

ECTS - MA

European Credit Transfer System -
Medicine Association
(formerly ECTS-ICMG)



Newsletter No. 15

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Foreword from the President

As a long-time member of ECTS-ICMG and a participant in all its meetings for more than twelve years, it is a great honour and a pleasure for me to serve as President of the ECTS-MA. In behalf of the Executive Board I wish to thank you for trusting all of us for the duty, through your votes. We also have the pleasant obligation of sending our thanks to Kiki Thermos for having organized the Annual Meeting in Heraklion! We all agree that we once again had a wonderful and profitable experience.

During the meeting hold in Heraklion last spring, the members of the ECTS-ICMA took action in order to revamp our association. During the venue, a task group wrote provisional by-laws in order to further define its role and also to establish and inscribe the association as a legal society. Several commercial firms contacted by some of our members seem ready to sponsor our activities, provided the association had got a legal status. The attendants to the meeting were asked to vote on the manuscript of the by-laws produced by the task group. As a result they were approved. Naturally, the document had to be checked by expert lawyers before being put into action.

Another step taken during the Heraklion meeting was to renew the team who had looked after the association until then, since some of its members had reached the end of their period of duty and in the understanding that a new period for the association had just started. As a result of this, a new Executive Board (EB) and a new President were elected. We all accepted the duty with the wish of keeping the activities of the association

as usual, and hoping to serve to the increasingly important aspect of the internationalization of our Faculties/Schools of Medicine and in the end to our students.

During the last months the EB has meet “virtually” several times thanks to the magic of the new technologies. We have had discussions on important issues, the legal status and role of the renamed association (now called ECTS-MA), next year’s meeting, the approval of the thematic network MEDINE and its relations to the ECTS-MA and others. During our next annual general assemble we should choose a representative from ECTS-MA to participate in the board of MEEDINE. For the time being Pavel Kucera embody our formal representation and Karel Van Liempt is already there as task force coordinator.

In this Newsletter (No.15), the members of the EB will inform you on the current state of several aspects of the association.

On behalf of the EB members, I encourage you to keep supporting the association, to participate and to suggest activities. All kind of help and contribution will be welcome.

Finally we want to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy 2005.

Cordially yours,

Manuel Vijande
On behalf of the Executive Board

Present Status of the ECTS Medical Association

Over the last few months it has become clear that setting up an association involves rather a lot of work. The previous Inner Circle, based on a loose agreement to meet annually, has never had the need to have a real constitution. The creating of the constitution begun in Crete in 2004 and completed recently after examination by legal experts is one part. The second major part is registering the Association in Brussels.

It was agreed in Crete, that the new association should be registered in Brussels. It would be a 'Association Sans But Lucratif' (French)/ 'Vereiniguing zonder Winstoogmerk' (Dutch). The Statutes have to be written in one of the Belgian languages, French or Dutch, and the executive board has voted for the use of the French language. (Of course, we will maintain the English version as well, for the use of members).

The requirements of the ASBL/VZW are as follows:

1. Name and address of the seat
2. Names and addresses of the founding members
3. Targets
4. Conditions of joining and leaving the ASBL/VZW
5. Annual meeting: power, voting procedures, conditions for notification of decisions to members
6. Executive board: installation, dismissal, powers.
7. Maximal amount of member's fee^{*)}

Legally, the number of the founding members has to be at least the same as the executive board plus one. In the case of the ECTS Medicine Association this would be eight:

Manuel Vijande; Clare Menzel-Dowling; Karel van Liempt; Pavel Kucera; Kiki Thermos; Sverre Bjerkeset; Michael Halaska and as the eighth founding member, Sylvian Meuris of the Université Libre de Bruxelles, for many reasons, but the most impelling is the fact that the association is to have its seat in Brussels.

The statutes state that all regular members are those medical faculties who were members of the ECTS/ICMG at the time of the ECTS/ICMG meeting in Oviedo in 2003. Any faculty wanting to join the Association thereafter, will appoint a mandate representing the faculty.

The Association is officially liable as soon as the statutes have been submitted to the Chamber of Commerce in Brussels. The registration costs are 130.29 Euros. Incoming and outgoing payments have to be communicated yearly to the Chamber of Commerce in Brussels.

The English version of the statutes, as legally checked by lawyers at the University of Saarland, is to be translated into French by the language department of the University of Lausanne at the request of Pavel Kucera by January 15th 2005. The Law Faculty of the University of Antwerp will review the French version again after this deadline. It is planned that the official French version will be ready to be signed at the end of

^{*)} no fees planned : as agreed in Crete

February, when a meeting of the executive board is to be held in Saarland and thus the Association will be registered in March 2005.

It seems to be , that pro forma, some of the medical faculties will have to obtain permission from the university rector/president/dean for membership of an association. However, many have the powers to decide for their faculty themselves, in their role as departmental coordinator, official representative of the university for all decisions relating to Medical ECTS issues. It would make sense for members to inform their rector/president/dean of the new status of the inner circle and to inquire whether they need to undertake any special procedures for their university.

Clare J. Menzel-Dowling

Information about the MEDINE Thematic Network

Last September, the University of Bristol, co-ordinator of MEDINE, received the approval of the Thematic Network.

In order to get the Network up and running and awaiting the official contract of the EC, Tim Jones organised a preparatory meeting in London on November 2nd 2004, to which the following members had been invited:

1. Representatives of the previous ECTS ICMG:
 - Ulrike Arnold, Charité, Berlin
 - Maria Rosa Fenoll-Brunet, Reus
 - Jorgen Hedemark Poulsen, Copenhagen
 - Pavel Kucera, Lausanne
 - Robert Snipes, Giessen
 - Karel Van Liempt, Antwerp
2. representatives of the University of Edinburgh
 - Alan Cumming
 - Gaynor Lloyd-Jones
3. representatives of the University of Budapest
 - Veronika Komives
 - Lajos Szollar

Co-ordination of the Thematic Network, which will last 3 years, rests with the University of Bristol together with the Universities of Edinburgh and Budapest.

During the meeting in London it was agreed that the Executive Board of MEDINE should consist of the following persons:

- the Coordinator and Chair (Dean of Medicine, University of Bristol)
- the Vice-Chair and leader of Medical Education and Research Task Force (Professor Lajos Szollar, Semmelweis University)
- the leader of the Tuning Task Force (Professor Allan Cumming, University of Edinburgh)
- the leader of the Task Force on international recognition of qualifications (Mr Karel van Liempt, University of Antwerp)
- the leader of the Transparency Task Force (a representative of AMEE)
- the leaders of the Quality Assurance Task Force (representatives of AMSE and WFME)
- a representative of the UEMS (European Union of Medical Specialists)
- **a representative of the ECTS Medicine Association**
- a representative of EMSA (European Medical students' Association)
- a representative of the medical student branch of ESIB (The National Unions of Students in Europe)

The ECTS-MA has been asked to designate a representative for the Executive Board.

The functioning of MEDINE will be based on 5 Task Forces covering various fields:

- Tuning
- Quality Assurance
- link between education and research (in Medicine)
- international recognition of qualifications
- transparency

Each task force:

- will consist of actively involved leaders and members, who should have some experience of the work to be undertaken by the Task Forces
- should pay attention to the need for geographical distribution of the members
- leader will be able to invite - subject to aforementioned criteria - whom he or she wishes from among the partners to become a member of that Task Force
- should have a structure, e.g. a Board, to plan and carry out its work
- should have a nominated rapporteur and a system for dissemination of outcomes from their work.

The Task Force of International Recognition of Qualifications has to achieve the following outcomes:

Year 1: Survey of partners on use of ECTS and the Diploma Supplement. Report to Annual Conference on the analysis, with identification of examples of "best practice".

Year 2: Survey of partners on transferability of qualifications to employers and other institutions, on life long learning programmes and on application of ECTS principles to other health care educational programmes.

Year 3: Preparation of overview of the structure of medical education in the different European countries. Report to the Annual Conference with recommendations on a framework for recognition of qualifications, applicable both to medical education and other health care professions.

The Task Force "Qualifications" will build on experience of members of the ECTS Medicine Association. Any member wishing to join, please notify the Chairman, Manuel Vijande (vijande@uniovi.es).

The official start of the Thematic Network will be the meeting of the Executive Board in Budapest on March 4 & 5th 2005.

The Network's Annual Conference will be in Brussels on May 6th and 7th 2005

Karel Van Liempt
Pavel Kucera
November 2004

PRE-ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE 2005 ECTS - MA ANNUAL MEETING

Next annual meeting is expected to take place in Brussels during the first week-end of May. After consultations between MEDINE and ECTS-MA representatives, it was agreed to set up a “consecutive meeting” for both organizations in Brussels.

From ECTS-MA, Prof. Sylvain Meuris is taking care of the organization of the event, according to the following calendar:

- May 5-6 (Thursday and Friday): **MEDINE** meeting
- May 7 (Saturday): **ECTS-MA** meeting

Formal announcements and details for inscription will be circulated in time via e-mail to the members and also posted on the web page.

ECTS-MA Membership list

The Association depends very much on good communications. It is therefore essential to keep our data base of member institutions and contact persons updated.

We would appreciate very much if you could send any corrections you might have to the list below to sverre.bjerkeset@medisin.uio.no

Moreover, since we plan to proceed to the legal constitution of the Association during the spring 2005, it is absolutely necessary to have this list updated and without wrong data. According to the mandate received in Heraklion, members will be considered those who belonged to the ECTS-ICMG by the time of the Oviedo meeting (May 2003).

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