

## **Longkomm-Toolbox – Exchange of best practice examples on the subject of communication skills**

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### **Background:**

Medical communication skills were officially established as part of medical education and examination in Germany in 2012 due to changes in the Medical Licensure Act. Accordingly, all medical faculties are expected to integrate the teaching and assessment of communication skills in their curricula.

To support this process a project for the development of a national, longitudinal communication skills curriculum for undergraduate medical education was initiated. The project was supported by the German Federal Ministry of Health from 2012 to 2015.

Within this project, ideas were developed how to realize the implementation of communication skills in current curricula efficiently. To facilitate this implementation, an online-platform (“Longkomm-Toolbox”) was created which should enable lecturers to exchange best practice examples on the subject of communication skills.

### **Methods:**

Current best practice examples of teaching and assessment of communication skills are collected from the medical faculties. They are filed following a certain standard. In addition, the best practice examples are classified according to communication-related learning objectives and competences defined in the “National competence-based learning catalogue of medicine“. Related teaching materials and background information are being collected as well and uploaded into the toolbox.

### **Preliminary findings:**

The technical development of the toolbox is completed and the upload of best practice examples will commence in spring 2016. Until now, 143 best practice examples from 29 medical faculties and 3 additional institutions are being filed and classified.

In this presentation, we will illustrate the steps of filing and classification of the best practice examples and the structure and usage of the Longkomm-Toolbox using a representative best practice example.

**Preliminary implications:**

The Longkomm-Toolbox is a valuable way for lecturers at the medical faculties in Germany to support each other with the (further) development of their own communication skills courses and curricula. Future developments aim to support possibilities to review these examples and to exchange experiences.

**Request for feedback:**

Suggestions for improvements of Toolbox structure and content.