

THE EUROPEAN UNION OF MEDICAL SPECIALISTS

WORK AND SCOPE OF THE UEMS SECTION OF MEDICAL MICROBIOLOGY

Introduction

In the European Union the professional affairs of medical specialists are represented by the UEMS. This organization is the umbrella in which the official national specialist associations are working together in order to discuss and try to harmonize the different national regulations present in the European area and conform the European Union needs.

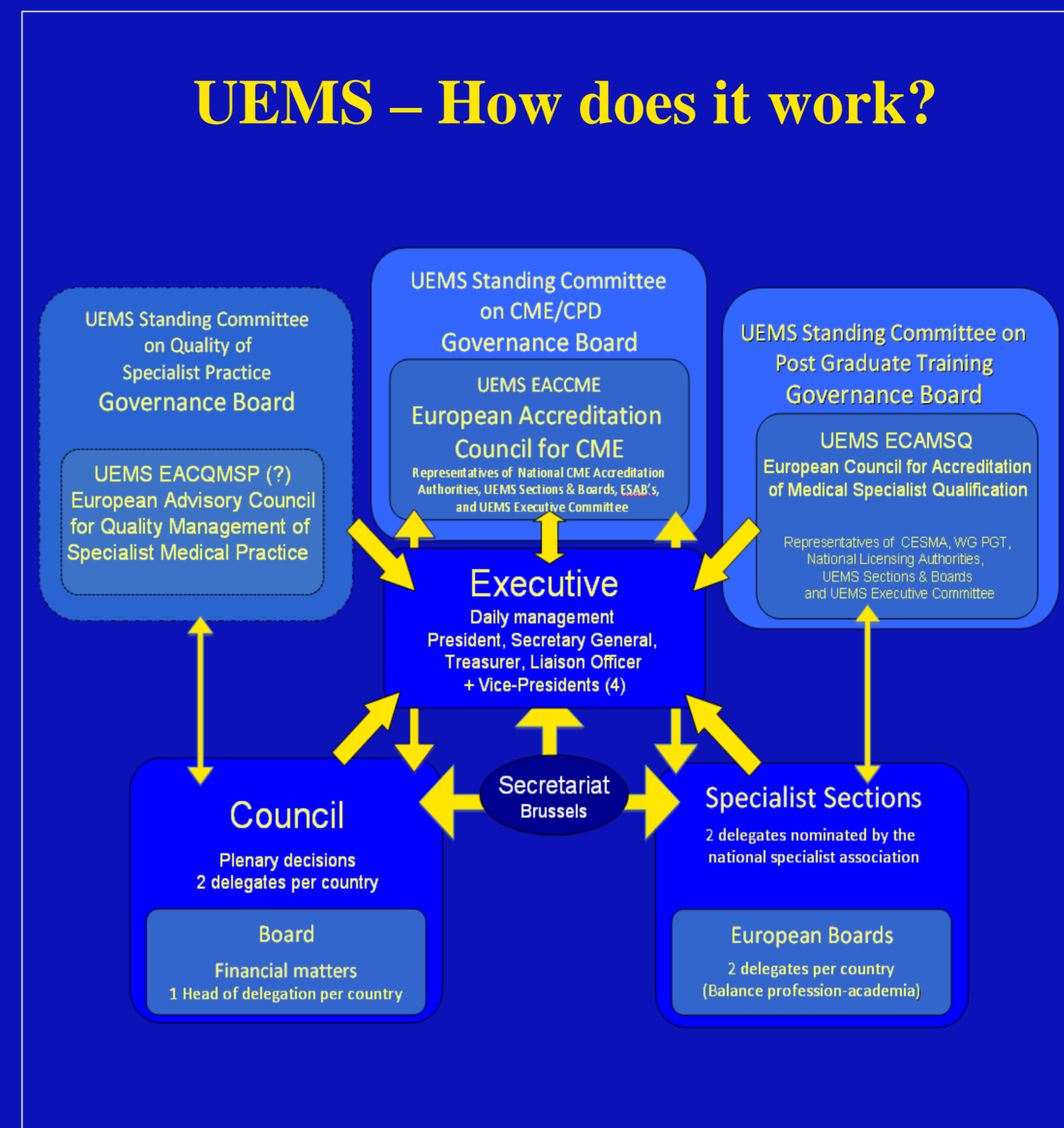
Sharing together Continuing Medical Education, achieving Continuing Professional Development, harmonizing the training for the medical specialist profession, the Clinical Governance and the Quality projects, both at National and at European level, is the basis for facilitating the free circulation of medical doctors inside of European Union.

The UEMS General Council and UEMS specialist Sections like the Section of Medical Microbiology and the Section of Infectious Diseases work together in this context.

36 National Medical Associations	
Austria	Belgium
Bulgaria	Czech Republic
Cyprus	Croatia
Denmark	Estonia
Finland	France
Germany	Greece
Hungary	Iceland
Ireland	Italy
Latvia	Lithuania
Luxembourg	Malta
The Netherlands	Norway
Poland	Portugal
Romania	Slovakia
Slovenia	Spain
Sweden	Switzerland
United Kingdom	

Associate members: Armenia, Israel, Turkey
Observers: Azerbaijan, Georgia

Tab. 1



THE SECTION OF MEDICAL MICROBIOLOGY

Medical Microbiology was recognized by UEMS General Council as independent Section on April 19, 2008.

The first Section meeting was held in Brussels in September in 2008. 19 delegates from 15 European countries participated. In addition observers from Belgium and Macedonia and a liaison officer from Medical Biopathology attended the event. In 2009, in Helsinki, financial contributions for membership countries were decided, based on the UEMS contribution key (doc.2008/35). The first President of the Section was John Degener from the Netherlands. The President is now Hilpi Rautelin from Sweden. The Section meets once a year in conjunction with ECCMID. The meeting deals with the status of Medical Microbiology, the new policies from UEMS central headquarter, report from the Bureau (President, Secretary, Treasurer and Liason officers) and working groups and proposals for the following year.

UEMS Organization.

The history of UEMS (European Union of Medical Specialties)

UEMS has been founded in 1958, a year after the treaty of Rome. In 1958 the founding states were the six first components of the European Union (Italy, France, Germany, Benelux).

At present components of UEMS are 35 National Associations as described in tab 1

UEMS SECTION OF MEDICAL MICROBIOLOGY
COUNTRIES WITH DELEGATES IN THE SECTION
AUSTRIA, BULGARIA, CZECH REPUBLIC, CROATIA, DENMARK, FINLAND, GERMANY, HUNGARY, IRELAND, ITALY, LATVIA, THE NETHERLANDS, NORWAY, POLAND, ROMANIA, SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, UNITED KINGDOM
Associate member
TURKEY
Observers
BELGIUM FRANCE MACEDONIA SERBIA

THE AIM AND SCOPE OF MEDICAL MICROBIOLOGY IN UEMS
The main aim of Medical Microbiology in UEMS is:
- To promote the Specialty of Medical Microbiology in Europe
Common policies in the field of education and training as well as in the field of Continuing Medical Education is an important goal to be achieved in the interest of Medical Microbiology throughout Europe
- Harmonization of the training programs
- Harmonization of professional tasks
for a better circulation of professionals in Europe

PRIORITIES

- Maintain a framework of common European training requirements for specialization in Medical Microbiology
- Propose a revised and updated log book for training in the specialty
- Help harmonising training in Medical Microbiology in European countries
- Help harmonization of health care services throughout Europe
- Accreditation of International events dealing with Medical Microbiology
- Fruitful exchange and cooperation with ESCMID professional affair Officer in benefit of the specialty
- Cooperate with the UEMS Section of Infectious Diseases
- Exchange of opinions with the UEMS Section of Laboratory Medicine
- Organize, according to European rules, exams on Microbiology Specialty

UEMS is the oldest European Medical Organization

UEMS represents currently around 1.4 million specialists doctors.

UEMS is an ONG (non government organization). Secretariat staff is active in Brussels.

Training requirements in Medical Microbiology

The Section of Medical Microbiology has recently reviewed the training requirements for Medical Microbiology, which were accepted with minor changes, at the annual Section meeting in Berlin in May 2013.

The new Training Requirements for the Specialty of Medical Microbiology were then accepted at the UEMS Council meeting in October 2013.

The new requirements state that all training should take place in a recognized institution or training centre. The specialty training should be under qualified tutorship and the programme should acknowledge opportunities to check the trainee proceedings during the whole period of training. The quality of the training institution should be audited by an external team of specialists in Medical Microbiology.

The training period is five years, to be reduced only in case of documented experience in one or more fields of Microbiology.

A core training programme for Medical Microbiology was published in 2007 when microbiology was still part of the Section of Laboratory Medicine / Medical Biopathology. The document is available at:

<http://www.uems-smm.org/section/documents>

The aim of the Section of Medical Microbiology is to undertake a revision of this document in the near future.

The Section will work to achieve its aims by trying to:

- increase the number of European countries being active participants in the Section of Medical Microbiology
- exchange ideas and projects with other European professional Organisations to increase knowledge and cooperation in the field of Medical Microbiology
- enhance the importance of our specialty throughout the European Scientific Community
- make the Section more visible and its actions suitable to the new European needs in the field of infection
- cooperate and exchange liaison officers between the Section of Medical Microbiology and the Section of Infectious Diseases
- cooperate and exchange liaison officers with the Division of Medical Microbiology in the Section of Laboratory Medicine / Medical Biopathology (representing European countries where Medical Microbiology is not fully recognized) to achieve a profitable exchange in the interest of Medical Microbiology

CONCLUSIONS

UEMS will always work in the spirit of promoting a better understanding and cooperation among the European professionals and the Section of Medical Microbiology will work and make its best in order to promote the Medical Specialty of Microbiology in Europe.

More information can be found in the front page of UEMS (www.uems.net) in the space dedicated to the Specialty Sections.

The email addresses of the President, Secretary and Treasurer can be found there in the Medical Microbiology Section.

The wish, in the near future, is to create a forum for discussion of most important European events in the Microbiology page on the website. Our homepage address in the website is the following:

<http://www.uems-smm.org/>

