



******IMS 2020 Newsletter – November 2012******

Dear Reader,

With the IMS 2020 methodology and indicators virtually completed the time had arrived to present the label methodology to a wider audience. On the 22nd Oct. IMS 2020 presented the IMS 2020 project and the label methodology at the 2012 World Health Summit in Berlin. Details of how the session was received and updates on the progress of Task Force work and the IMS 2020 Association can be found in this newsletter.

Joint Task Force Meetings – October 2012

In October 2012 a crucial joint Task Force (TF) meeting followed by an IMS Steering Committee (SC) meeting was held in Berlin at which point the three TFs and SC were able to unite and make decisions on important issues at this point in the project period. The results of these discussions are included in the three TF summaries which follow.

Task Force 1 ‘Quality Assurance’

Task Force Background

In the second year of the project Task Force 1 (TF1) continued its work on developing the IMS label methodology draft. A document defining the label’s foundation (purpose, philosophy, goals, dimensions, filter criteria) has been finalized which precisely describes the entire labelling process (phases, applicable methods and evaluation tools). In particular an IMS label glossary has been prepared which defines all terms used in the label. Thus the main achievements of the TF at the end of the second project year include:

- a) Completion of the IMS label methodology draft
- b) Completion of the IMS label glossary
- c) Completion of the IMS label tool for collection and analysis of quantitative data

Simultaneously, a fundamental tool for collection and analysis of quantitative data has been carefully designed, tested and ratified. This is necessary for the evaluation of the medical school's level and quality of internationality and internationalization. The toolbox will gather:

a) The desirable benchmarks and real three year period data for quantitative indicators related to the six IMS label dimensions (institution, students, staff, research, curriculum, social engagement): From the available 80 indicators , an applicant school needs to choose at least 50% per dimension to self-evaluate its performance

b) Background information; This will mean that the quantitative data provided by the medical school can be considered in the relevant context (its chosen profile of internationality and scope of the label)

By the end of the second project year and based on the use of this tool we will finish collecting data from the six university medical school project partners.

TF Aims and Plans for the 3 rd Project Year

After analysing the data gathered from the university project partners TF1 will use the third project year to:

- a) Finalize the IMS label toolbox
- b) Conduct the full IMS labelling process at interested university project partners
- c) Deliver the IMS label to external stakeholders

The main task for TF1 will be to run the full labelling process at selected medical schools, including expert data analysis and to conduct peer review visits. In this way we hope to grant first IMS labels and at the same time plan to test and validate the IMS label methodology

and tools in practice. As a consequence, at the end of the project period, we hope to be able to provide medical schools worldwide with a comprehensive and reliable label, which recognizes, supports and rewards excellence in the area of internationalization.

Drafted by the Co-Head of TF1: Joanna Gajowniczek (Warsaw)

Task Force 2 'Staff Management & Training'

Task Force Background

Task Force 2 (TF2) is headed by the Charité University Medical School in Berlin. The TF focuses on developing Staff Training Courses (STCs) transporting locally relevant and centrally developed ideas on internationalization management and (inter)cultural awareness in medical education, research supervision and administration to relevant medical school staff. To date the audience for the STCs includes doctors, researcher supervisors and administrative staff at partner medical schools. Thus, in year 2 the main aims of the TF were twofold. Firstly TF2 had to get the local STCs up and running at partner institutions. And secondly towards the end of the year the TF had to use course feedback and evaluations to refine the course structure with the hope of establishing permanent STCs at the university partner institutions in project year 3. These aims have been successfully achieved. Local STCs were held at partner medical schools in Rome, Berlin, Paris, Stockholm, Antwerp and Warsaw in March/April 2012 and a document summarizing evaluations has been drafted.

TF Aims and Plans for the 3rd Project Year

A TF 2 feedback meeting was held on the 18th Oct. 2012. At this meeting an evaluation of work to date was carried out and plans for a set of guidelines based on TF results were discussed (the guidelines will be written in the course of year 3). Plans for establishing permanent STCs at partner institutions were outlined. Also first steps were taken towards establishing a database or "pool" of STC courses which will be on offer for label applicants once the IMS Association is up and running.

A last TF2 meeting towards the end of the final project year will be used to assess the first draft of TF2 guidelines and to further valorize lessons learned during the project period. All TF members will be invited to report on activities carried out and progress made in the establishment of the permanent STCs at the partner institutions.

In the course of year 3 the STC guidelines will be finalized and published along with a database of STC information and contacts. Thus it is hoped that the STC established in year 3 will continue to operate beyond the project's contract period

Drafted by the Head of TF2 : Rachel Seeling (Berlin)

Task Force 3 'Autonomy and Accountability'

TF Aims and Plans for the 3rd Project Year

During project year 3 the task force will primarily focus on implementation issues related to the IMS label.

A Manual for the IMS Label

During the second project year Task Force 3 (TF3) reviewed the qualitative IMS indicators suggested by TF1. As a result of this process it became evident that a manual with detailed background information for each indicator is vital for the success of the IMS label. The best practice examples identified by TF3 will be used to define full achievement for a particular indicator. An accompanying glossary will help to build a common terminology. The manual will support evaluators to provide a fair and transparent assessment of applicant institutions. It will also serve as an inspiration and guideline to medical schools aiming to become more international.

Autonomy and the IMS Label

TF3 will develop a questionnaire to assess the degree of autonomy of a medical school. This questionnaire shall serve two purposes: (i) to gather data from our partners on their organizational structure with regards to autonomy and (ii) to determine the degree of autonomy of applicant institutions as part of their self-assessment during the application process. After the degree of autonomy (DoA) of a given institution has been assessed, a correction factor will be employed to account for different DoA when evaluating the indicators. For this purpose TF3 will identify indicators that are affected by any dimension of autonomy (financial, strategic, academic, staff etc.). Once the indicators concerning autonomy become evident, the correction factor will be used for the evaluation of the indicators thus compensating different DoA.

Internal Testing and Evaluation of the Labelling Process

TF3 will devote the final project year to the implementation of the label. One of the most important issues before the project period expires and before the IMS 2020 label comes onto the market is to test the label. The labelling process has already been defined by the IMS methodology paper and a great deal of effort has been put into the development of elaborated and reasonable indicators. A test site visit will turn theory into practice. TF3 suggests visiting one or two partner institutions to test the IMS 2020 labelling process. The test site visits will undergo an internal evaluation process.

Drafted by the co-Head of TF3: Thomas Schlabs (Berlin)

IMS 2020 Annual Meeting at the World Health Summit – October 2012

On the 22nd Oct. 2012 IMS 2020 presented the IMS 2020 project and its label methodology at the 2012 World health Summit. “The IMS 2020 quality label will take a huge step towards achieving worldwide comparability of quality in internationalization in medical education and research” explained Mrs. Ulrike Arnold, Head of the Charite International Cooperation (ChIC) and coordinator of the IMS 2020 project. “The label will improve visibility of the levels and standards of internationalization at medical faculties worldwide”. A comprehensive presentation on the label methodology including label dimensions and filter criteria provided a concise insight into the previous two years project work. The presentation was very well received . Even before the label methodology is finalized it was clear that numerous medical schools had expressed their interest and intention to be involved with the IMS 2020 quality label.

Next Steps

The next steps for the IMS 2020 project will be to embark on a test phase to valorize qualitative and quantitative indicators detailed in the quality label. In the near future IMS 2020 hopes to collaborate with M8 Alliance partner institutions thus assimilating North and South American and Asian institutions into its work. Furthermore the positive resonance from institutions further afield implicates possible future collaboration with African and

other developing world countries. The IMS 2020 quality label would thus have an impact well beyond European frontiers.

An IMS Association which will run and manage the label will shortly be established. It is hoped that the process of first label accreditations will begin late 2013 or early 2014.

Press Releases

English:

http://www.charite.de/en/charite/press/press_reports/artikel/detail/turning_rhetoric_into_a_quality_label_for_the_future/

German:

http://www.charite.de/charite/presse/pressemitteilungen/artikel/detail/turning_rhetoric_into_a_quality_label_for_the_future/

Documents to Download

The IMS 2020 Annual Report for year 2 is now available to download from our website at www.ims-2020.eu. Other important documents that are available to download on the docs/results webpage include:

- **The International Medical School (IMS) Label - Methodology draft**
- **IMS 2020 Standard Presentation**
- **IMS 2020 Background Study**
- **Local Staff Training Course Agendas**
- **SWOT Analyses of the IMS 2020 Partner Universities**
- **Previous Newsletters**

IMS 2020: Further Information

If you have any questions or wish for further information, do take a look at our project website www.ims-2020.eu or contact the IMS 2020 Project Coordinator ulrike.arnold@charite.de or the IMS 2020 Project Manager rachel.seeling@charite.de.