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***EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION FOR SPECIFIC PROFESSIONAL
CONTEXTS AND INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY:
THE QUALITY DIMENSION. A REPORT ON THE INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE CELEBRATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY
OF QUEST ROMANIA, IASI, ROMANIA, 14 OCTOBER 2016***

The anniversary QUEST conference took place in the beautiful city of Iasi, a well-known cultural and university centre in the north-eastern part of Romania. It was jointly organised by QUEST Romania, the University of medicine and Pharmacy in Iasi, and the EuroEd Foundation, founder member of QUEST. This international and interdisciplinary event was dedicated to the European Day of Languages and also marked the launch of the first multilingual MOOC at the University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Iasi.

The conference was opened by Professor Dr. Viorel Scripcariu, Rector of Gr. T. Popa University. Further welcome speeches were delivered by Mrs Sarah Breslin, Executive Director of the ECML of the Council of Europe, by Associate Professor Dr. Ovidiu Petris, Gr. T. Popa University, Director of the European Palliative Care MOOC project, and Prof. Dr. Laura Muresan, Founding President of QUEST Romania.

Keynote speakers and special guests included Mr. Richard Rossner who is a consultant for and co-founder of Equals, an international association dedicated to fostering high quality in language education. His talk began by considering

ways in which language and languages permeate and facilitate education and learning at all levels, including in special areas as CLIL, migrant education, and higher education, including in the field of medical studies. The talk ended by considering some of the parameters that could be used to categorize and describe teacher competences related to languages and language teaching in the guide and in a later overarching framework. The second keynote speaker, Mr. Michael Carrier, Managing Director of Highdale Consulting, delivered his talk on implications for communication strategies, intercultural awareness, content design and pedagogical approaches. His presentation looked at the issues of what kinds of teacher and lecturer training are required to make English in professional contexts successful reality.

Over 80 participants included QUEST members, language teachers and teacher trainers, academics teaching their specialized subjects via the medium of English or French, as well as Romanian. The main thematic areas included: professional communication in a lingua franca, trainer development in vocational contexts, the social responsibility of education and educators, the innovative dimension of higher/adult education, terminology and discourse studies for/in LSP courses, medical communication – intercultural and multilingual dimensions: the European Palliative Care MOOC Project, international mobility – factors contributing to a successful experience: insights gained through the European Horizon 2020 “MOVE” Project.

The conference was an opportunity to exchange views and opinions on language teaching in multilingual and pluricultural contexts as well as the role of language learning and cultural awareness for successful international mobility.