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European Leadership Development Program Class of 2013-2015

***Title of Project: Rebuilding / Updating a National training program in Ophthalmology***

***Purpose:*** To identify the training problems in Ophthalmology in Greece and to prepare a new curriculum to meet the European and International standards.

***Methods:*** A scientific committee was set up to:

- Highlight the number and the distribution of Ophthalmologists in Greece
- Visit Greek training Eye Centers
- Interview directors and residents
- Complete evaluation sheets : How well equipped each center is, how well trained the trainers are, what's the training program, are there scientific activities, is there any exposure to special fields in Ophthalmology, what's the exposure to surgery etc.
- Address suggestions for improvements
- Adapt the EBO and ICO proposed curriculums to the new Greek curriculum
- Study the data collected

***Results:*** 2500 doctors are practicing Ophthalmology in Greece (1:5000 people), among them there were 200 residents. Training in Ophthalmology is performed only in Public Hospitals (University and NHS). There are more than 40 training centers (a few for full training (4 years) and the rest for partial training (1 ½ to 3 years). There is no common National curriculum, no formal assessment on trainers and training centers, not all the centers were well equipped, not much exposure to special fields in Ophthalmology, poor surgical training, only a few opportunities for research.

***Conclusion:*** The number of Ophthalmologists in Greece is already enormous. A generous cut off the number is needed. The residents should be reduced to 50% at least. A new curriculum is prepared to be the common nationally wide curriculum and also to meet the EBO & ICO standards. The training centers should be reduced and evaluated in order to meet the requirements of the new curriculum. Most of the training centers should offer full time training and only a few should work as a part of a rotation program to cover part of the first two years training according to the curriculum. The trainers and the training centers should be evaluated every 5 years to prove that they are updated and well equipped consequently. More opportunities should be given to residents for surgery and fellowships. Finally, a proper liaison should be created between public and private hospitals / centers to cover training gaps.