

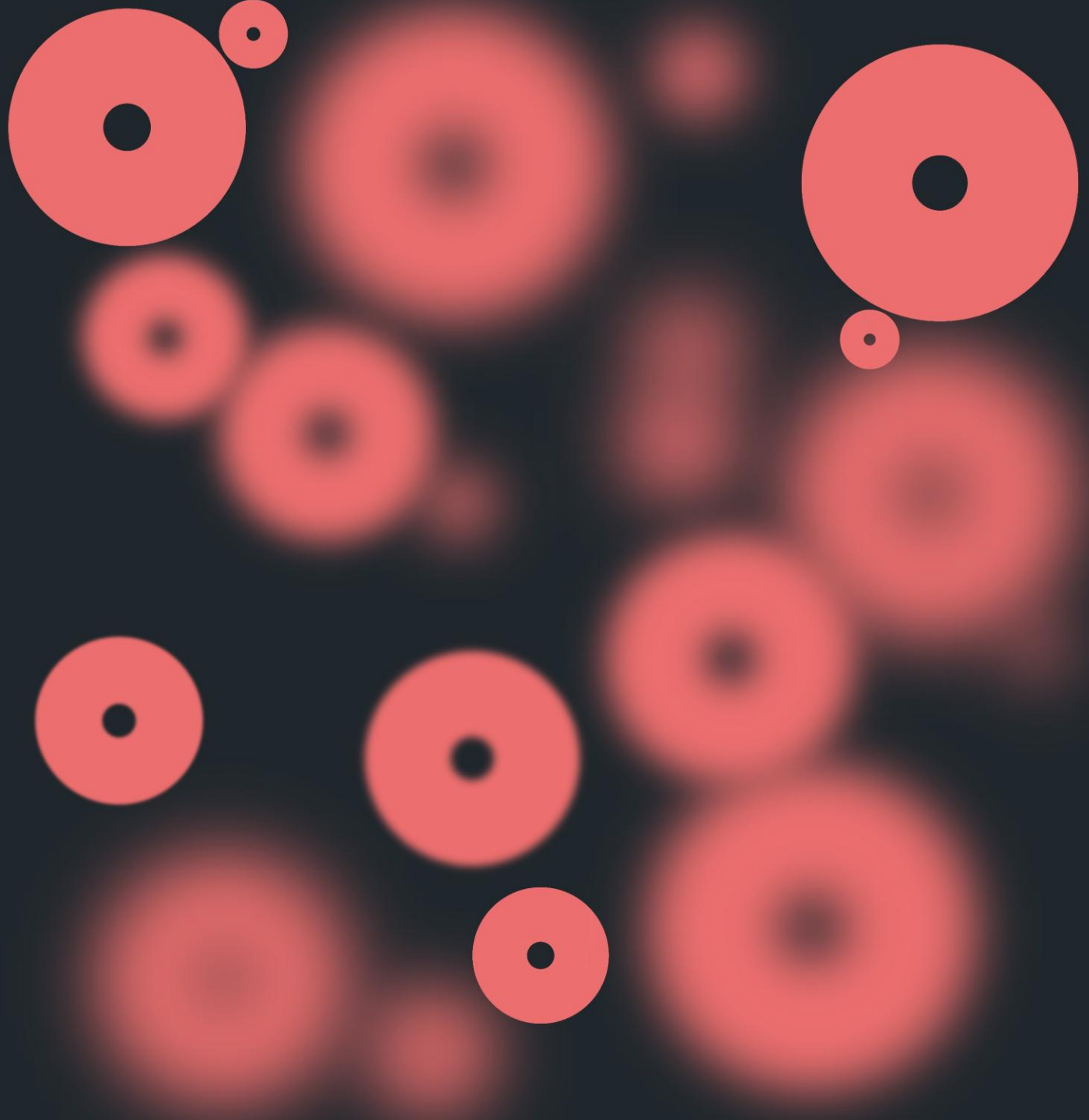


Portuguese Medical
Association

Towards a UEMS Specialist Section in Hematology

**Presentation to UEMS
Council**

Antonio Almeida
April 2026

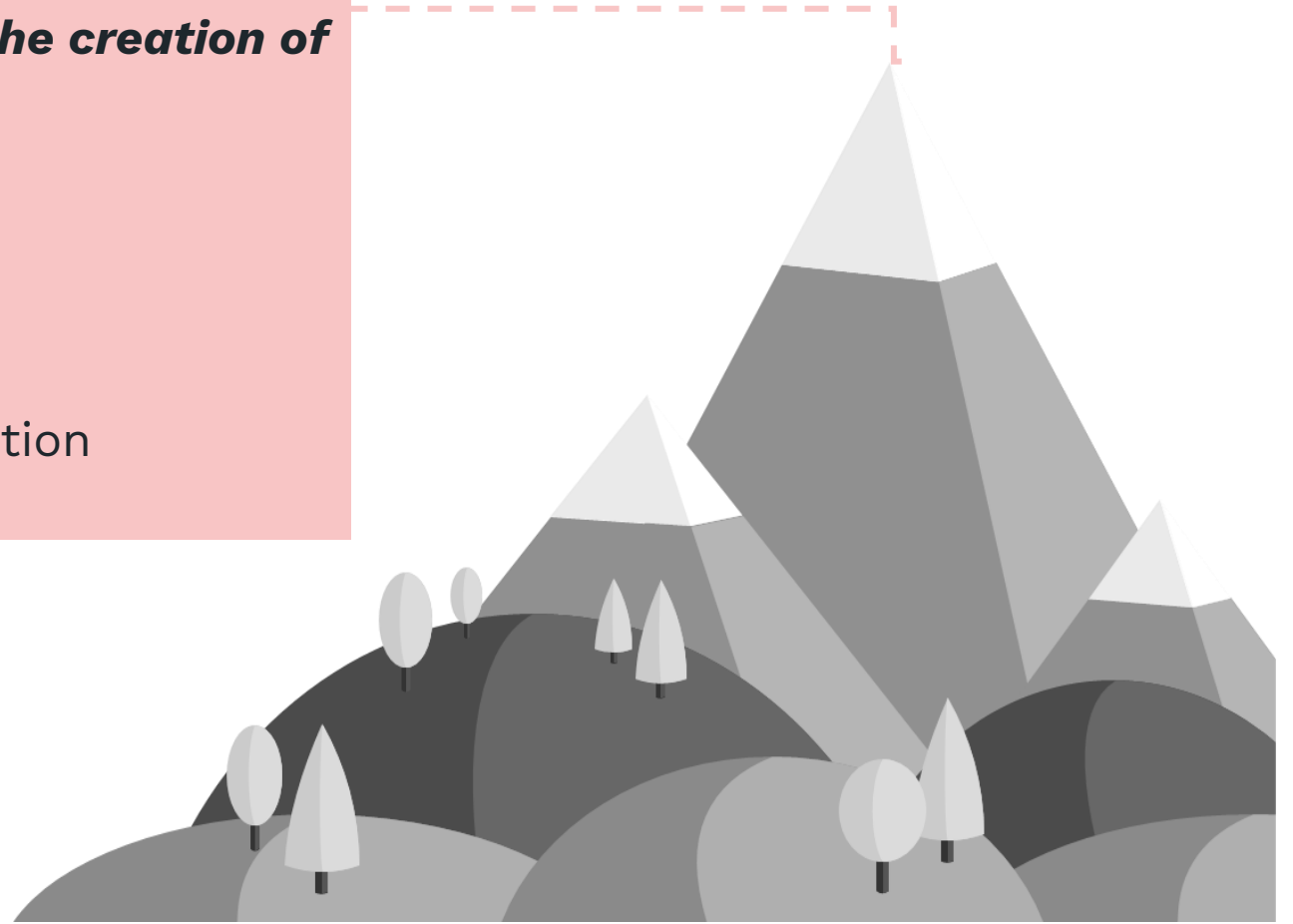


Our goal for today

To present ***our rationale and readiness for the creation of a Specialist Section in Hematology***

We will address:

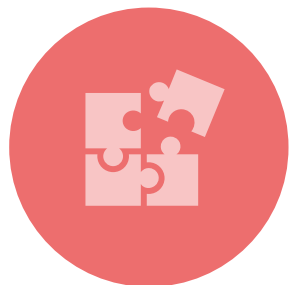
- Current situation and challenges
- Our proposal/vision
- Our readiness to become a Specialist Section
- Next steps



Current situation and challenges with Hematology classification in EU



While most countries in the EU recognize general hematology as a specialty as reflected in **Annex V to Directive 2005/36/EC (as amended by 2013/55/EU)**



the **lack of a general framework** and a Specialist section has led to **fragmentation** at different levels

Current fragmentation:

Different labels

General Hematology vs. Biological Hematology

Duration of training

Varies from 3 to 9 years

Exceptions

In 2 EU Countries (BE, NL) hematology is **not listed** as a recognized specialty

Our vision: A **unified** Hematology Section



Harmonised Recognition of Hematology

- One unified heading: **General Hematology**
- To cover full scope: Clinical care + Laboratory diagnosis



If achieved:

- All hematologists across Europe recognised under the same definition
- Provides a formal platform for hematologists to contribute to UEMS deliberations
- Supports harmonised European Training Requirements (ETRs)
- Strengthens the visibility and influence of Hematology in European healthcare systems

The rationale “General Hematology” Specialist Section



Any specialty that aims to become a Specialist Section has to meet 4 criteria:

1. Recognized as an independent specialty in at least 1/3 EU Member states **YES**
2. Registered in the EU Official Journal (Annex V to Directive 2005/36/EC) **YES**
3. Practiced by a significant number of medical doctors **YES**
4. Practiced in recognized training institutions **YES**

→ Hematology fulfills all 4 criteria



Development of European Training Requirements (ETRs) for Hematology

Three pillars for the ETRs:

- **Hematology Curriculum**

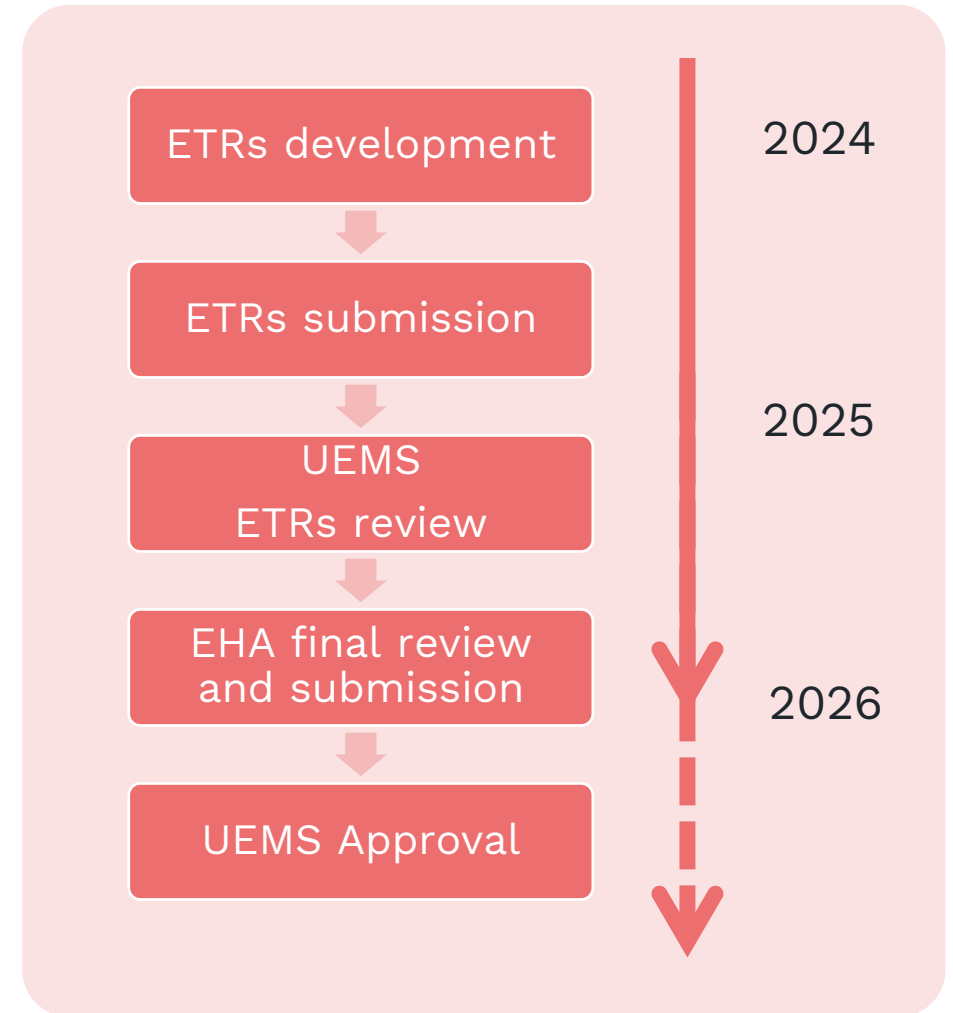
First European hematology competency-based curriculum, developed by EHA's Curriculum Exam Committee
Published in 2006, last revised in 2023
Endorsed by 27 National Hematology Societies

- **CanMeds competency framework**

CanMEDS-based competency framework supporting harmonised European specialist training

- **EPAs - Entrustable Professional Activities**

Starting in 2025, the European Hematology Association (EHA) has started a European project to create EPAs for hematology with a team of 13 hematologist representing 9 countries
Clear linkage between competencies, assessment and clinical practice



Summary

- ✓ General Hematology is **recognized as a specialty by 20 EU Member states**
- ✓ **Included in the EU Official Journal** (Annex V of Directive 2005/36/EC)
- ✓ **Over 10,000** practising **hematologists** in Europe
- ✓ **Over 7500** European medical **hematologists EHA members** (end of 2025)
- ✓ **50** ERN-EuroBloodNet accredited **training centres** located in **22 EU member states**
- ✓ **Hematology ETRs** (including EPAs) are under development - submission planned for June 2026



We invite the UEMS Council to:

Approve the establishment of a **UEMS Specialist Section in General Hematology**

- ✓ Advance UEMS objectives for *harmonised postgraduate specialist training*
- ✓ Support *mobility of specialists and high-quality patient care* across Europe





Portuguese Medical Association



Current situation and challenges with Hematology classification in EU (cont.)

General Hematology Minimum 3 years

20 countries: Hematology (\pm clinical)
2 countries: Clinical and Transfusion hematology
3 countries: Internal medicine and hematology (\pm oncology)
1 country: Immuno-hemotherapy

Different length of training [from 3 to 9 yrs]

Biological Hematology Minimum 4 years

4 countries with a 2nd specialty:
Bulgaria - Transfusion hematology
France - Hématologie
Luxembourg - Hématologie biologique
Portugal - Hematologia clinica

In practice - not interchangeable

* **2 EU countries** (Belgium, the Netherlands) - hematology is not listed as a recognized specialty



Consequences:

- Negative impact on hematologists mobility
- Limits clinical practice rights

General hematology fulfills the 4 criteria as follows:

1. Recognized as an independent specialty in at least 1/3 EU Member states
 - *General Hematology is recognized as a specialty by 20 EU Member states (Annex V), representing nearly three quarters of EU Member states.*
2. Registered in the EU Official Journal (Annex V to Directive 2005/36/EC)
 - *Yes, general haematology is registered in the EU Official Journal in Annex V of Directive 2005/36/EC. It has been carried over from earlier EU legislation – notably Council Directive 93/16/EEC of 5 April 1993.**
3. Practiced by a significant number of medical doctors
 - *As of the latest available data (2015), Europe is estimated to have on the order of 10,000–12,000 practising haematologists in total (including both clinical and laboratory-based specialists)**. As supporting evidence, the European Hematology Association had 7594 European medical hematologists as members by the end of 2025.*
4. Practiced in recognized training institutions
 - *Hematology training is delivered within a structured and formally recognized framework through the ERN-EuroBloodNet network, comprising **50 accredited training centers** located in 22 EU member states.*

* [Directive - 2005/36 - EN - EUR-Lex](#); [Directive - 93/16 - EN - EUR-Lex](#)

** [Hematologists per 100,000 people in Europe | EuropeInNumbers.com](#)

