

Facing the challenges of assessment through cooperation: The Umbrella Consortium for Assessment Networks (UCAN)

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Background:

Good exams are an essential part of the learning process. Top-quality items, state-of-the-art quality management and judicial security are therefore pivotal for modern assessment. At the same time, most educational institutions have to cope with scarce resources for exams. Instead of facing these challenges alone, UCAN empowers actors in the field of educational assessment to cooperate in networks, complement their resources, share the knowledge and to develop new methods and standards to establish excellent exams.

Summary of work:

UCAN serves as a non-profit umbrella organization for different assessment networks. 49 schools, boards and councils from six countries use a common platform for the exam preparation, exchange, delivery and evaluation. In close cooperation with all partners, UCAN develops formats, content, procedures and tools to support the workflow in medical assessment.

Summary of results:

In the last two years, UCAN integrated new formats such as OSCEs and Structured Oral Examinations. Several apps for tablet-based exams were developed and established in several

partner faculties. The first competency-based ProgressTest with 600 participants was conducted in eight schools. Currently a feedback system is in development, giving students a longitudinal feedback on strengths and weaknesses in different competencies, examiners information about the exam-quality and faculties important insights on the effects of curricula changes.

Discussion and Conclusions:

To address current challenges and requirements in assessment, a cooperative approach is essential.

Take-home message:

UCAN offers a comprehensive platform for such cooperation. Partners can use a lot of helpful tools and innovations in the field of assessments.