

TOWARDS INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN THE FIELD OF ORTHOPEDIC SHOE TECHNOLOGY

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INTRODUCTION

FOOT B-NL is a cooperation of Flemish and Dutch organizations in the field of orthopedic technology and orthopedic shoe technology. In FOOT B-NL professional organizations as well as education and training institutes in these fields take part.

FOOT B-NL's objective is to improve education and training in the field of orthopedic technology and orthopedic shoe technology by close cooperation of the professional organizations and the education and training institutes.

In 2007 FOOT B-NL took the initiative to approach ISPO in order to promote the development of international standards for education and training in the field of orthopedic shoe technology. We approached ISPO, because the ISPO standards Category 1, 2 and 3 for Orthotist and Prosthetist could be used as a good example. These standards are useful references for standards in the field of orthopedic shoe technology

APPROACH

With support of the ISPO International Education Committee, FOOT B-NL contacted several European partners in the field of orthopedic shoe technology (professional organizations / education and training organizations) in 2008/2009. A number of meetings have been organized to set up this process.

FOOT B-NL proposed the following approach:

- Collecting documents concerning the educational standards in the participating countries.
- A quick scan of these documents to get a rough picture of the different standards
- A first meeting to make an inventory of ideas/wishes in the different countries (preparation of this meeting)
- Preparing a proposal on the basis of these ideas/wishes
- Reaching agreement on this proposal
- Presenting this proposal on the IVO-congress in November (The Hague)

RESULTS AND FUTURE STEPS

At the time of writing this abstract we are in the process of preparing the first meeting in September 2009.

We will present the resulting proposals from this meeting on the IVO-congress in November 2009.

We intend to involve as many stakeholders from other countries as possible in this initiative in order to

establish international recognized standards in orthopedic shoe technology.

With these standards we can strengthen the position of orthopedic shoe technology in an international framework. A strong platform with stakeholders from as many countries as possible will help to establish a sound basis for such international recognized standards.