The second phase of the EAHIL CPD pilot project

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The EAHIL pilot project for Continuous Professional Development took place from November 2016 to March 2017. This project consisted of the issuance of 3 webinars on systematic reviews. Three experts were invited to participate as speakers: Andrew Booth, Carol Lefebvre and Julie Glanville. Each webinar had the same structure: a brief introduction and presentation of the project and of the speakers, a talk of about 45 minutes by the speaker (supported by a presentation), and about 10-15 minutes of live questions for attendees to clarify their doubts about the topic presented by the expert.

Different tools were used in each webinar to test which one was the most suitable for this type of event. At the end of each webinar, participants were surveyed for their opinions and experiences.

We concluded that webinars were a good way to spread information and knowledge, but none of the platforms used was problem-free. In addition, technical problems were pointed out from the user side, such as the types of Internet connection, difficulty in receiving the audio or video correctly or simply that their institutions did not allow the connection through the tools used to broadcast the webinar. Other problems encountered regarded the timetable. All webinars were broadcast during European business hours, which prevented students with public facing jobs from being able to connect live. In spite of all this, the webinars with their themes and speakers were very well received, with more than 790 people registered in total.

Due to the success of this first pilot project, the technical problems and the scope of the knowledge acquired with the webinars having been analysed, it is planned to extend the pilot project in a second phase. At this stage, the idea of continuous professional development goes beyond a few webinars that are recorded and available to students. The aim is to generate knowledge asynchronously and in all directions, not only from experts to students, but also among students themselves. The main idea is that we all have knowledge that we can share with other colleagues and that knowledge can come from sharing. It has been proposed the use of an online training platform in which the webinars carried out in the first phase of the pilot project will be uploaded and which will allow the students, based on questions about the contents dealt with in each webinar, to debate and draw conclusions, share materials and links and raise new doubts and get new solutions to their questions.

This second phase of the project is expected to take place in late 2018 or early 2019. Access to the platform will be open for a period of 3 months so that students can access it when it suits them best. At the end of the stipulated period, the students will obtain a certificate of attendance as the platform will be able to monitor the participation of each of them in the exchange of knowledge and the debate generated. However, this platform is not free of charge and, although its price is not high, with this second phase we want to evaluate whether the price is in line with what the students are willing to pay for the knowledge acquired.

If you are interested in participating in this second phase of the pilot project, you can contact María García-Puente (maria@bibliovirtual.es), the person in charge of setting it up, and ask for more information. As soon as it is up and running we will contact you to send you a short survey and a link for you to access.

We're looking forward to learning with you. You up for it?