



Bologna Declaration and Physiotherapy Education in Portugal: Opinions from Teachers and Students

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PURPOSE: The aim of our work is contribute to the Portuguese characterisation of the physiotherapy education under the Bologna Declaration (BD) context. The focus is on the study of the opinions that Physiotherapy schools advocate about the Bologna Declaration. **RELEVANCE:** Physiotherapy education in Portugal has suffered several changes in time, especially at the end of 20th century. For the next years a new scene is in discussion, according to the Bologna Declaration, signed by 29 European countries, including Portugal, in June 1999. The opinions from those who are directly involved with this process and it's implications for the future of higher education, are very important for the development of the process itself. **SUBJECTS:** The study's target population includes teachers and students from physiotherapy schools in Portugal. Our sample consists of six physiotherapy schools. In each school we have interviewed the Physiotherapy course coordinator. We also have selected a sample of 73 physiotherapy students. **METHODS AND MATERIALS:** We have formulated four guiding questions. We have used an interview to collect data from physiotherapy coordinators and a questionnaire to collect data from students. **ANALYSIS:** The study presented in this paper used descriptive statistical analysis. **RESULTS:** Physiotherapy coordinators and physiotherapy students agree with a system of easily readable and comparable degrees essentially based on two main cycles'. They also agree with students' and professionals' mobility and with the promotion of quality assurance. **CONCLUSIONS:** Considering the results obtained, we concluded that schools advocate positive opinions with regard the establishment of the European area of higher education. In addition schools have found some difficulties throughout the process. Teachers and students feel that it is necessary to promote the discussion about this subject, involving all schools, students, politicians and public opinion.

