



CME accreditation in Europe Overview in 27 EU countries

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CME in EU Member States

- CME differs between the different EU Member States with regard notably to its compulsory character but also the ways in which it is implemented and organised.
- What are the disparities?



CME disparities

Core items of this presentation

- Compulsory CME versus voluntary CME
- CME credits requirements or guidelines
- Types of CME activities eligible for CME credits
- Accreditation of CME providers versus CME activities
- Participation in UEMS EACCME system
- National Competent authorities in CME
- Incentives and sanctions



Compulsory CME (17/27)

- **Eastern and Central Europe:**
 - Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia
 - Baltic countries: Latvia, Lithuania

- **Western Europe:**
 - Austria, France, Germany, Ireland, NL, UK

- **Southern Europe:**
 - Greece, Italy, Slovenia



Voluntary CME (10/27)

- **Northern Europe:**
 - Denmark, Finland, Sweden
- **Western Europe:**
 - Belgium, Luxembourg
- **Southern Europe:**
 - Cyprus, Malta, Portugal, Spain
- **Baltic countries:**
 - Estonia



CME credits requirements in CME compulsory countries (17 countries /27)

- The trend is 50 credits / year (with variations on the timescale)
 - Austria, Germany, France, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Poland, Slovakia, United Kingdom
- Other requirements:
 - Bulgaria: 150 c/y
 - Romania, Netherlands: 40 c/y
 - Lithuania: 24 c/y
 - Greece, CzeR: 20 c/y
 - Slovenia: 10.7 c/y (75 c/7 y)



CME credits guidelines in CME voluntary countries

- Estonia
- Cyprus, Denmark
- Belgium
- Finland
- Portugal, Spain, Sweden
- Luxembourg, Malta
- 60 credits / year
- 50 credits / year
- 20 credits / year
- 3-10 working days/ year
- No recommendation
- No data



Activities eligible for CME credits

- Most countries require/recommend to collect credits from a mix of CME activities
- « Traditional » activities:
 - Live CME Events
 - local, regional, international
 - Interactive workshops
 - Study scientific literature
 - Producing didactic Publications (Medical articles, books)
 - Scientific presentations (courses, abstracts, posters, etc.)



Activities eligible for CME credits

- Other CME activities:
 - E-learning CME
 - Acting as moderators
 - Peer reviews
 - Evaluation of professional practices, visitations
 - Daily practice
 - Collect credits in other fields than medicine (e.g.economy, communication, finance, sociology)



E-learning CME activities

- E-learning is valid to collect CME points in a growing number of EU countries (18 countries/27):
 - Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy (2010), Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, UK
- E-learning is not valid in 7 countries:
 - Bulgaria, Estonia, Greece, Ireland, Portugal, Romania, Sweden
- No data available: Luxembourg, Malta



CME credit unit

- **General concept**
 - 1 hour = 1 CME credit
 - Max 6 credits/day and 3 credits/half day
- **Other approaches:**
 - Austria and Estonia: 1 credit = 45 minutes
 - Belgium: case discussions 0,5 credit/hour
 - Cyprus: Lecture in medical congress = 10 credits, publication of a book = 50 credits
 - Slovakia: 1 hour = 2 credits for local events, max 8 credits/day



Accreditation of CME activities or CME providers

- In most countries CME activities are accredited
- In a few countries CME providers are accredited:
 - Austria
 - France
 - Slovenia
 - Italy (2010)



CME/CME accreditation authorities

- Mostly national Medical associations often working with Scientific Societies
- Particular models in:
 - Belgium - **National Health Insurance Institute**
 - Italy - **Health Ministry**
 - Lithuania - **Health Ministry**



CME National authorities Website section on CME accreditation

- Austria, Belgium, France, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, UK



Participation in EACCME system

- In CME compulsory countries (11/17)
 - Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Slovakia, Romania, Austria, Germany, Ireland, NL, Greece, Slovenia
- In CME voluntary countries (8/10)
 - Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Luxembourg, Malta, Spain, Sweden



Non Participation in EACCME

- In CME compulsory countries (6/17)
 - Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France, Italy, Lithuania, UK
- In CME voluntary countries (2/10)
 - Estonia, Portugal



Sanctions and incentives

- Very few countries have incentives to participate in CME or sanctions for not complying to the requirements
- **Incentives:**
 - Belgium: annual fee of approx 550 EUR
- **Sanctions:**
 - Germany: financial sanctions, withdrawal of licence after 2 years
 - Romania: suspension of licence
 - UK (revalidation – end 2009)



Response from European Commission to written question raised by MEP M. Ebner April 2008

- “The Commission is aware of the fact that Continued Medical Education (CME) can differ greatly between the different Member States.”
- “Currently, CME credits cannot constitute an obstacle to doctors wishing to establish themselves in another Member State”.
- “Member States may impose continued professional development on professionals established on their territory. However, they cannot require it for the purpose of migration, be it on a permanent or temporary basis”.

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European Commission

- “The introduction of a binding system of recognition of CME could only be based on minimum harmonised CME standards, in order not to prejudice the automatic recognition of medical professional qualifications”.
- “This would require unanimity among all Member States”.
- => no obstacle to mobility => no EU intervention



ACOE's view

- It is **not necessary** that all EU Member States follow the **same rules** and systems
- What is important is that health professionals have **access to quality** CME programmes across Europe, and
- have the guarantee that their participation in CME activities outside their home country is **validated** in their home country
- -> **automatic mutual recognition of credits**



**Thank you for your participation
in this workshop**

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