



Assessing the priority level of NCP-SL for professional development in Europe and defining EFAD's actions and commitments

In recent years, the health care environment in Europe and elsewhere has been undergoing significant change due to technological advances. The most notable advance involves the transition of health record information into electronic form. In parallel, various health care disciplines and organizations have developed standardized health terminology, dietitians included. For example, in the US, the American Dietetic Association developed the International Dietetic and Nutrition Terminology (IDNT) in English now known as the Nutrition Care Process Terminology (NCPT) and in the Netherlands, dietitians developed a dietetic terminology based on ICF (International Classification Functioning) known as ICF-D (ICF-Dietetic) in Dutch. Also, the Polish Dietetic Association has reported to EFAD the development of a nutrition/dietetic terminology in Polish.

In the European Union, the e-Health Governance Initiative is working to establish a structure for e-Health within Europe in order to ensure continuity of healthcare both within a country and across borders. The e-Health Governance Initiative is achieving this through the development of strategies, priorities, recommendations and guidelines designed to deliver e-Health in Europe in a coordinated way. This work involves various stakeholders including patients and healthcare professionals. An important initiative is the collaboration and annual assembly between EU and the USA on e-Health.

Major themes and priorities include EU governance for e-Health Services, semantic and technical interoperability, and data protection. The e-Health Governance initiative has developed an e-Health Network. This network acknowledges the need to build on the existing cooperation within Member States in the domain of e-Health and to bring forward the objective of Directive 2011/24, (Art 14 2. c) "to support Member States in developing common identification and authentication measures to facilitate transferability of data across border healthcare". Implementation of pilot projects (epSOS¹) have already been in progress throughout Europe with a focus on e-Prescription². Nutrition terminology is also a high priority work target

¹European Patients Smart Open Services <http://www.epsos.eu/home.html>

² To find in country contact <http://www.epsos.eu/for-health-professionals/how-can-health-professionals-participate.html>

The e-Health Governance initiative has acknowledged that in order to map between systems and to allow an integrated maintenance of concepts and rules, the investment in a terminology management system is a must. The EU has also recognized that IHTSDO (an international terminology organization whose members are countries) has developed a system both for maintenance of the core (international) terminology and for use by Member States (MS)³ who want to translate, maintain and distribute the terminology⁴. However available functionalities do not always match with MS needs. This terminology management system owned by IHTSDO is SNOMED CT (a comprehensive medical terminology that incorporates several terminologies from various disciplines).

The WHO that has developed in recent years a family of health-related terminologies (such as the ICF) is currently in negotiations with IHTSDO (the owner of SNOMED CT) to identify a common ontology between terms developed by WHO and IHTSDO. This announcement was endorsed by WHO and IHTSDO officials in the recent e-Health Forum of the EU (May 2104)⁵. The idea involves the integration of ICF terminology into SNOMED CT. There may be potential to involve the dietetic terminology included in ICF-D.

At the same time, specific to the dietetic/nutrition profession, the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics has developed a nutrition terminology in order to document the Nutrition Care Process (NCP) as a means of work methodology for dietetic/nutrition professionals. The Academy has been actively working towards the integration of its NCP Terminology (former IDNT) into SNOMED CT given the wide use of SNOMED CT not only in the US but in several other countries including numerous European member states.

To obtain active international input, an international workgroup on NCP and NCPT has been formed by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. The Academy has consistently invited an EFAD representative who is knowledgeable on technical matters of terminology (Constantina Papoutsakis as member and Chair of PPC). Since 2012, EFAD has participated every year thus far as a key stakeholder in (virtual monthly and one face to face meeting) technical discussions and decisions involving the development of NCPT and its usability by international dietetic professionals. A key contribution of EFAD has been to demonstrate the specific uses of terminology throughout Europe and point out the ongoing needs that the European dietitians experience (more than one terminology used in Europe, translation issues, issues of terminology term interpretations and applications, issues of research and validation needs, lack of data on outcomes). One of the most recent

³ Also recognised internationally – see recent activity in Australia <http://auctug.com/?p=315>

⁴ See an example of a research project in Spain <http://www.perssilaa.eu/news>

⁵ Find the conference information <http://ehealth2014.org/>

decisions/developments is to make NCPT available in several languages used in Europe (such as English, French, Italian, Spanish, and Swedish) on the internet (see <https://www.eatright.org/shop/product.aspx?id=6442482026> eNCPT). Also, the integration of NCPT into SNOMED is a major work objective of this international group.

Along with the EFAD representative, an ICDA representative who works on technical matters of terminology, and a representative of the Asian Federation AFDA (Asian Federation of Dietetic Associations.) is part of the international workgroup (see Appendix 1). This ensures that EFAD and other international stakeholders are in a position to influence and participate in the decision making involved.

Given all these ongoing developments at the European and international levels nutrition/dietetic terminology continues to be a high priority for the healthcare profession. It also seems reasonable and necessary that EFAD commits to a continued and active engagement in all these high level technical processes that impact the dietetic/nutrition profession.

Proposed actions:

1. EFAD/PPC facilitates the active involvement of EFAD members/dietitians in future/upcoming EU pilot projects of e-Health that involve nutrition terminology given that Nutrition terminology was flagged as a high priority work target by the e-Health Network of the EU .
2. EFAD/PPC continues to monitor collaboration of WHO (owner of ICF) and IHTSDO (owner of SNOMED CT) with an emphasis on nutrition/dietetic terminology.
3. EFAD/PPC agrees to an active participation in the AND International Workgroup on NCP/NCPT and others in Europe.

Europe on minimum data set for e-health

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ehealth/docs/guidelines_patient_summary_en.pdf

WHO on e-Health http://www.who.int/goe/publications/goe_mhealth_web.pdf