

## **Official response of the Dutch Society of Clinical Genetic Diagnostic Laboratories (Vereniging Klinisch Genetische Laboratoriumdiagnostiek; VKGL)**

to the

### **Public consultation on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications Directive**

VKGL is the Dutch society for clinical genetic laboratories, including molecular, cytogenetic and biochemical laboratories. All member laboratories are accredited in compliance with the standard ISO15189 "Medical laboratories — Particular requirements for quality and competence". The member labs are the only laboratories in The Netherlands licensed to perform clinical genetic laboratory investigations.

Main points of view of the VKGL:

- European wide recognition of the laboratory specialism clinical molecular genetics, in addition to the medical specialism Clinical Genetics, which would be in compliance with the statement in the OECD Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Molecular Genetic Testing: E5. Relevant government or professional authorities should recognize medical genetics as a discipline comprising both a clinical and a laboratory specialty. The clinical specialty has very recently been recognized by the European Commission.

VKGL is in favour of such a recognized laboratory specialism, with European wide recognition. We have already put in place a national educational program including registration, site visits, definition of competences, etc.

We have restricted our responses to question 15 concerning the introduction of European curriculum, as this is an issue within the area of concern of the VKGL.

If you have any questions on this response, please contact Hans Scheffer, chairman VKGL, associate professor clinical molecular genetics, head Division DNA Diagnostics, Dept. Human Genetics, Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Centre, The Netherlands ([h.scheffer@antrg.umcn.nl](mailto:h.scheffer@antrg.umcn.nl))

### **Question 15: What are your views about introducing the concept of a European curriculum – a kind of 28th regime applicable in addition to national requirements? What conditions could be foreseen for its development?**

We are in strong favour of introducing European curricula. For our own specialty, this would be a chance, since the field is relatively young and strongly developing. Hardly any national regulation exist, though the professional expertise is required for reliable clinical testing in the field of medical genetics. In fact, the clinical specialism is heavily relying on high quality testing, thus making this an integral part of the medical genetic specialism, as stated by the OECD Guidelines. In a number of countries educational programs have been implemented, and private professional registries are kept. Strong international bodies are in place in the genetic professional specialty, e.g. the European Society of Human Genetics, or the FP7 Eurogentest project, both dealing with improvement of professional expertise and quality. These organizations could be instrumental in the development of such a European curriculum.