

UEMS RHEUMATOLOGY SECTION – ITS ROLE IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING REUMATOLOŠKA SEKCIJA UEMS-A – ULOGA U IZOBRAZBI I SPECIJALISTIČKOM USAVRŠAVANJU

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Background: the UEMS was established in 1958, one year after the founding of the European Economic Community, to establish common criteria for specialists to move between member countries. It has continued to focus on professional and training issues. The UEMS works closely with the European Commission and the Advisory Committee for Medical Training (ACMT). A charter on Training Medical Specialists in the European Community was adopted in 1993. With the expansion and evolution of the EU – the membership of UEMS has also been transformed with valuable input from the new member states.

The **UEMS Section of Rheumatology** was established in 1962. The European Board of Rheumatology was created by the UEMS Section of Rheumatology in 1993, in common with the other specialty sections, as a working group to guarantee optimal care in rheumatology by bringing the training of rheumatologists to the highest level possible. Our section has had long and distinguished track record in playing a key role in the activities of the UEMS. Prof Nada Cikes from Croatia has been a former President of the section; a Vice President of UEMS and led the organisation and implementation of the ETR (European Training Requirement)strategy for the whole of UEMS. Rheumatology was of the earliest sections to create an ETR in 2014 – regarded as an exemplar for other sections. The UEMS charter on the training of rheumatologists in Europe was published by Jose A P da Silva et al (a former president) in 2008.

Key areas of collaboration with EULAR have been: a) Differences and similarities in rheumatology specialty training programmes across European countries - b) Points to consider for the assessment of competencies in Rheumatology specialty training c) Points to consider; EULAR–UEMS standards for the training of European rheumatologists. Currently the Rheumatology section has national representatives from over 20 European countries they are contributing to the work of an important set of projects which include : developing a European Rheumatology Certificate examination with EULAR The 2014, The curriculum (ETR) is currently being updated; a Training the Trainers programme and a report on the rheumatology workforce is ready for publication. Our current priorities and direction of travel are mainly to develop the section into an effective force to fulfil the UEMS's objectives in a collegiate and collaborative way

Keywords: rheumatology, UEMS, education, training

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