

ENGLISH TRANSLATION



Über Grenzen hinweg

EU-weite, grenzüberschreitende ärztliche Weiterbildung
in deutschen Krankenhäusern

Van Hiltzen Kötzing

Across borders

EU-wide, cross-border further medical education in German hospitals

Unused capacities for continuing medical education at many German clinics on the one hand, training bottlenecks in other EU countries on the other. The solution to the problem promises an initiative aimed at cross-border medical education in the EU. The solution to the problem promises an initiative which is aimed at cross-border medical education in the EU.

Unused capacities for continuing medical education at many German clinics on the one hand, training bottlenecks in other EU countries on the other. Positions for continued training in German hospitals are unable to be filled due to a lack of applicants.

In other EU countries there are more medical school graduates than positions for further practical training in hospitals. This situation has created an initiative which helps young doctors overcome poor conditions, and through that, contributes to the security of supply. This results in the following goal formulation: The creation of cross-border medical education in the EU for the optimal usage of existing capacities

Legal basis

The foundations are within the EU, as there are no legal restrictions. One of the freedoms of EU citizens is the free movement of workers. These include the right of workers to move and settle freely, the right of access and residence for family members, and the right to work and receive treatment in another EU Member State, just like the citizens of that Member State. The European Labor Office is a special agency that is responsible for the promotion of the free movement of workers as well as dispatched workers.

Article 3 (2) of the Treaty on the European Union (EUV); Article 4 (2) (a), Article 20, Article 26 and Articles 45 - 48 of the contract of operation European Union (AEUV) Directive 2004/38/ EG on the law of the Citizens of the Union and their family members in the territory Member States to move freely and to stay; Regulation (EU) No. 492/2011 on the free movement of workers within the union

There are already some examples of the placement of applicants in EU countries in medical positions for further education. To name an example, there is an accord between the Medical Association of Austria and Italy/South Tyrol. However, most of these previous examples of cross-border mobility were specialist physicians.

Requirements

The possibilities in the EU strengthen the further education of doctors and offer significant potential to improve the situation for: doctors, hospitals, total medical care. However, it requires various prerequisites in order for the further education to be successful. These include:

- coordination with the national Medical Associations regarding recognition of education programs and benefits catalogs in the home country;
- and ensuring the quality of the training offered;
- overcoming linguistic barriers and the examination of medical and general language skills;
- preparing and accustomization of the participants in terms of linguistic, professional, organizational, social and cultural aspects;

For this purpose, a platform based in Berlin has been developed. This contains the necessary instruments for the necessary placement and organizational processes.

Process and content

The goal is to provide assistant physicians from the EU in Germany with further training options tailored to personal goals in order to become specialists. This way, an individual training plan coordinated across several hospitals (in Germany and possibly also in the home country with rotations between different hospitals) is created.

In addition to mediation and planning, participants are offered qualified support for their work in Germany. The aim is to give both the doctor and the hospital as much security as possible for the successful continuing education path, and experience shows that these factors are an essential (necessary) guarantor of successful work in a foreign country. This offer has different dimensions. They are medically-professional, linguistically, organizationally and culturally aligned.

The range of services covers the entire training process and begins even before their deployment in Germany. Appropriate forms of electronics-based learning programs are used, supplemented by organized or mediated attendance periods. The following contents are taught, among others:

- Support of professional training in German language;
- structures and processes of health care in Germany;
- structures and processes in German hospitals;
- financing of hospital services in Germany;
- the procedure of hospital admission and discharge;
- the anamnesis and patient documentation;
- essential processes (SOP) in the work of the doctor;
- the visit;
- about Germany: important aspects of culture and society

Instruments for conveying the content:

- Offer of Internet-based e-learning (tailored course content in easy-to-understand German)
- Literature;
- Day seminars;
- Personal coaching.

In addition, there is an electronic network for communication with the participants that is also at the disposal of the participants to communicate with each other.

The basis for participation is a framework agreement made with the hospital. The most ideal are regional associations of hospitals with advanced training authorization. Such associations can also be organized across providers. This should be especially interesting for rural regions.

For the initiative and for the concept there is a lot of approval everywhere. Politicians, the German Medical Association and organizations, and talks held in Italy, Hungary, and Lithuania encourage the initiators in their project.

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