

Mini-Questionnaire on Schooling and Vocational Training for Sick Children in Europe

Background of the study and guidelines on completing the Mini-Q.

There is a paucity of published data on the diversity of schooling and vocational training for sick children in Europe (Falk-Schalk 2009, Lancic et al. 2010, Mazur and Malkowska-Szcutnik 2010). The Hospital Organisation of Pedagogues in Europe (HOPE) (www.hospitalteachers.eu) is an association of European hospital teachers who work in hospitals and in specialised schools or services for sick children, or at home with sick children. It is registered as an NGO with the Council of Europe. Through school and education activities sick children are provided with a positive environment and with a chance to carry on their education, no matter what the illness. Teachers in hospitals provide adequate schooling for children with somatic diseases, psychosomatic disorders and psychiatric diseases. Even though there is hospital teaching in most European countries, there are major differences in the legal and practical frameworks of how national education systems provide continuity in education to students with medical needs.

Most importantly, there is a lack of adequate academic preparation for pedagogues teaching children with medical conditions attending normal schools. Last but not least, HOPE aims at improving access to education for sick children and adolescents and at ensuring their educational (re-)integration.

The European Paediatric Association (EPA) (homepage (<http://www.epa-une psa.org/>), previously the Union of the National European Paediatric Associations and Societies (UNEPSA), was founded in 1976. It has achieved an intensive contact by the European Paediatricians at the level of National Presidents and their executive boards. A special point of focus of EPA/UNEPSA activities is the research of paediatric care structures in East and West as well as North and South. A scientific work group has been set up to study the diversity of paediatric care with regard to “availability, affordability, accessibility, equity, efficacy, and efficiency of paediatric care”. Future EPA studies will concentrate on establishing a data base on the demography of “Paediatric Health Care” in 46 European countries, which will be used as a basis for future planning in Paediatrics.

HOPE and EPA aim to perform a demographic study on the differences of education for children and adolescents with medical conditions in Europe. This questionnaire aims at gathering new information on education in 46 European countries.

The benefit of the Mini-Q will be that new information will be collected, presented and discussed during the conferences of HOPE and EPA and published thereafter. It may thus serve as a basis for initiatives to improve access to education for this target group. Naturally, everyone who contributes will be included in the publication if our project reveals important information for European children.

The most important point is that we will collect data from a representative number of European countries.

We know that there may be a variety (multifaceted, heterogeneous) of forms of educational care even in a given country. In a limited number of countries we may have to ask our key-persons to collect the information from different national regions to analyse diversities of educational care within their country.

The analysis will focus on the following topics

1. National priorities of educational care for sick children:
A study on the possibilities for improving educational care in your country.
2. How do schooling and vocational training for sick children function?
3. What are the regulatory frameworks?
4. Which role is assigned to health education for children?
5. Other questions most welcomed.

Please click the given answers in the MiniQ and do not hesitate to add additional information where requested.

Many thanks for your help. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need further information (maris@casa.s.shuttle.de , ehrich.jochen@mh-hannover.de).

Maria Schmidt and Jochen H.H.Ehrich for the organisers.

References

Falk-Schalk, G. Education of children and adolescents with medical needs in hospital or at home, a HOPE-Survey (2007 - 2008)

Lancić F, Majska-Cesarec S, Musil V. School choice and vocational guidance for schoolchildren with chronic diseases and other health problems. Arh Hig Rada Toksikol. 2010 Sep 1;61(3):323-32.

Mazur J, Małkowska-Szcutnik A. Chronic diseases and perception of school demands among school children aged 11-15 years in Poland. Med Wieku Rozwoj. 2010 Apr-Jun;14(2):160-8.

Please enter the name of your country:
 Please enter your name and email address:
 Please enter your professional profile

1. Publications and legislation on schooling for sick children

1.1. Do you have any published articles on the topic of “Schooling and vocational training of sick children” in your country?

No Yes

If yes, please give the citation of the publication or send either a copy by ordinary mail to

Prof. Dr. med. J. H.H. Ehrich
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 MHH Children's Hospital
 Carl-Neuberg-Str. 1
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or by Fax to +49 511 532 3911

or a scanned version to ehrich.jochen@mh-hannover.de

1.2. Is schooling for sick children regulated by:

- a) National legislation
- b) Regional legislation
- c) Hospital policy
- d) Other. Please specify:

1.3. Do you offer one or more of the following educational institutions/services in your country? (Select more than 1 answer if appropriate)

	Special teachers/ educat'l teams provided by reg.school integrated in	Schools located in and attached to	independent educational services
university hospitals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
children's hospitals / wards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
psychosomatic /psychiatric hospitals or units	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
rehabilitation centres	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
other specialized health care institutions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
At home teaching provided by	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

1.4. Who pays for the teaching service in hospitals? (Select more than 1 answer if appropriate)

	teachers' salaries	t-materials equipment	rooms
a) The National Health Service.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) The hospital.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) The ministry of education.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) The health insurance company.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Public Administration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Other. Please specify:			

Comment: _____

1.5. Do you offer vocational guidance or training for sick children in hospitals in your country? no , yes

If yes. please specify if this guidance / training is given by specialised career advisers and name their profession:

If yes. please specify if this guidance / training is given according to special disease groups name the subspecialties (e.g. neurological diseases):

1.6. Do the teachers get a special education in the teaching of sick children?

- a) at undergraduate level. yes , no
- b) at postgraduate level. yes , no
- c) in service training yes , no

Please specify: _____

1.7 Does the general academic training of teachers include any courses about the special needs of students with medical conditions ?

yes , no

Please specify:

1.8 Would you be interested in a Continuing Education Master (M.A.) Programme for "Health and Education" ?

yes , no

Please specify:

1.9. Are there any written guidelines for teaching children in hospitals in your country?

yes , no

Other regulations. Please specify:

1.10 Are there written guidelines for the (re)integration of children into schools after hospital treatment?

yes , no

Please specify:

1.11 Is there an educational follow-up system in place?

yes , no

Please specify:

1.12 Is there a system of "contact teacher for students with medical conditions" in place at regular schools?

yes , no

Please specify:

b) Would you be in favour of such a system?

yes , no

Please specify:

2. Teaching in hospital

2.1. If you have guidelines for teaching children in hospitals:

a) How many teaching hours per week is a child entitled to according to legal regulations?

1. up to 4 hours
2. 5-9 hours
3. 10 hours or more

b) Which subjects are taught:

- | | usually | if needed or possible |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. native language | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. mathematics | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. one foreign language | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. biology/chemistry/physics | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. geography/history | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. arts / music | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Other. Please specify: | | |

c) Which professional backgrounds do teachers in this field generally have in your country?

1. Special Education
2. Primary School
3. Lower Secondary School (to age 15/16)
4. Upper Secondary School (to age 18+)

Further comment:

c) Where are children taught?

1. on the hospital ward
2. in dedicated school rooms

2.2. Do you have special rounds or meetings for teachers, psychologists, physiotherapists, nurses, doctors, etc. to discuss schooling problems of sick children.

yes , no

Further comment:

2.3. Do you offer special courses in health education for chronically sick children?

yes , no

If yes, please specify:

2.4. Do you encourage your children's hospitals to organise a special partnership with adjacent primary or secondary schools.

yes , no

2.5. Do you regard the topic of our MiniQ as relevant for the care of sick children?

yes , no

2.6. If yes, which questions would you have liked to ask that are not on this MiniQ?

Please enter your questions:

After completing the MiniQ please return it to Maria Schmidt (maris@casa.s.shuttle.de) and Jochen H.H. Ehrich (ehrich.jochen@mh-hannover.de) by April 15th, 2011

The data will be presented during the next HOPE conference and during the ministerial health conference of the Council of Europe in September 2011 in Lisbon in order to stimulate an initiative on "Adequate schooling and vocational training for chronically sick children in Europe".