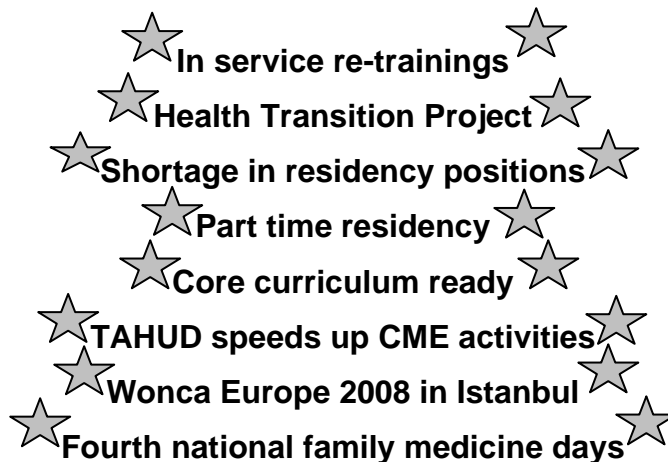


# REPORT FROM TURKEY

EQUIP Meeting, Prague, 26-28 April 2007



- **In service re-trainings: over 1000 GP's certified so far**

As reported before, with the implementation of the Health Transition Project, Turkish family physicians used the opportunity to participate in the training of the over 25 thousand plain GPs.

In order to sign the new contract, every GP has to enter the 10-days first phase certification trainings, which is a kind of orientation to primary care with the principles of family medicine, communication, clinical method, and epidemiology as the core contents. Academic family physicians as well as family physicians and GPs from the field are serving as trainers in this process.

Trainings have started with the piloting in Düzce and finished in the 10 other subsequent pilot cities. So far, around 1200 untrained GPs and also some specialists have taken the first phase trainings. The courses are in progress and expanding throughout the country as the system is spread to new cities.

Family medicine specialists on the other hand, are not obliged to take the course. However, they have to attend at least once as trainees in order to join the team as trainers.

- **Health Transition Project: piloting running in 11 cities; additional 10 on the way**

Announced on March 2006, ten pilot cities were defined for the implementation of the Health Transition Project in addition to Düzce (see <http://www.aile.net/equip/news/newsfromturkeybarcelona.pdf>). By January 2007, the MoH announced 11 other pilot cities: Adana, Amasya, Bartın, Bayburt, Burdur, Karabük, Karaman, Sinop, Yalova, Manisa, and Erzurum. Certification trainings are currently being conducted in these cities.

- **Family medicine residency recruitments: positions far less than expected**

Medical specialization in Turkey is organized by the Higher Educational Council (YÖK). All candidates have to enter a multiple choice central exam, which is conducted twice yearly. Recruitment is based on the matching of the scores and the preferences of the candidates.

As the vast majority of current physicians in primary care do not have any qualification, it becomes more important to produce family

physicians. The maximum possible numbers should be recruited, at least for some time. However, the total number of residents recruited in the last matching was only 129 out of around 2500 total residency positions. Even in the previous matching there were more positions (around 300).

Reasons behind this apparent negligence of primary care residency are claimed to be economical. However, some disagreements between the Higher Educational Council and the Government, as well as physical limitations at the training centers might be playing a role too. TAHUD is expected to take action in collaboration with the family medicine departments to solve this problem.

- **Discussions about part time residency in family medicine**

The relatively urgent need for trained workforce in primary care lead to the search for solutions. Since the demand is very high but the resources limited, some authorities suggested to establish part time residency in family medicine. By this way, it is aimed to train the primary care doctors without any hitch in the service provision.

Although the issue is at a very early discussion stage, some family physicians debate it would cause an unethical competency with the current family medicine residents and urge for detailed discussion and policy definition. Although part time residency is a mainly academic work, TAHUD needs to lead the process and define policies aiming to support current family physicians.

- **Core curriculum ready: first re-certification expected in 2008**

After a long and exhaustive work, the Turkish Board of Family Medicine (TAHYK) finally successfully finished the core curriculum for Turkish family physicians. TAHYK declared the next step as aiming to commence recertification by 2008.

- **TAHUD speeds up CME activities: Continuous Improvement Clubs established in several cities**

During the recent years, TAHUD is devoting most of its energy to teaching activities. Recently, there are even more efforts to spread CME activities throughout the country. One last progress is the establishment of the so called BBSMGK's (Birinci Basamakta Sürekli Mesleki Gelişim Kulüpleri; Continuous Professional Development Clubs in Primary Care). With the leadership and guidance of TAHUD, these clubs are already established in many cities, including Samsun, Adıyaman, Elazığ, and Gümüşhane.

The current series of courses given to primary care physicians through the BBSMGKs include ECG reading skills, chest x-ray interpretation skills, diabetes care, rational drug use, and CPR. More than 20 courses have been conducted within the last 6 months.



Başkent University Family Medicine Days 2 (20 January 2007), Mustafa Kemal University Family Medicine Days 2 (16-17 February 2007) and Mersin University Family Medicine Days (24 March 2007) were other local national meetings organized by family physicians during the last 6 months.

- **Upcoming events: Wonca Europe 2008 will be in Istanbul**

Preparations to organize the Wonca Europe 2008 Meeting in Istanbul (4-7 September 2008) are continuing. So far, agreement could be achieved with the organizing company and the web site is under way ([www.woncaeurope2008.org](http://www.woncaeurope2008.org)).



**WONCA EUROPE 2008**  
2008 AVRUPA AİLE HEKİMLİĞİ KONGRESİ  
Organizasyon: TAHUD **İSTANBUL'DA**

Details of the program were not announced yet and the organizing committee welcomes ideas and contributions (You can write to Dr. Nezh Dağdeviren, TAHUD general secretary at [drdagdeviren@trakya.edu.tr](mailto:drdagdeviren@trakya.edu.tr)).

- **Upcoming events: Fourth national family medicine days**



The fourth National Family Medicine Days will be organized by the Akdeniz University Medical Faculty Family Medicine Department in collaboration with TAHUD on 25-29 April 2007. The main theme of the congress is "Body and Spirit".



Joined with the Second European Systemic Family Medicine Congress, there will be around 140 speakers, including speakers from the Tavistock Clinics, London, Oulu university, Finland, and Haifa university. Information on the congress is available at [www.ailehekimligi2007.org](http://www.ailehekimligi2007.org).



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