The clinical medical physicist is an essential link of a multi-professional chain, responsible for the effective and safe implementation of radiation-based medical procedures. To ensure that the physicist can provide an adequate service, sufficient education and training in their fields of practice is indispensable. However, a common education and training framework is not available worldwide. Because of this a uniform level of skills and knowledge does not exist. The aim of this study is to provide a structured collection of information regarding the present status of the clinical medical physicist education and training framework in 25 European, 2 North American and 2 Australasian countries. Evaluation of these data can set the stage for free movement of medical physicists among these countries.

Table 1. Part A, Question 1: Which degree is required? Is this a university degree? How many years of studies are required?

Table 2. Part A, Question 2: Is there a nationally-approved education program?

Table 3. Part A, Question 3: Where does the education and training take place? University, hospital or a combination of both? Are there centers accredited? Which official body is responsible for the accreditation?

Table 4. Part A, Question 4: Which is the total duration of the education program and how is the time education-training allocated?

Table 5. Part B, Question 1: Is there a license or diploma required to work as a medical physicist? Is it officially provided (i.e. government)?

Table 6. Part B, Question 2: Are there alternative ways for eligibility to work as a medical physicist, except holding the license?

4. DISCUSSION - CONCLUSIONS

Analysis of the questionnaire answers demonstrated the significance of two major components: hospital training of medical physicist candidates as an important part of the essential entry standards, and CPD as a means of quality assurance of professional competence.

In conclusion, a common policy on matters concerning education and training as well as the practice of the medical physicist profession is generally followed, notwithstanding the presence of a few differences. Attempts to formulate general guidelines are already in progress based on common features, as well as differences, from country to country.