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## Case Study in Curriculum Development at the Initial Level Within Physiotherapy

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**PURPOSE:** Curriculum development across national boundaries has become possible as a result of European funding. A SOCRATES funded project enabled 3 physiotherapy programmes in different Member States to engage in joint re-development of modules in Research Methods and Neurological Physiotherapy. Research Methods module will be the exemplar in this paper. Project aims included development of a common theoretical and evidence-base for education and practice and to further the Europeanization of programme teams. **RELEVANCE:** Working towards the goal of harmonization of curricula will facilitate movement of staff and students between Member States. Reporting the experience of curriculum development projects will inform future project teams. **DESCRIPTION:** A deliberative approach proved a fruitful way of exploring differences and selecting from among the options. An iterative process guided discussions through the stages of determining what we wanted, appreciating our differences, recognizing our strengths, and capturing, recording and mapping our thinking. The group met twice for 2.5 days over 6 months with English as the working language. The findings shaped the re-development of modules within the curriculum in each institution. **RESULTS:** Comparability of the level of study and student experience between our institutions was assured through the development of agreed lists of principles of good practice for all aspects of module design and delivery. Due to the constraints of existing programmes, identical units of study were not possible. Conceptual mapping was found to be a useful tool for communication. **CONCLUSIONS:** A shared vision and educational philosophy was fundamental to the success of the project. Recommendations for future curriculum development initiatives include not limiting deliberation to credit ratings and comparability, keeping the team consistent and building the process into staff development activities.