



**Prof. Dr. Borghild Roald  
President**

To  
The Members of ECTS Medicine Association

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### **MINUTES ECTS MA ANNUAL MEETING Edinburgh May 2010**

**Tuesday May 25th**

**Participants:**

- Medizinische Universität Wien
- Universiteit Antwerpen
- Université Libre de Bruxelles
- Vrije Universiteit Brussel
- K.U. Leuven
- Université catholique de Louvain
- Universität Zürich
- Charles University Prague
- Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin
- Universität des Saarlandes
- Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg
- University of Copenhagen
- Universidad de Oviedo
- University of Turku
- University of Eastern Finland – UEF
- University of Heraklion
- University of Ioannina
- Queen's University Belfast
- Università degli Studi di Padova
- University of Bergen
- University of Oslo
- Karolinska Institutet Stockholm
- University of Bristol
- Univerza v Ljubljani

Welcoming the participants of the ECTS MA Annual Meeting at the Royal College of Physicians the president Prof. Borghild Roald emphasizes that the input of ideas of all participants is needed in order to overcome the challenges and the future of ECTS MA. She notices that ECTS MA was existing before MEDINE2 and will exist after MEDINE2 and that we had a similar situation before when the funding of ECTS MA stopped and the faculties took over the funding. Thus there are economic challenges to face.

Then the president, Prof. Borghild Roald, presents the board at present existing of

- Prof. Sylvain Meuris (Vice President)
- Mr. Karel Van Liempt (Treasurer)
- Mr. Sverre Bjerkeset (Secretary)
- Dr. Jorgen Hedemark Poulsen (Board Member)
- Dr. Human Salemi (Board Member)
- Prof. Kiki Thermos (Board Member)

For the future Prof. Kiki Thermos (Board Member) is no more longer able to take the responsibilities as board member because of her enormous engagement at her faculty and the same is with Sverre Bjerkeset (Secretary) who is going to follow up his PhD studies.

Resuming the activities of ECTS MA for the last year, the president mentions the 20years Celebration of ECTS MA in Coimbra and the Board Meetings in Brussels and Ljubljana both combined with seminars on Internalisation. And now ECTS MA has successfully applied for the Work Package 2 of MEDINE2 allowing an Annual Meeting and one Work Package Meeting for 12 Persons.

Coming to the Long Term Goals set up three years ago the President confirms that

- we actually do not know if 100% of Medical Faculties in ECTS MA properly have implemented the ECTS in their medical curricula because the report is not yet complete. That means that in the future the chasing of information has to be definitely more active!
- Concerning another Long Term Goal, that is to say 10% documented increased mobility for undergraduate medical students in clinical rotation, semester/courses and research, it is the same: there is not enough documentation on this!
- Concerning the further Long Term Goal "ECTS implemented in 70% of medical curricula in Europe" we have no means to chase that at the moment! In this regard it would be necessary to focus on the new ECTS based on the 2007 decision of the EU ministers pointing out Workload as well as Learning Outcomes. The problems with implementing this is much larger than we thought posting our ambitious goals 3 three years ago. The president recommends to take CHARITÉ as test on changing curricula for new ECTS and modulisation and therefore to have the next Board Meeting together with the symposium held at the CHARITÉ in October 2010.

Because of the mentioned changes we did not reach our goals: the Workload Factor is different over Europe and consequently there is a need to compare it. At the present stage it says nothing about quality and it is difficult for transparency even if you have the weeks! The trend in curriculum development is to have the curriculum modulated and not subject specified but organ specific: thus for example the pathology could be found in a dozen of different modules making the exchange more difficult. That is why it would be much more easy to look for the outcomes in the means of what students do get from exchange and by using packages in the sense that different mixes ending in all the same but using different ways.

We should take the golden opportunity to find a format using CHARITÉ applying goals and Learning Outcomes. Such a guide has to be defined and this would be one of the challenges of ECTS MA.

In the following discussion *Clive Roberts (University of Bristol)* mentions that his university deals with the growing difficulties in adequacy by allowing extracurricular exchange. *Karel Van Liempt (Universiteit Antwerpen)* answers that we should not open ways outside the curriculum and allow "mobility tourism" but we should create mobility within the curriculum. *Prof. Ekhart Hahn (Universität Erlangen)* poses the question if there is any evidence that ECTS really does increase mobility? *Prof. Borghild Roald (University of Oslo)* answers that she is aware that many do not need ECTS for example by doing clinical practicals, but for curriculum exchange within the semester it is needed: it would be a good tool to know what people are doing. Thus this could be the potential of ECTS. *Prof. Borghild Roald (University of Oslo)* comes back to *Dr. Clive Roberts (University of Bristol)* by pointing out that also in Oslo there is some kind of extracurricular mobility during the times allocated to the thesis. *Prof. Manuel Vijande (University of Oviedo)* resumes that there were many changes during the last years but we have to go back to the principles what means we have to allocate ECTS for academic recognition. ECTS is meant as a tool for transparency and for comparison between curricula. Thus ECTS is not increasing mobility but it makes mobility transparent! *Prof. Paola Arslan (University of Padova)* mentions that thinking of packages strictly speaking only electives and thesis would be possible and therefore flexibility is fundamental! *Prof. Borghild Roald (University of Oslo)* underlines this by saying that the core curriculum is the skeleton and there is the flesh around it and that can be different!

Closing this discussion the president turns to the next agenda item, the update of the database and the website:

Besides the official website of the ECTS MA run by Birgit Heller at CHARITÉ 4 years ago there was the decision to set up an online database run by the Université Libre de Bruxelles to obtain some results of mobility. It is extremely important to make it up to date. It summarises all academic mobility per year inside the network: there were 9.000 mobilities during 5 years by 50 faculties in 20 countries. The data base provides an insight into the outgoing and incoming per faculty by analyzing the numbers of outgoing and incoming students per faculty showing trends and preliminary results. Looking at the statistic material the conclusion is that we have to get more professionals in mobility! Concerning the statistic material there is the problem of no answering faculties ruining the results of the data base. That is why we have to chase the partners. The money gained by MEDINE2 will be used for optimizing these 2 tools and especially to improve the website by opening user-friendly threads inside.

*Prof. Manuel Vijande (University of Oviedo)* clarifies that the website results only show up partners within the network! *Prof. Paola Arslan (University of Padova)* interposes that she is missing more practical information for students in it.

*Prof. Borghild Roald (the president)* resumes that the responsibility definitely is with the faculties and that the posters planned as part of the Mobility toolkit are for all faculties and not only within the network and the same with the seminars on internalisation.

The next topic then was the report from the board:

There was the General Assembly in Coimbra 2009 and two board meetings one held in Brussels and one in Ljubljana both combined with seminars on internalisation.

*Prof. Kiki Thermos, Board Member* since 2001 and *Sverre Bjerkeset Secretary* for the last 2 periods will quit the board.

On this General Assembly there will be no elections for *Dr. Human Salemi (Board Member)* and *Karel Van Liempt (Treasurer)* but for *Prof. Sylvain Meuris (Vice President)*, *Prof. Borghild Roald (President)* and *Dr. Jorgen Hedemark Poulsen (Board Member)*. All four accepted to stand for re-election.

Further candidates: *Dr. Ruddy Verbinnen (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)*, *Prof. Paola Arslan (University of Padova)* and *Juan Argüelles (Universidad de Oviedo)*

The General Assembly votes as follows:

*Prof. Borghild Roald (President)*: by the majority

*Prof. Sylvain Meuris (Vice President)*: 18 votes

*Dr. Jorgen Hedemark Poulsen (Board Member)* 17 votes

*Dr. Ruddy Verbinnen (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)* 15 votes

*Prof. Paola Arslan (University of Padova)* 7 votes

*Prof. Juan Argüelles (Universidad de Oviedo)* 18 votes

*Prof. Dr. Juan Argüelles and Dr. Ruddy Verbinnen are welcomed as new Executive Board Members.*

Next *Karel Van Liempt (Treasurer)* reports that he has opened a bank account with the Fortis Parisbas Bank in Brussels and that 35 of the members have paid the fee. The faculties of medicine of Naples and Coimbra are being excluded from this duty by having hosted the General assembly and Basel cancelled. From the money received there was to pay the bank account opening fee and the costs for this meeting with 1.500 £. The fee is mentioned to be obligatory to deliver in the sense of an extra burden to give something what is useful for the mobility in Europe. *Dr. Jorgen Hedemark Poulsen (Board Member)* raises the question what to do with the 7 faculties who have not yet paid: there are two extreme possibilities: either to exclude them or to let nothing happen. But he prefers a further reminder because we want to know if they are going to pay or why they did not pay. *Dr. Clive Roberts (University of Bristol)* points out that his experience was that he had to persuade the faculty by answering the question what ECTS MA is.

*Prof. Claire de Burbure (Université Catholique de Louvain)* underlines that it would be helpful to have a package or some kind of leaflets to represent ECTS MA. But *Prof. Manuel Vijande (University of Oviedo)* clarifies that ECTS MA never was willing to sell something because ECTS MA looks at itself as a personalised network with not too many members! Thus the General Assembly agreed to send out a gentle pressure with a deadline for paying the fee.

Next *Sverre Bjerkeset (Secretary)* indicates that there is a new membership candidate: *The Katholieke Universiteit Leuven* founded in 1425. *Hilde Groenen*, representative of the *The Katholieke Universiteit Leuven* presents her institution and the General assembly then votes for the membership by the majority.

The KULeuven is welcomed as a new member of ECTS MA.

### Wednesday May 26<sup>th</sup> 2010

The next day starts with the ECTS School by small group discussions on two exemplarily cases: one for Student Mobility and one for Staff Mobility. All the members are asked to write down how they deal with these 2 situations.

After that the Clearing house takes place.

As next agenda *Dr. Ruddy Verbinnen (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)* presents the experiences and main outcomes with the seminar on Internalisation held at his institution in fall 2009. The seminar lead to five important policy lines for the faculty of medicine and pharmacy (here in brief) : 1. Staff mobility (which will lead to more student mobility), 2. Internationalisation@home (even not mobile students will attain some international skills), 3 .working with modules, 4. Language (preferable agreements with countries with –similar- languages as a starting point), 5. Tuning (expliciting minimal agreed learning outcomes will lead to transparency and trust).

In the Plenary discussion there is a general agreement that it is necessary to reach transparency and therefore it is crucial to reach the right persons. The faculty needs to back otherwise we will only be a group of enthusiasts; and information is needed for these means the ECTS School will help! *Prof.*

*Paola Arslan (University of Padova)* points out that we need to know what the trends are such as augmentation, stagnation or decrement and based on this we have to refine and to make known what we are doing. We have to encourage faculties to have seminars on Internalisation. The importance of such seminars is to come to the universities and to make awareness of all the stakeholders, academics and administratives as well as policy makers. *Ulrike Arnold (Charité Berlin)* notes that after years of work in the business of internalisation at Charité she is working now on the internalisation strategy at Charité for the whole institution in order to bring all strategies together. The seminar on Internalisation held together with the ECTS MA Work Package meeting in fall would fully fit in this strategy! This seminar is thought to be open for students, teachers, faculty members and stakeholders and it would take a half-day.

*Dr. Clive Roberts (University of Bristol)* would appreciate very much such a seminar to be held at his institution but he would be afraid that the people not directly involved with the mobility would not come and he sees difficulties in reaching people not involved in internalisation! It would be necessary to have a SWOT-Analysis of the mobility. *Monique Dupuis (University of Zurich)* mentions that students' experience should be involved in the seminar.

*Prof. Borghild Roald (the president)* suggests that the data obtained from the ECTS School will be published on the ECTS MA Website as well as on the MEDINE2-Website and also the discussion will be on the website. The next ECTS School will focus on ECTS-Credits allocated. *Dr. Clive Roberts (University of Bristol)* points out that we will have no feedback by only collecting best practices. *Monique Dupuis (University of Zurich)* suggests better to discuss on the meeting and to fill the forms at home. *Prof. Borghild Roald (the president)* resumes that the board will bring the information together into a scheme with the information of each member so that every member can see where he stays. *Dr. Ruddy Verbinnen (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)* proposes to use the Clearing house for a poster session and thus showing the possible packages and possibilities for exchange of each member. *Ulrike Arnold (Charité Berlin)* presents the CHARME project run by the Charité focussing on curriculum mapping which could be used for the poster session. She also points out the AMSEE in Berlin which is necessary to reach the deans and the faculties. *Prof. Manuel Vijande (University of Oviedo)* points out that it is still open how to deal with Student Mobility Placements SMP and that we need data to know how we do. Thus SMP will be a topic in the next ECTS School.

## **MINUTES WP2-MEETING in BERLIN November 2010**

### **Participants:**

- Attard, Matthew University of Malta
- Balogh, Peter University of Pécs
- De Burbure, Claire Université Catholique de Louvain
- Dejke, Karin University Göteborg
- Hedemark Poulsen, Jorgen University Copenhagen
- Johansson, Karin Karolinska Institute Stockholm
- Kangasjärvi, Kaija University of Turku
- Meuris, Sylvain Université Libre de Bruxelles
- Rejnik, Malgorzata Medical University of Warsaw
- Roald, Borghild University of Oslo
- Salemi, Human Medical University of Vienna
- Van Liempt, Karel University of Antwerp

- Juan Argüelles - University of Oviedo

We thank all participants of the WP2 in Berlin in October 2011:  
we had a very constructive and very practical WP.

As the WP2 aims to develop a mobility toolkit for students, academics and administrative officials we asked all participants to make a presentation of their curricula regarding the implementing of the new ECTS and showing up the possibilities for exchange.

Starting with Oslo, followed by Antwerp, Pecs ULB, Karolinska, Vienna, Oviedo, CPH, UCL and Gothenburg these presentations showed clearly that there is definitely a need for harmonising and improvement by developing an appropriate tool.

There was a big variety from clearly representations such as Karolinska where you have all the necessary info at one glance and others even not having their curriculum in English. Also there is a great variety concerning the possibility of exchange ranging from defined time slots or only the possibility of taking part in clerkships.

The participants agreed that the appropriate tool would be a diagram representing the curriculum in form of a graphic design illustrating the single subjects per term and academic years in different colours, mentioning the ECTS and giving the possibility of getting by clicking the maintained information on prerequisites, duration, content and learning outcomes and added in words the possibility for clinical clerkships.

As there are several ways of illustrating the curriculum in this schematic way, as shown by some institutions, such as Karolinska, showing up per term or per year, the WP-participants agreed that the ECTS-MA-board members should compile such a diagram of their curriculum until February and after looking to the results at the next board meeting the board will decide which form of graphic design is the most practicable one and this will be sent out to the participants in order to fill it out and to sent it to the secretariat.

As this practical work during the WP2-meeting showed up a great variety of accessibility of international programs on the websites of the different institutions the invited student Matthew Attard, allocated to our WP2, has been asked to address the students to make a survey of the accessibility of international programs and to make a presentation of it during the next ECTS-MA meeting in Budapest 2011.

As next step the WP2-members will be the tutors in the ECTS-School of the next annual general meeting of ECTS-MA in Budapest 2011 where the participants are asked to do the same with their curriculum in the ECTS School.

As these diagrams also have to be posted on **the Website serving as a tool of the mobility toolkit** this was discussed with Birgit Heller, running the ECTS-MA-website. She informed us that this would not be possible on the existing ECTS-MA-website because of a divergent form of web design and thus it has to be put on the MEDINE-website, what has to be discussed with Allan. Another option would be to move the ECTS-MA website to the web space of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel offered by Ruddy Verbinnen.

A further tool of the mobility toolkit to be developed by the WP2 is **the poster** projected to be used in a corporate way by different institutions:  
we kindly ask all WP2-Members to send to the secretariat an eye-catching slogan in English and in

your original language. The best slogan will be awarded during the general ECTS-MA meeting in Budapest.

We also ask to send the secretariat representative picture with a specific landmark in the background which also could be used for the planned posters.

Another essential tool of the Mobility toolkit to be developed by WP2 is ***the database run by ULB.*** Thus all WP2 participants are kindly asked to fill in and to update their data and also to deliver a logo of their Institution to the secretariat.

Thus the refreshed reports coming out of this database can be branded and used as report by the Institutions' activity within the ECTS MA by the faculties.

Planned for the future is also to draft a map of EUROPE pinpointing the existing bilateral agreements.

During the ***joint WP1 & 2 meeting*** every WP represented their results if the meeting and we had a fruitful discussion between the members. One crucial point was that there has been the European project of CHARME which just has ended and as its main aim was a kind curriculum mapping. As the Charité was part of CHARME we agreed to build up on the project of CHARME by regarding their very useful results and applying them.

Finally concerning the ***account of of ECTS – MA*** Karel Van Liempt (Treasurer) reports that today there is 3.352,09 € on the account of ECTS – MA according to the membership fees received and less the bank costs, the Catering for the Meeting in May 2010 at the RCPE Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh and less the Publication costs Change Board of Directors in the Belgisch Staatsblad.

Again we thank all active participants of the WP2 meeting in Berlin 2010 and we are looking for a fruitful further work 2011.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

On behalf of the ECTS MA Executive Board,  
Warm regards from

Professor Borghild Roald, President & Dr. Human Salemi, Secretary