

Rationale for the Creation of a Hematology Section within UEMS

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Hematology is a well-established and medical specialty across Europe, encompassing both clinical care and laboratory diagnostics for a wide spectrum of non-malignant and malignant blood disorders. Despite its clinical importance and recognition in most European Union Member States, hematology currently lacks a dedicated Specialist Section within the Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes (UEMS). Its creation will contribute towards harmonization in professional recognition, training standards, and representation at the European level.

Hematology fulfills all criteria required for the creation of a UEMS Specialist Section: it is recognized in more than one-third of EU Member States (independent medical specialty in 20 Member States), registered in Annex V of Directive 2005/36/EC (the EU Official Journal), practiced by 10,000–12,000 physicians across Europe, and practiced within accredited training institutions throughout Europe.

Despite being included in Annex V of Directive 2005/36/EC, Hematology comes under two different entries: General Hematology and Biological Hematology, which creates confusion and hampers professional recognition and mobility in Europe. There is also significant heterogeneity across countries in duration and content of training. In some Member States, hematology is not formally recognized as a standalone specialty, further limiting professional mobility and mutual recognition of qualifications.

The establishment of a UEMS Hematology Section would provide a formal and unified platform to address these disparities. It would enable harmonization of training standards through the development and implementation of European Training Requirements (ETRs), building on existing frameworks such as the European Hematology Association curriculum and the development of competency-based standards through the creation of Entrustable Professional Activities (EPA) for Hematologists. This would ultimately contribute to improved quality and consistency of patient care across Europe.

Beyond regulatory alignment, the creation of a Hematology Section would strengthen the specialty's visibility and voice within the Union, ensuring appropriate representation in cross-disciplinary discussions and European health policy development. It would also facilitate collaboration with other specialties, promote best practices, and support innovation in areas such as personalized medicine, advanced therapies, and rare hematologic diseases.

In conclusion, establishing a Hematology Section within UEMS is both justified and necessary. It will enhance professional cohesion, support high-quality training and care, and ensure that hematology is adequately represented in shaping the future of European healthcare systems.