

ECTS MA Annual Meeting Naples 16th-17th May 2008

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Meeting Minutes

Friday May 16th

Opening of Conference

Welcome addresses by local organizers. Presentation of Naples and the University of Naples Federico II.

Introduction by President Borghild Roald, Oslo: Setting the stage.

President Roald opened by thanking the local organizers - Professor Sabino Di Placido, Professor Bianca Maria Veneziani, Ms. Anna Puca and other staff involved - for hosting the meeting and for all its preparatory work. A special greeting was given to former Naples Professor Rinaldi, who honoured us with his presence at the meeting, in his capacity as a key figure in the pilot phase of ECTS in Medicine. President Roald then presented some challenges for student mobility in Medicine in Europe, followed by a presentation of the short and long term goals proposed by the board at the board meeting in Antwerp in October 2007:

Short term goals (2008)

- Improved ECTS MA website (www.med-ects.org/index.htm)
- Regular newsletters, at least twice a year
- ECTS MA Database up and running
- Contribution to MEDINE 2 application
- ECTS MA annual meeting in Naples May16-17
- Board meeting in Heraklion 31.01-01.02.08, also including a Seminar on Internationalisation at the University of Crete.

Long term goals (by 2011):

- 100% of Medical Faculties in the ECTS MA should properly have implemented the ECTS in their medical curricula
- 10% documented increased mobility for undergraduate medical students in clinical rotations, semester/courses and research
- ECTS implemented in 70% of all medical curricula in Europe
- Increased use of modules, partly harmonized with relevant partner universities
- Arrange an international symposium on "Internationalization in the medical undergraduate education" in relation to the annual ECTS MA meeting in 2009 or 2010.

Comments:

- it's difficult to get Erasmus agreements with UK universities
- reply: problems for UK students to exchange. Various reasons: funding; curriculum reforms - integration units make exchange difficult; student places in Medicine are expensive – balance in/out is necessary; entire year exchange the only possibility (Bristol)
- flexibility important in order to increase exchange numbers
- the huge diversity in electronic application forms complicate the application process. Should the board encourage standardization?
- communication is important. Good if the presentation of long and short goals could be made available for all members, could then be presented at each institution
- how should an “increased use of modules” be implemented/realized?
- compact, integrated programs make exchange difficult
- point 1 in the long term goals in our hands, in contrast to point 3. Point 3 should therefore be rephrased, made more vague.

Presentation by Ruddy Verbinnen, Brussels: The new “Erasmus placement program”.**Comments:**

- allows for two Erasmus periods – very good!
- possible for students to make direct contact w hospitals directly - positive.
- reply: if everything is arranged directly between student and hospital department, the faculties will lose control. Therefore not a good idea to allow students to contact hospitals directly.
- better scholarships
- allows for PhD mobility
- can apply ECTS credits
- definitely an improvement
- the program can also be used for regular exchange
- should be done within agreements
- can students under specialization also use the program? At undergraduate level, often lack of contacts, this much easier at specialization level

Presentation by Sylvain Meuris, Brussels: ECTS MA database: a challenge for us all**Comments:**

- the data base should be limited to Erasmus exchange, at least in the first phase. Later, we might consider to expand it to periods shorter than 3 months and other non-Erasmus exchanges
- for the group it's important with updated contact info and practical info on each member institution as well as statistical data
- for the EU, it's important with reliable statistical data
- important that all members fill in their data!
- it should be easily accessible on the ECTS MA web site

Presentation by Karel Van Liempt, Brussels: Bologna implementation in Medicine.

Presentation by Sylvain Meuris, Brussels: Mobility of Doctors in Europa.

Presentation by Borghild Roald, Oslo: Medicine curriculum and student mobility.

Comments:

- we (Bristol) are contemplating whether to let students spend an extra year, allowing them to go on exchange. Difficult for Bristol students to get exchange periods approved, the curricula of partner universities to different. Some students are interested, even though will lose a year.
- reply: At most other universities, not great interest among students for this.
- reply: a legal problems in certain regions in Germany: Medical schools should make sure students can finish within the regular time limits.
- reply: Bristol: the legal thing not a problem; just an offer, not a requirement.
- reply: in Germany there is a problem with the age of the students. Has been criticized for old graduating students
- what does patients say to English taught courses at non-English institutions
- it's important to select patients. Incentives important. An advantage that there is a fairly good English competency among the involved patients and parents.

Saturday May 17th

Presentation by Kiki Thermos, Crete: ECTS MA in MEDINE II: Task Force "Mobility"

General Assembly

Introduction

President Roald said a few words about the board's work since last year's meeting and introduced the topics on the agenda.

Long and short term goals

The long term goals proposed by the board were accepted by the attending members, with minor corrections. It was decided to change the phrasing of point 3 into a more vague statement, as this, in contrast to point 1, is not in our hands. It was not clear whether the proposed symposium (point 5) should be limited to European participants or not. The board will discuss this at the next board meeting.

MEDINE II application

The delegates fully agreed that ECTS MA should continue to support the MEDINE II application, through its proposed task force on Mobility. It was suggested that the board should propose to the MEDINE II leadership to be more focused in their application, maybe to reduce the number of TF, if not, it would probably be difficult to reach next year's deadline. It was also commented that it probably would be a good idea for MEDINE II to include a consultant company in the application process.

Election of board members

Karel Van Liempt (Treasurer) and Sverre Bjerkeset's (Secretary) positions were up for election, as both had been sitting for four years. Clare Menzel-Dowling's position was also up for election, she left the board last year (due to a job change) .

Both Van Liempt and Bjerkeset stood for re-election. A third candidate was Human Salemi from the Medical University of Vienna. All three were voted in by unanimous vote.

Voting on new membership candidates

Vrije Universiteit Brussels and University of Ljubljana were the two candidates. The representatives of the two universities, Ruddy Verbinnen and Tomas Marz, gave short presentations of themselves and their institutions, with focus on ECTS.

Both were voted in by majority vote.

Next year's venue

Both the University of Warsaw and the University of Coimbra offered to host next year's annual meeting. The attendants were encouraged to come up with other suggestions. The board will decide on the venue in a few months time.

Membership fee

The board announced a possible membership fee of 200 Euros per year, in order to not to depend completely on the generosity of the host institution. In the present situation, the host institution has to cover everything except travel and accommodation. It will be a topic for discussion at next year's General Assembly, where it will be voted on.

Closing remarks

President Roald thanked the local organisers for excellent organization and an impressive and memorable social program, including superb food and wine, made possible by the host institution's very generous funding.

Guided tour of Pompeii

General

The ECTS MA as such has no income or expenses. Travel and accommodation costs related to board meetings and annual meetings are covered by each member institution, everything else by the host institution.

The University of Ljubljana, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, University of Sarajevo and University of Heidelberg attended the meeting as observers.