACEA, 2010-13).