Charter for IPE in Europe

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By signing this charter, I subscribe to its recommendations, asking political leaders, decision-makers and institutional managers in health care, professional bodies, governmental agencies, health insurance organizations, patient organizations, and educational institutions, to promote and ensure effective collaborative interprofessional practice in health and social care, following the recommendations of the new framework for interprofessional education and collaborative practice, published under the auspices of the World Health Organization (2010).

Interprofessional collaboration is aimed at high quality health and social care, as well as at effective health promotion and disease prevention. Health is defined within the view of biopsychosocial well-being and the holistic view on human functioning as described in the ICF-model of the WHO (2001). Interprofessional collaboration in practice not only requires competency-based training and education in shared care planning and patient-centered care, but also necessitates a continuous attention to the contextual conditions to effectuate this care. The European Interprofessional Practice & Education Network acts as a platform for the promotion of IPE (Interprofessional Practice and Education).

As promoted by EIPEN, and by the knowledge that interprofessional education can only be fruitful if the necessary changes are implemented in practice, I ask specifically that

- Professional bodies of health and social care professions explicitly formulate the necessity of competences in interprofessional collaboration being present in graduating students in health and social care professions.
- Educational and clinical institutions formulate interprofessional collaborative work as one of the main values in their mission and in their quality management policy, and support and adhere to bodies and networks that promote and/or supervise interprofessional health and social care.
- Educational institutions comply with this need by ensuring that graduates are competent in interprofessional health and social care and by ensuring that professional body representatives ratify the competence chart of their educational programmes based on the presence of interprofessional competences.
- Clinical institutions comply with this need by ensuring that staff is competent in interprofessional health and social care, by providing continuous training in this, and by allowing patient representatives and/or representatives from patient organizations to take part in the institutional policy.
- Governmental agencies focus on the compliance of clinical and educational institutions with regulations promoting and necessitating interprofessional practice and education, and support the institutions by implementing accreditation and financial mechanisms that foster this practice and education.
- Health insurance bodies, patient organizations, and supportive networks explicitly formulate the need for IPE towards the clinical and educational institutions, as well as towards the governmental agencies.