



EUROPEAN UNION OF  
**MEDICAL SPECIALISTS**

*The advocate of medical specialists*

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The UEMS is a European non-profit organisation representing more than 1.7 million specialist doctors, from all EU countries and beyond. Our members are the most representative associations of medical specialists in their respective countries. We count as full members all EU countries, UK, Iceland, Norway & Switzerland, as associate members, there are the following members of the Council of Europe: Armenia, Georgia, Serbia, Turkey & Ukraine. We also have observer members: Iraq, Israel, Lebanon, Morocco & Tunisia.

The UEMS core objective since its foundation in 1958 is to improve patient care by developing and supporting excellence in specialist medical practice. Quickly, in 1962, it appeared essential for this purpose to set sections to represent each medical specialty. Starting with 6 members, as the European Union at this time, the UEMS grew over 6 decades to reach today 41 members, becoming one of the widest representatives of medical doctors of the European continent.

### A broad structure at the service of medical specialists

The UEMS is led by an Enlarged Executive which is in charge of the day-to-day administration of the organisation, and the implementation of the policies voted and agreed in the biannual general assemblies of UEMS members and UEMS bodies, the UEMS Council. The Enlarged Executive is composed of a President, a Secretary General, an Officer for European and international affairs and a Treasurer, the 4 forming the Executive Committee, and 4 Vice Presidents.

Overall, the UEMS' structure is designed to ensure that medical specialists from across Europe have a platform to collaborate, share knowledge, and uphold high standards of training and practice in their respective fields.

On one side, there are medical bodies i.e. 43 specialist sections which represent and promote their respective medical specialty, and 24 multidisciplinary joint committees which work on medical common topics of interest. They notably set European Specialty Boards which organise European exams, assess and certify training centres, and realise the scientific review of educational events/materials for CME points.

On the other side, there are thematic bodies, 4 working groups and 7 thematic federations. They work on cross-cutting themes of interests such as assessment of



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European exams, green medical practice, equality, diversity & inclusivity and medical ethics.

UEMS Council, Executive and bodies have the support of a team working in its Brussels office situated just a stone throw away from the European Union institutions. The team in Brussels is the backbone of our organisation ensuring smooth coordination among our members and bodies, relations with partners, and EU institutions. They work daily to support the administration of our organisation and the accreditation of medical educational activities.

## Building medical excellence

Our missions dedicated to developing specialists training and practice for better patient care are divided in 3 pillars. The first pillar is supporting medical specialists in enhancing their skills and proficiency (Post-graduate training).

Under this pillar, we have 3 main activities: the creation of high level harmonised European postgraduate training requirements, the organisation of European examinations, and the accreditation of training centres.

For decades, the UEMS has developed European standards in medical training (European Training Requirements-ETRs) which reflect modern medical practice and current medical knowledge

The ETRs are written by professionals of the medical specialty and with a broad pan European consultation with stringent review and revision process which ends with an approval by the representatives of UEMS members in a general assembly.

There are currently UEMS ETRs in 26 medical specialties and 36 areas of special competence which we have set to advance and harmonise the standards of specialist training of trainees of training centres across Europe to safeguard quality of patient care.

Furthermore, our Specialties Sections organise every year European examinations which assess knowledge and skills of professionals in more than 40 fields. We would like to assure through these exams high-level standards of the of the training of medical specialists, and harmonise medical specialists' knowledge and competence for equal quality in patients care in Europe.

Finally, under this first pillar, UEMS' specialists bodies assess every year training centres to ensure high standards training with optimal environment for trainees and trainers to improve patient care in Europe.



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## Supporting CME/CPD in Europe

The second main pillar of the UEMS is setting standards for and accreditation of Continuing Medical Education for medical specialists. For this aim, we have created in 2000, the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME) which has become the most representative accrediting body for European specialists with more than 2500 medical educational activities in Europe reviewed for accreditation in 2023.

Our strict evaluation criteria aim to encourage the highest standards in CME and CPD in Europe to support the best and most up-to-date patient care. The UEMS has invested in 2023 in a new platform for accreditation which provides better user-friendly experience for all and has extended the activities which can be accredited to align with digital and hybrid educational events or materials. The UEMS-EACCME facilitates recognition of CME credits within Europe and beyond, as we have mutual recognition mechanisms agreed with overseas organisations in the USA (AMA), Canada (Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada) and Latin America and the Caribbean countries (CONFEMEL). Furthermore, we recently signed an agreement with the European Union of General Practitioners for review and accreditation of General/Family practice events under UEMS-EACCME.

## Advocating for medical specialists' needs

The third and last pillar of UEMS activities is representing and advocating for medical specialists in their training & practice, notably related to the free movement of medical specialists across Europe. These advocating activities are destined to raise awareness towards the European Union institutions and the general public. Indeed, we liaise with the European Commission on the professional qualifications of medical specialists in Europe, and we are partners to applications for EU-funded projects always with the compass of the highest level of competence for medical specialists in Europe.

We are the unified voice of medical specialists on their issues and needs. We raise their voices on their well-being at work including on equity, diversity and mental health matters, and on the transformation of the profession with greener and digital transition of medical practice. As examples, the UEMS Thematic Federation of Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity has released recommendations to combat harassments in hospital settings, and our Thematic Federation of Green medical practice is working on planetary health to support medical specialists in the transition to greener practice.



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We have also gathered and raised demands and needs expressed by doctors in private practice i.e. a support in the transition to digital practice and to provide a better access to continuing professional development for doctors in private practice.

## International & European collaborations and partnerships

Finally, our concrete projects for real benefit of medical specialists and ultimately better patients care are the product of hard work of our members, and of collaborations with other medical organisations. Indeed, UEMS specialists bodies collaborate in their activities with European scientific societies among which we can name for example the European Society of Radiology, the European Psychiatric Association, or the European Society of Cardiology.

We also have strong partnerships with the European Association of Senior Hospital Physicians (AEMH), the European Council of Medical Orders (CEOM), the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME), European Junior Doctors (EJD), the European Medical Students Association (EMSA), the Federation of Salaried Doctors (FEMS) and the European Union of General Practitioners (UEMO) to support our advocacy actions for specialist doctors.

Last but not least, we welcome in our premises in Brussels, the UEMS House, other health organisations: Alliance for Regenerative Medicine, Cancer Patients Europe, the European Association of Urology, and the European Society of Medical Oncology. Thanks to its location at the heart of the EU quarters in Brussels, the UEMS House provides a home to European doctors few minutes away from EU decision-makers.

The UEMS through its Executive Committee, its Bodies, and the office in Brussels, is always open and available to discuss potential new collaboration with any national, European, or other international organisation on its activities and more.