Minutes

Steering Committee on the E-platform

17th December 2011
Present:

Dr Zlatko Fras, Dr Bernard Maillet, Mr Jean-Baptiste Rouffet, **UEMS**

Dr Remy Demuth, **UEMS Section of Radiology**

Dr Zeev Goldik, **UEMS Section of Anaesthesiology, CESMA**

Associate Prof. Hans Hjelmqvist, **UEMS Working Group on PGT**

Prof. Peter Mills, **British Cardiovascular Society**

**Apologies:**

Prof. Alfred Tenore, **CESMA**

Dr Umut Akyol, **UEMS Working Group on PGT**

Prof. Hans Flaatten, **European Society of Intensive Care Medicine**

1. **Update on the ECAMSQ®**

Dr Fras welcomed the participants and congratulated them for their commitment in the organisation and success of the pilot tests. He recalled the history of the project and stated that in 2009 the UEMS Council had taken over the EBSC project in order to further continue developing an e-platform for the assessment of medical competence.

The pilot tests organised during the first semester of 2011 were a real success. Both Coordinators and Orzone managed very well to ensure a smooth running of these tests. Dr Fras also shared the progress made by the UEMS Executive in presenting the ECAMSQ® at the European level. He notably mentioned the excellent contacts with the European Commission as well as the overall support given to the project.

Dr Fras informed the Steering Committee that an application for European Funding of the e-platform implementation had been submitted (OLIMPE – **On Line Improvement of Medical Performance**) but was very unfortunately rejected.

Still, this initiative enabled the UEMS to fine tune the scope and aims of ECAMSQ® as well as building synergies between potentially interested partners (mainly National Competent Authorities).

Dr Fras further commented that further research would be made in order to find other ways to support this initiative.

2. **Feedback report on pilot tests**
- **Anaesthesiology**

Dr Goldik gave a short feedback on the pilot test in Anaesthesiology organised on 13th May 2011. This test was organised in 15 centres and gathered 150 trainees from various EU countries as well as Indonesia. Overall, the feedback from trainees was very positive.

Dr Goldik emphasised the many advantages of on-line exams:

- Cost saving (answer sheet, registration, travel costs)
- Time saving (no delay in providing answers to trainees, trainees stay on their job site...)

He added that multi-centred examinations could be organised in two different ways:

- Candidates take the exam in a specific room with an Internet connexion using their own laptop or having a computer available for them even tough there would be some risks of cheating.
- Candidates take the exam in an Examination Centre monitored by non medical staff (more costly but there are no risk of cheating since the candidates are not connected while taking the exam but send their answers at the end)

He added that the European Board of Anaesthesiology had decided to further continue the pilot test in the framework of ECAMSQ® and were ready to start assessing skills and professionalism as mentioned in Prof. Mills’ study. The EBA would like to create a European portfolio for hospitals and the UEMS should take the lead in this regard in elaborating a common frame.

**Action:** prepare a short document “Best Practice in EBA exam” in order to share EBA’s long-standing experience and include recommendations to be taken into account while implementing pilot tests.

**Task assigned to:** Dr Goldik

Dr Fras congratulated Dr Goldik for the success of the pilot test and welcomed the proposition of EBA to start assessing skills and professionalism. He added that the UEMS had been in contact with European Institutions and they were very much supportive of the idea to assess the competence of Medical Doctors at the European level and pave the way toward the harmonisation of medical qualifications.

- **Cardiology**

Prof. Mills reported on the knowledge assessment which was organised by the British Cardiovascular Society. The Knowledge-based Assessment (KBA) is a mandatory exam since 3 years. They were scheduled alongside a National Congress in order to reduce costs and facilitate the organisation of these exams.

He insisted on the importance of online exams and underlined the strong commitment within BCS to ensure that exams were smoothly run. He expressed the wish to continue the excellent collaboration between BCS and UEMS further in this regard.
**Radiology**

Dr Demuth expressed his concerns with regard to the European Society of Radiology’s approach as regards the knowledge assessment. He pointed to the fear of the leaders of ESR that UEMS would “steal” their own diploma and ruin their long-term efforts to establish European Standards in the field of Radiology. As a result, they started developing their own knowledge assessment tool. According to him, the ESR was willing to bypass the UEMS Section.

Dr Fras proposed that the UEMS Executive contact the Officials of the ESR so as to offer them a win-win collaboration whereby they would be encouraged to get involved in the UEMS pilot tests.

**Action:** contact the ESR and present them the ECAMSQ® in view of a healthy collaboration to implement the project in the field of radiology

**Task assigned to:** UEMS Executive

Dr Goldik commented on this issue and said that in Anaesthesiology, the European Society of Anaesthesiology and the UEMS Section and European Board of Anaesthesiology had developed a clear collaboration method which could be used as a reference when proposing a collaboration between UEMS Sections and Scientific Societies. He also informed the Committee that clear rules had been set between the two entities as regards the pilot tests: the ESA would continue running European Exams whereas the EBA would start implementing pilot tests which would pave the way to an EU portfolio.

### 3. Future of Pilot tests

- **Agreement with Orzone**

Dr Fras explained the nature of the agreement with Orzone which was set as follows: the UEMS provides the content (knowledge) and its credibility (representative of European Medical Specialists) and they develop the tool. As per the financial aspect, it was agreed that a pilot test would be launched and that each partners would bear the cost of its own participation. In the future, each partner would receive income from the fees paid by Trainees to have their on-line portfolio. Despite existing conflicts (commercial vs non profit organisation), Dr Fras acknowledged that both UEMS and Orzone had an interest in continuing the pilot tests and suggested to contact Orzone in order to renew the agreement for one more year.

Dr Fras stressed the importance of continuing the pilot test and especially the assessment of skills and professionalism and added that Orzone was currently working on the e-platform in order to include these two additional components.

He emphasised the need to carefully implement the pilot tests as the potential full development of ECAMSQ® could become a very important activity. He highlighted the need to see the e-platform as a tool enabling assessment of medical competence and not to give it too much importance. The most important aspect of ECAMSQ® was not the technical tool but its objectives.
Dr Fras said that the UEMS Council would decide whether the pilot test would continue during its next meeting in April 2012.

**Action:** contact Orzone to renew the agreement for one more year for the second phase of the pilot test  
**Task assigned to:** Dr Fras/UEMS Executive

- **Potentially interested Sections and Boards**

Mr Rouffet circulated an Excel file detailing the number of Sections and Board which have a Chapter 6, a curriculum or a syllabus available. Based on this document, Dr Fras suggested to contact Sections and Board which already have a curriculum. 18 Sections were identified:

- Anaesthesiology  
- Cardiology  
- Emergency Medicine  
- Gastroenterology  
- Gynaecology  
- Hand Surgery  
- Intensive Care  
- Neurology  
- Neurosurgery  
- Radiology  

- Ophthalmology  
- Oro-maxillo-facial Surgery  
- Transplantation Medicine  
- Paediatric Surgery  
- Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine  
- Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery  
- Pneumology  
- Urology

The UEMS Working Group on Post Graduate Training was said to be working on the harmonisation of Chapter 6 and curriculum. It would further work on this issue in order to elaborate a harmonised template of European Curriculum.

**Action:** send a letter to UEMS Sections and Board in order to see which Section would be ready to be involved in the second phase of the pilot test.  
**Task assigned to:** Mr Rouffet/UEMS Secretariat

- **Support from CESMA**

Dr Goldik remained confident that all Sections would be ready to join in since, as chairman of the CESMA, he already had the opportunity to discuss this project and it was very much welcomed. He suggested that during the next CESMA meeting in May 2012, Sections and Boards would receive an update on the platform’s development as well as information regarding the elaboration of MCQs.

- **MCQs**
As regards the MCQs, Dr Goldik informed the Committee that EBA/ESA had up to 8 000 MCQs available. A specific committee was in charge of elaborating high quality MCQ. He stressed the importance to take into consideration the translation issue: MCQs were drafted and validated in English which served as Master version and translation into other languages were done for the sole purpose of better understanding from trainees. As a matter of fact, trainees taking the test would see both the master version and the national version of the MCQ.

Dr Goldik added that in several countries, the translation into national language was offered to the National authority in order for the European Exam to be accepted nationally. The National Coordinator for the Anaesthesiology Exam was in charge of translating the MCQs. He also pointed to the fact that a reduction of fees were proposed if the European Examination was recognised at National level and suggested that UEMS should take into consideration this element when implementing the ECAMSQ®.

Dr Fras invited Prof. Mills to share his experience in this matter and proposed that he would write guidelines to held Sections and Boards drafting high quality MCQ.

**Action: prepare an information session on how to write MCQs in order to present them during the next CESMA meeting**

**Task assigned to: Prof. Mills**

Dr Fras asked whether pictures were already used in the Anaesthesiology exam. Dr Goldik answered that for the moment no pictures were used but it could be interesting to have pictures in the e-platform.

4. **Any other business**

The next meetings were scheduled as follows:

- **SCeP:**
  - 5th February 2012, Vienna (*alongside the Cardiology Section’s meeting*)

- **CESMA:**
  - 5th May 2012, Ljubljana (tbc)
  - 3rd November, Brussels
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<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Actor</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 2011</td>
<td>• Letter to UEMS Sections to see their interest in being involved in Pilot Test – Phase 2</td>
<td>UEMS Secretariat</td>
<td>Propose the Cardiology curriculum as template to be inserted in the e-platform</td>
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<td>• Letter to European Society of Radiology to propose active collaboration between UEMS/Section/ESR</td>
<td>UEMS Secretariat/Dr Demuth</td>
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<td>January 2012</td>
<td>• Report on Steering Committee’s actions to the new UEMS Executive</td>
<td>Dr Fras</td>
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<td>• Discussion with Orzone to continue the agreement</td>
<td>UEMS Exec.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Elaboration of guidelines to draft high quality MCQ</td>
<td>Dr Mills</td>
<td>Incl. reviewing process, integration of images, type of questions (true/false...) language requirements</td>
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<td>• Best practices in EBA exams – key issues to take into account for the pilot test</td>
<td>Dr Goldik</td>
<td>Translation, data protection, financial....</td>
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<td>February – March 2012</td>
<td>• 3rd meeting of the Steering Committee on e-platform</td>
<td>all</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(Vienna, 5th February)</td>
<td>Dr Fras &amp; all</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Draft Recommendations from SCeP</td>
<td>Dr Fras</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Meeting WG PGT/UEMS w.r curriculum – propose template of curriculum and Ch6</td>
<td>Dr Hjelmqvist &amp; UEMS Secretariat</td>
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<td>April 2012</td>
<td>• UEMS Council:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Meeting CESMA/WG PGT</td>
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<td>- Submission</td>
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<td>- Submission of the SCeP recommendation</td>
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<td>May 2012</td>
<td>• CESMA Meeting (Ljubljana, 5th May)</td>
<td>All</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Test the Orzone e-platform</td>
<td>P. Mills &amp; Z. Goldik</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Insert formatted curriculum</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Semester</td>
<td>• Online test in Emergency Medicine (October)</td>
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