



EUROPEAN  
FEDERATION OF  
THE ASSOCIATIONS  
OF DIETITIANS

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## **Roskilde Resolution**

Higher Education is very much on the agenda following the joint declaration of the European Ministers of Education in Bologna, in 1999. The 29 signatory countries agreed on a common goal to create a European Area for Higher Education, committed themselves to an action plan with a set of specified objectives and pledged to reform their higher education structures in a convergent way. The deadline for completion is 2010.

The Bologna objectives include the introduction of a new Bachelor/ Master degree structure with a credit system and a system of certification of the quality of the new programmes. The Bachelor degree will require a minimum of 3 years study.

EFAD aims to promote the development of the profession and to develop dietetics on a scientific and professional level in the common interests of the member associations. It is timely that we now work together towards achieving a common standard for dietetics across Europe.

At the General Meeting of EFAD, held in Roskilde, Denmark, September 2003, delegates participated in a workshop "Towards European Standards in Dietetic Education", coordinated by Professor Anne de Looy, Queen Margaret University College, Edinburgh, UK

Delegates from the 18 Member Associations present, agreed that the priorities for the European harmonisation of the education and practice of dietitians should be:

- Agree a description of the role of a dietitian working in Europe
- A minimum qualification of a 3 year degree, benchmarked at a defined level, with an Education Credit Transfer System (ECTS)
- Agree a European Dietetic Benchmark Statement, including a practical placement benchmark, for the education of dietitians in Europe
- Set benchmark for teachers of dietetics
- Agree a common "language", by defining any technical terms used
- National registration of dietitians to protect the title "dietitian"
- Consideration should be given to registration as a European dietitian

As a way to start working towards achieving these priorities, a small working group is established to develop the ideas further and, in the first instance, to begin work on drafting a European Dietetic Benchmark Statement. This "European Dietetic Benchmarking Group" should include professionals from different spheres (dietetic education, clinical and administrative dietetics and health promotion) to provide as wide a view as possible.

The working group should get inspiration through feedback from the EFAD member associations and their discussions with the Higher Education institutions in their countries.

At EFAD's General meeting in Bordeaux, September 2004, a proposal will be discussed and agreed on for further discussion with the Higher Education institutions.

Links for further information:

1. In the United Kingdom, "Benchmark Statements" have recently been set, as part of a Quality Assurance Agenda for all qualifying courses for Dietitians and other Allied Health Professionals. These Benchmark Statements now guide all programmes taught in Universities.  
[www.qaa.ac.uk/crntwork/benchmark/nhsbenchmark/benchmarking.htm](http://www.qaa.ac.uk/crntwork/benchmark/nhsbenchmark/benchmarking.htm))
2. The UK Health Professions Council has published Standards for Proficiency for dietitians. These are designed to determine the minimum competencies dietitians are required to achieve before coming on to the UK register.  
[www.hpc-uk.org/education/docs/hpc\\_sop.xis](http://www.hpc-uk.org/education/docs/hpc_sop.xis)
3. The Bologna Declaration of 19 June 1999  
[www.bologna-berlin2003.de/pdf/bologna\\_declaration.pdf](http://www.bologna-berlin2003.de/pdf/bologna_declaration.pdf)