The organisation of midwifery education in *Belgium*

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05/10/2015
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Introduction

- Context: Europe – Belgium – Flanders - Ghent
- Government
- Professional Organisations
- Competency Framework
- Curriculum Building
- Workplace learning
Context: Europe-Belgium-Ghent
### Europe

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>HABITANTS</th>
<th>SURFACE</th>
<th>BNP</th>
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<td>5,5</td>
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</table>
European Directives

How the EU directive is guiding midwifery education in Europe today

Mr. Joeri Vermeulen, European Midwives Association, Belgium
Belgium

3 official languages: Dutch, French, German

Federal state: Everything connected with public interest
1 Minister of health

Community: Everything related to culture in the broad sense
2 Ministers of Education
Belgium: Public Health

1 Minister of Public Health
Maggie De Block

Professionale overheidsdienst
VOLKSGEZONDHEID, VEILIGHEID VAN DE VOEDSELKETEN EN LEEFMILIEU
service public fédéral
SANTE PUBLIQUE, SECURITE DE LA CHAINE ALIMENTAIRE ET ENVIRONNEMENT

Midwifery practice in Belgium. Ms. Régine Goemaes, Ghent University, Belgium

www.health.fgov.be
Midwifery care in Belgium

- +/- 10 000 midwives (no official registration)
- +/- 100 000 births
- +/- 1% home births
- Minority of midwives works independent
- Gynaecologist – Midwife
- ≤ 4 days in maternity ward after birth
Belgium: Education

**Minister Crevits**

Vlaamse gemeenschap
Accreditation: NVAO
Flemisch Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders
Flemisch Educational profile
Midwifery: 3 years - bachelor - Dutch
9 schools (12 departments)

**Minister Milquet**

Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles
Accreditation: AEQES
l’Agence pour l’Evaluation de la Qualité de l’Enseignement Supérieur
Note de compétences 2010
CGHE, Conseil Général des Hautes Ecoles
Midwifery: 4 years – bachelor - French
9 schools
To conclude...

- 1 European Directive
- 1 Minister of Health
  - 1 Midwife
  - 1 professional profile
- 2 Ministers of Education
  - 2 Midwifery programs (3 years versus 4 years)
  - 2 Educational profiles
  - 2 Accreditation systems
Professional Organisations

International Confederation of Midwives

Belgian Midwives Association

AFSF

UNIE VLAAMSE VROEDVROUWEN

VZW vlaamse organisatie van vroedvrouwen

EUROPEAN MIDWIVES ASSOCIATION

UpSfb
1995-2015: 20 years Midwifery

INTERNATIONALE LEERSTOEL FRANCINE GOORIS

Mind the midwife
20 jaar vroedkunde in Vlaanderen

Feestelijke editie met alle opleidingen vroedkunde samen

Donderdag en vrijdag
26 & 27 november 2015

Arteveldehogeschool, Campus Kantienberg, Voetweg 99, 9000 Gent, België
www.arteveldehogeschool.be/leerstoelfg/2015

http://www.arteveldehogeschool.be/leerstoelfg/2015/
The first pillar of a strong midwifery profession is Education to provide a highly competent, qualified workforce.

Faizabad Midwifery Education School, Afghanistan, trainer Farzana Darkhani uses a mannequin to show students how to stop post-partum bleeding by hand. Photograph: WHO Christopher Black

Find the ICM Core documents here:

- ICM Essential Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice (2010 amended 2013) for the basis of the curriculum for midwifery education.
- ICM Standard Equipment List for Competency-Based Skills Training (2012)
- ICM Model Curriculum Outlines for Professional Midwifery Education (2012) provides guidelines for the development of midwifery curricula which, in line with competencies and education standards take cognisance of the context without compromising quality.
- Coming soon: Midwifery Services Framework

Developing the Standards

The ICM Council12 adopted the 2010 amended Afghanistan Global Standards for Education in December 2013.

ICM Triennial Congress 2014
Prague
Read more...

ICM has the authority to speak on behalf of the world's midwives.

Check out the DVD
Midwives Work
Read more...
ICM Essential competencies for basic midwifery practice

1. C in Social, Epidemiologic and Cultural context of Maternal and newborn Care
2. C in Pre-Pregnancy Care and Family Planning
3. C in Provision of Care During Pregnancy
4. C in Provision of Care During Labour and Birth
5. C in Provision of Care for Women During the Postpartum Period
6. C in Postnatal Care of the Newborn
7. C in Facilitation of Abortion-Related care
Competency Framework in Flanders

This framework was based on:

- the European Directives,
- the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) Essential Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice (ICM 2010, amended 2013),
- the relevant Belgian professional legislation and professional competencies (2006),
- and the existing education programmes (2008).
Competencies or learning outcomes

1. Physiology, care and guidance
2. Risk detection and Risk selection
3. Pathology, care and guidance
4. Psycho-social context
5. Ethics and legislation
6. Health educator
7. Collaboration and Communication
8. Coaching
9. Personal and professional development
10. Evidence-based care
11. Quality and care

http://www.royalcollege.ca/portal/page/portal/rc/canmeds
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## Competency Matrix

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ICM: International Confederation of Midwives  
MEF: Midwifery Education Flanders
C = Outcome-based education

- Language  [labour market and education]¹
- Structure  [profession & curriculum]¹
- Integrating [knowledge, skills, attitudes in a context]²
- Professional competence³
- A Lifelong Competence Learning Journey⁴

Midwifery Education
Responsibility school:
“When a Midwifery school graduates a student it implies that the individual has the cognitive knowledge, the clinical skills and the non-cognitive qualities necessary to function as a competent midwife”

Lane, 2010
How to organise an educational competency-based continuum?
Educational profile

- No requirement on behalf of the Minister of Education
- Heads of midwifery departments broke down each competency in behavioural indicators and competency components (knowledge, skills and attitudes).
- Result: a standardized and validated midwifery education profile in 2014\(^1\)

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Midwifery Education in Flanders

- 1 professional profile
- 1 educational profile
- Different curricula but
  - 180 ECTS
  - ½ clinical education (in school/ at the workplace)
  - 3 ECTS: pharmacology (new legislation - prescription)

ECTS = European Credit Transfer System
Curricula: learning and assessment

MILLER'S PRISM OF CLINICAL COMPETENCE (aka Miller's Pyramid)

it is only in the "does" triangle that the
doctor truly performs

Based on work by Miller GE, The Assessment of Clinical Skills/Competence/Performance; Acad. Med. 1990; 65(9): 63-67
Adapted by Drs. R. Mehay & R. Burns, UK (Jan 2009)
Curriculum Ghent

- Modular based
- Competency based
- Experience-based
- Programmatic learning and assessment

New curriculum 2014-2017:
  - Year 1: normal birth
  - Year 2: normal birth + pathology (incl. gynaecology)
  - Year 3: integration + high risk / intensive care + internationalisation
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<th>MODULE</th>
<th>CURRICULUM BLOCK</th>
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Year 1: 60 ECTS
Year 2: 60 ECTS
Year 3: 60 ECTS
Workplace Learning Midwives Flanders
Embo’s continuous workplace learning model
Integrating Workplace Learning, Assessment and Supervision in Healthcare Education

Workplace learning
a continuous and self-regulated process of personal and professional development
Malloch et al., 2013
Embo et al. Integrating Learning, Assessment and supervision in a competency framework education. Nurse Education Today 2014; http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.nedt.2014.11.022
Future research

Continuous Professional Development

Thanks!

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