

## Background

EuroGentest NoE intends to harmonize and improve the overall quality of genetic testing services in Europe. A part of the project (Unit 1) focuses on **accreditation and quality management** and more in particular on training and continuous education of personnel.

A series of workshops has been organized so far, with **the aim to aid laboratories in the process of developing quality systems and working towards accreditation**. Besides this, the workshops also contribute to the harmonization of the approaches to accreditation of genetic testing services in Europe. Different topics were already tackled, like accreditation, IT support in medical laboratories and internal audit. The ISO standards (ISO 15189 and ISO 17025) are the basis of all workshops, as well as CPA standards for medical laboratories and CCKL guidelines to a lesser degree.

**Participants include lab directors, scientists, technicians and quality managers.** About 66 different genetic laboratories from 20 different countries, took part in the six first organized EuroGentest workshops. Twenty-three laboratories participated even more than once.

## How do we run the workshops?

The workshops differ from ordinary training sessions in the sense that a lot of attention is given to **peer learning amongst participants**. Throughout different **interactive** small group activities in the workshop, participants have the opportunity **to share experiences and best practices**.

The workshops are led by experts in the field of quality management. They provide participants with the necessary theoretical background and useful instruments, formats and checklists concerning quality management in the lab environment. And of course through **case work and role play** participants get plenty of opportunity to apply and practice their new knowledge and skills.

Reactions from participants so far were excellent:

*“It was an intense presence and exchange of knowledge on internal audits - very useful for our lab”*

*“The role plays were very educational... and entertaining”*

*“We had practical sessions about real lab situations and it was really interesting to learn about and the experiences of each different lab”*

## Why sponsor these workshops?

In order to open up the workshops for an even larger audience and to create **sustainability** towards the future, EuroGentest is looking for organizations willing to sponsor our workshops. The sponsor partnerships will not only benefit the participants to the workshops, for the sponsoring companies there will be a clear added value as well:

- An improved knowledge of quality management in labs will ensure a correct usage of diagnostic kits so that they achieve all intended purposes.
- During workshops the added value of using of CE-labeled diagnostic kits will be discussed.
- Companies/organizations who sponsor workshops can spread promotion materials to participants and hence increase their visibility in labs throughout Europe.
- Better trained staff in the genetic testing labs will automatically lead to more Quality Assurance of the results which in the end of course benefits the patient.

## Different types of sponsorships

In order to make the sponsoring as beneficial as possible for all parties involved, we offer organizations **different types of sponsorships**. Each organization is free to select a formula that is best suited to its own interests and needs. Here's what we propose:

- You can invite representatives of your client labs/hospitals to our workshops and take care of the costs for registration, travel and/or board. By doing so you reinforce customer relationships and provide the opportunity for your client labs to elaborate their knowledge on quality management.
- You can sponsor logistics for a particular workshop on quality management and have your promotional materials spread amongst the participants.
- You can opt for a presence of your company's logo on the EuroGentest website, increasing your company's visibility in labs throughout Europe.

Of course we are open to any other suggestions concerning sponsoring formula's that you might have.

## Contact information

Should you want any more information on the EuroGentest accreditation workshops for genetic testing laboratories and the possibilities concerning sponsoring partnerships, please contact:

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You can also find more information on our website:

[www.eurogentest.org/unit1/workshops.xhtml](http://www.eurogentest.org/unit1/workshops.xhtml)

## Workshops on Quality Management and Accreditation

### Sponsoring partnerships

