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Advice Education Committee Research Masters
EvaSys

Topic
EvaSys

Submitted by ECRM members
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Date final advice
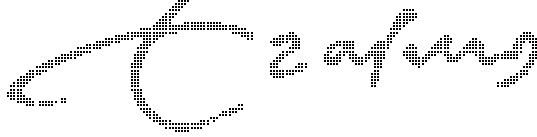Click here to enter a date.

Date ECRM meeting
16 May 2019

Topic area
☐ New policy or new educational component
☐ Revision of policy or educational component
☐ Topic of annual planning ECRM from PDCA cycle
☐ Topic of annual planning ECRM put on the agenda by ECRM member
☒ Other: Online survey system for education quality, available for course evaluation of the Erasmus MC Research Masters.

Contact (study coordinator or advisor)*(name and email address)*
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Contents of advice

1. **Question/issue leading up to the advice** (5 lines)

   EvaSys is an evaluation tool used by the medical program and EUR for many years. The ECRM would like to consider if implementing EvaSys in all the Research Masters from Erasmus MC would provide a benefit by having a standard evaluation system for the different courses.

2. **Reason for advice**

   EvaSys is an online system for creating, distributing and analyzing the results of course evaluations. The system has been used for many years in the EUR and the Medicine Curriculum, and more recently by some but not all the Research Masters (NIHES, Neuroscience, and recently also I&I use it. Mol Med does not use it). The version of the program that is currently used is 7.1 (recently updated).

3. **Benefits**

   1. *Flexibility*: The program provides a sufficient degree of flexibility in creating the evaluation forms. There are three main formats of questions, scale questions, multiple choice, and open questions. The end-users (e.g., the different master's programs) may tailor the surveys to the courses they provide and how these are presented to the students. The time the survey is available can be adjusted, and the system can send e-mail reminders to students. Finally, the surveys can be easily reused and adjusted each time a course is given.

   2. *Accessibility:* Students may fill in the surveys on paper (in which case the forms need to be scanned) or online. The latest update of the software allows the online version to be accessible from smartphones and tablets.

   3. *Reporting:* The system can create reports with the results of the survey in the closed questions. Different levels of access to the reports can be generated. In addition, the system can provide tailor-made reports, such as an analysis of comparisons of specific questions over the years or between different teachers.

   4. *Anonymity and GDPR*: The program complies with GDPR regulations (contrary to Google Forms). For example, it generates a unique password for each participant to use when accessing the link to the survey. Unless students are asked to provide their student number or name when completing a questionnaire, the responses cannot be traced back to an individual.

   5. *Learning Curve:* The program is in general easy to learn, and the office responsible for the system in the Erasmus MC provides training sessions and helps end-users in learning the system and its capabilities.

   6. *Robustness:* The system is, in general, robust and no serious problems or malfunctions have been reported.

4. **Risks, Concerns, and Limitations**
   1. *Availability*: The supplier is not very responsive in handling requests for extensions or adaptations of the program. In addition, such extensions or adaptations are often quite expensive to implement. Because of this, a process will be initiated to look for a new program and supplier after 2020. This process may take a few years, and a requirement would be that the already existing surveys can be "easily" migrated to the new system.
   2. *Flexibility*: The only three formats of questions provided, as mentioned above, may be insufficient in some instances. A new version of EvaSys (8) has recently been released. This version has more options for question types. This summer a potential upgrade to v8 will be explored.
   3. *Safeguard Anonymity*: Even though EvaSys ensures to preserve anonymity, when a student fails to complete the questionnaire on time, it can be identified if he/she is requested to hand in a (scanned) paper version.

5. **Advice**
   1. Having a universal system for course evaluations among the different Research Masters is undoubtedly beneficial and an invaluable help in the quality assurance of the different programs. This will also be helpful for the NVAO re-accreditation process. The ECRM advises to use EvaSys in all Research Masters at Erasmus MC. In addition, to facilitate easily obtaining an overview of the performance of different course, the ECRM advises the use of the three core questions found at the end of this note. Another benefit of EvaSys is that such tasks can be automated, leaving valuable time available for other tasks concerning the RM courses.
   2. An effective formulation of the questions in the surveys, is of high importance such that the responses of the students are useful to the teachers in improving the courses. To this end the ECRM advices the Research Masters to get in contact with the **Education Quality Assurance Team** in helping them formulating and customizing the questions in the surveys.
   3. The ECRM would advise full anonymity in order to not link responses to individual students' surveys.

Suggested questions for course evaluations of the research masters
General
Question 1: **How would you rate the overall quality of the module/ course?**
Scale 1 - 10

Educational quality lecturer
Question 2: **How would you score the educational quality of the lecturer in this module/ course?**
Scale 1 – 10

Question 3: **To what extent have the learning objectives for this module/course been attained?**
Not at all/ A little / Reasonably well / Very well / Fully

6. **Conclusion – core of advice**.
See 5.