



EUROPEAN UNION OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS/FAMILY PHYSICIANS
UNION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS OMNIPRATICIENS/MÉDECINS DE FAMILLE

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UEMO report at the UEMS Council April 24th, 2021

UEMO is the organization of the most representative national, non-governmental, independent structures, representing general practitioners/family doctors in European countries. The number of family doctors represented by UEMO is over 450,000 in Europe.

From the beginning of Covid-19 pandemic, UEMO committed itself to supporting family doctors by monitoring the burnout syndrome among its members and after noticing the growing harassment of health workers, we issued a statement, together with other European medical organizations, condemning this. The UEMO also issued a policy paper stating that Covid-19 should be classified as an occupational disease for health workers, calling on the EU to speed it up. To our satisfaction, on 3rd June 2020 the Commission Directive (EU) 2020/739 was issued, amending Annex III of the Directive 2000/54/EC as regards the inclusion of SARS-CoV-2 in the list of biological agents known to infect humans and amending Commission Directive (EU) 2019/1833.

General practice needs support and this is true for almost every European state. Health budgets, as a proportion of GDP, must aspire at least to the European average, within these health budgets, Family Medicine should have a higher allocation of available funds. To this end, we launched a survey to identify the optimal way to finance Family Medicine across the European Union.

The areas of action of UEMO concern, within others, the process of Health technology assessment, in which we are a stakeholder in the regulation of eHealth at European level which includes among others telemedicine, electronic file, exchange of medical information, electronic prescription, we are members of the Advisory Committee of the European Medicines Agency for the Development of Vaccine COVID 19, of the Healthcare Professionals' Working Party - HCPWP of the same agency, we are members of the Coalition for Vaccination of the European Commission, also members of several joint action groups of European Directorates such as The Joint Action to support the eHealth Network - JaseHN, the European Network for Health Technology Assessment - EUnetHTA, of the Joint Action on Antimicrobial Resistance & Healthcare-Associated Infections - JAMRAI and we are participating in several ongoing projects supported by European Commission (TELL ME - Transparent Communication in Epidemics, SMART - for measurement the use of ICT and e-health applications and the ENS4Care project - Evidence Based Guidelines for Nurses and Social Care Workers for the deployment of eHealth services).

In the process of recognizing Family Medicine as a specialty at European level, one of the most important steps was the development of ETR for GP, according to the UEMS model, in collaboration with WONCA. We continue the actions of recognition at European level of the specialty of Family Medicine, within 6 years we managed to increase the number of

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countries that have an internal recognition of the specialty from 12 to 19 EU member countries. We are trying to convince the European Commission through the National Competent Authorities in the field of professional qualifications to introduce the specialty of General Practice/Family Medicine in Annex 5.1.3 of Directive 36/2005. European recognition, although maybe it appears to be a formal administrative act, has profound professional, financial and social implications, and its lack at the moment is a source of discrimination.

An important aspect is the goal to regulate the accreditation of international Continuing Medical Education activities in General Practice, in collaboration with the European Union of Specialist Physicians - UEMS, based on the EACCME electronic platform and on the project of European Council of Continuing Medical Education - CME-EC. We started this project following the UEMO General Assembly in Belgrade in Autumn 2019, during the year 2020 having an exchange of information between the UEMS Executive Committee and the UEMO Board after the January 2020 meeting in Brussels with the UEMS Enlarged Executive Committee, currently being in the phase of reviewing in our CME-CPD Working Group the draft collaboration agreement to be presented to our General Assembly on 28-29th May 2020. We hope to have a feasible collaboration agreement after the GA or at least by the end of the year, the pandemic unfortunately delayed the initial term by one year.

Dr. Călin Bumbuluț
President of UEMO