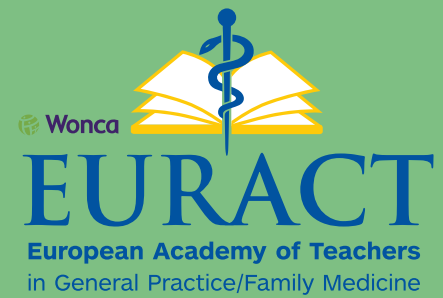


EURACT

MESSENGER



EURACT 25th Anniversary Gala Dinner, Barcelona, 29th September 2017

A gala dinner celebrating the 25th Anniversary of EURACT was held on 29th September 2017 at the H10 Casa Mimosa Hotel in Barcelona with the participation as special guests of Prof. Mehmet Ungan, President Elect of WONCA Europe, and former President of EURACT Dr Egle Price, who was accompanied by her husband Dr Roger Price, a former member of the EURACT Council. The other previous presidents of EURACT were unable to attend.

Dr Price and Prof. Ungan gave speeches for the

occasion and were presented by EURACT President Dr Jo Buchanan with a special EURACT 25th anniversary photobook as a memento. The current longest-standing EURACT Council member, Prof. Adam Windak, reminisced about his experiences on council and was even persuaded to entertain the guests with a song! A EURACT 25th anniversary cake was then ceremoniously cut and commemorative photos taken of the occasion.

The evening was brought to a close with further

musical entertainment provided by a group of local medical students that stimulated the guests to get up and dance! Thanks go to Dr Dolores Fores, EURACT Council member from Spain, together with her assistants Marta Ricat and Cristina Llado from semFYC, for hosting such a memorable and enjoyable evening.

Mario R Sammut,

EURACT Honorary Secretary, representative of Malta

Messages from Committees

Specialist Training Committee

WONCA and UEMO formed a joint task-group. In the light of recognizing GP/FM as a specialty European-wide, they want to work on European Training Requirements for GP/FM training. These requirements can be divided into:

1. Training requirements for Trainees: content, outcome & organisation
2. Training requirements for Trainers: recognition & quality management
3. Training requirements for Training Institutions: recognition & quality management

As an academic organisation committee, we were asked to give recommendations on those three items. We agreed on providing a general framework, a model.

We are aware that already a lot of documents exist within the EURACT database treating these topics. Possibly publications could be found also in the literature.

We agreed to make a structure in which we can implement what we gather from documents and literature.

We will start with training requirements for trainees.

THE STRUCTURE IN WHICH WE WILL WORK IS:

1. What do trainees have to learn/achieve (competence-driven)?
2. How trainees have to achieve this?
3. How to assess the achieved competences?
4. How long should training last?
5. Where should training be organized?

6. How should selection of trainees occur?

EURACT DOCUMENTS TO BE CONSULTED:

1. EURACT statement on assessment
2. EURACT statement on hospital posts
3. EURACT guidelines on selection of GP trainers
4. Training status and immigration of physicians
5. Educational expectations of trainers
6. EURACT Performance Agenda (EUPA)
7. Educational agenda
8. European definition

Nele Michels,

Chair of the Committee, representative of Belgium

Messages from Committees

CPD/CME

The committee has a new member: Vesna Homar (Slovenia)

During the Committee meeting we discussed several issues:

1. CPD/CME vision statement for the website was approved and it will be uploaded to the EURACT website.
2. Survey on E-health in Europe will be finished and we would address Council members in the period between meetings.
3. Promoting Active Listening in established GPs – Radmila Ristovska to develop this module to include it in future CPD/CME workshop.
4. Workshop for Krakow WONCA Europe Conference in May 2018: How best to support isolated GPs to participate in CME – Jo Buchanan will coordinate. This is a joint workshop with Biserka Marcovic from Croatia and EURIPA.

Preliminary ideas for this WS have been discussed. Some examples in some countries already exist:

- e-learning modules from Estonia using Moodle with opportunities for interactions on-line (forums, interactive communications)
- developing the local teams for teaching activities (mainly small group teachings) - Estonia
- development of local teams led by a GP from Hungary elected by the local GPs

- identifying and meeting the different needs of rural doctors in the Czech Republic
 - engaging rural practices in teaching and training in Slovenia as a way to promote ongoing learning in GPs
 - CME in Georgia – the challenges with isolated practices and poor internet connectivity
5. Workshop for Leuven EURACT Educational conference, September 2018: CME teaching exchange/ Jachym Bednar and Jo Buchanan to coordinate it; Communication skills – Promoting Active Listening in established GPs – a module from Macedonia
 6. SEA: Significant event analysis - How to use it as teaching tool
 7. Cooperation with Specialist Training Committee: Survey on recruitment of new GPs among European medical students
 8. Workshop on “How to avoid drug interactions if working without appropriate SW in GP office”? The aim is to train participants to use internet easily on-line apps on interactions - Razvan Mitfode to prepare abstract and draft of the module

Jachym Bednar,

*Chair of the Committee,
representative of the Czech Republic*

Basic Medical Education

During the Committee working hours, we analysed data from the survey that was well received and completed between the Council Meetings (12 Council Members sent completed data, more than expected).

We decided as a first step to prepare for a workshop at the WONCA Europe conference in Krakow in May 2018 followed by an abstract more focused on education for the workshop at the EURACT Educational Conference in Leuven in September 2018. The survey data will be used to write a future statement.

Francesco Carelli,

Chair of the Committee, representative of Italy

Member Services Committee

Teachers' courses provided or that will be provided by EURACT:

- Leonardo 1, Thessaloniki May 2017: very successful, teaching material was updated.
- Leonardo 3, Malta & Thessaloniki in October 2017 and May 2018: pre-course work, meetings in October 2017 and May 2018.

Next EURACT Council Meetings: Thessaloniki 12-14 April 2018, Antwerp 19-20 September 2018.

Membership fees in 2018:

Proposal for the January 2018 EB meeting:

2016 data, world economic outlook database, www.imf.org

	GDP-PPP	Number of countries	
		2017	2018
10€	<10K	3	2
20€	<20K	7	6
30€	<30K	11	12
40€	<40K	6	7
50€	>40K	11	11

Sponsoring for council members:

Delegates from countries with GDP-PPP < 12K \$, can be sponsored to attend the meeting, up to the double amount of fees collected per year per meeting.

List of benefits for members:

- Certificate of membership
- Reduced fee for Leonardo courses, Bled courses, EURACT Educational Conferences
- Messenger
- Access to educational material on the EURACT website
- Contribute to the development of FM teaching throughout Europe
- Networking with other FM teachers

Bruce Brinkley,

*Co-Chair of the Committee,
representative of Switzerland*

Short reports of Task Forces

Educational Resources

The participants had further discussion on the aims and goals of the Task Group, and about what the end products should be.

INTRODUCTION AND AIMS

Purely “on line” educational resources may not be adequate to teach some non-clinical material relevant to Family Medicine, such as the topics dealing with the principles and philosophy of Family Medicine.

Blended methods including the use of small group debates, interactions and interpersonal activities, are more suitable to improve communication skills, the management of cultural and ethical issues as well as dealing with uncertainty.

It was agreed that the Task Force should provide some outlines and educational resources that could serve as a basis to teachers willing to develop modules using blended methods.

CURRENT TASKS

1. **Roadmap for blended learning material**

preparation: development of an overview relevant to the goals and context of Family Medicine. This is to become our main document, to be uploaded on the EURACT website and maybe published.

2. Development of **Minimum Core Curriculum Topics**

Three topics have been chosen and have been partially developed as modules using blended teaching methods. They will be shortened and adapted into examples with suggested outlines.

Topic 1: Continuity, comprehensiveness, coordination of care (in progress)

Topic 2: Holistic approach. Bio-psycho-social model (in progress)

Topic 6: Decision making based on prevalence and incidence of target (new)

3. Adaptation as **outlines of existing courses and implementation**

- The spirometry distant education course - SpiroCourse (to be translated and adapted)

- Breaking Bad News blended course (to be translated and adapted)
 - Management of multiple health problems: identifying priorities (new)
 - Teaching Ethics
4. Development of a **bank of relevant content material and resources** about blended learning, hybrid courses, flipped classrooms, interactive E-learning and technologies (in progress)

FUTURE TASKS:

1. Adaptation of Task Force products for EURACT Website
2. Preparation of workshop for Leuven Conference: tasks distribution among Task Force members
3. Survey of existing (non-clinical) blended courses/modules relevant to Family Medicine, in EURACT countries

Martine Granek-Catarivas,
Chair of the Task Force, representative of Israel

VESNA HOMAR
SLOVENIA

Being a family physician (2011-) I enjoy working with people. I conduct my clinical work in a primary acute and out-of-hours center and I work as an assistant and researcher at the Department of Family medicine at the University of Ljubljana (2010-). I'm involved in teaching and coaching programs of family medicine at all levels, from undergraduate students to continuous medical education and teaching the trainers programs. Since 2016 I've been the coordinator of annual international Janko Kersnik EURACT Bled course for family medicine teachers.

My fields of interest in medical education and research are continuous medical education and teaching the trainers in family medicine.

I'm a proud mother of two children and as a family we love to hike and climb in the mountains and spend time traveling. To clear my mind from everyday worries I like diverse things like running, cycling, photography or simply spending good time with my dear friends.

It is a real privilege to be in EURACT council and I wish to share, learn and contribute in the best possible way.

**MILENA COJIĆ,**
MONTENEGRO

As a young postgraduate doctor I knew that I would never limit myself to one field of medicine. I was interested in solving various medical problems, building long-term relationships with patients and their families. That's why I fell in love with family medicine. During my residency I was involved in helping young medical students to learn and improve their medical skills. Then I discovered my other love – teaching. It was only a matter of time before I would become a teaching assistant. Now, I like working with my students and doing the best I can to make them love and choose family medicine. Recently I became a member of the EURACT Council and it is a real privilege for me. I think I've found my third love.

**ANNE SIMMENROTH,**
GERMANY

Before I started with medicine, I worked as a child care worker with disabled children. During my medical studies, from which I mostly remember the contact with family medicine, I became mother of three boys - a good condition in multitasking for the rest of my career. In the last 10 years I specialized in medical didactics and teaching and assessing communication and social skills, which is also helpful when dealing with patients (once a week) in an urban family practice. In our faculty I also set up the skillslab and the simulated-patient-program.

Being a family doctor or a teacher sometimes is not so different – I love both roles!



EURACT Bled course in 2017

I was honoured this year to be proposed by Jo Buchanan to join the faculty for the EURACT Bled course. I was delighted and somewhat surprised to find that I had been chosen and to be heading to Slovenia in September 2017.

This, the 26th Bled course, was the largest so far with 60 participants from 14 countries. The theme of the course "Teaching and Learning about Diagnostic Uncertainty in Family Medicine" was both relevant to our daily practice and also challenging to consider how to teach! I was lucky to have excellent faculty members: Yonah Yaphe, Val Wass and Alexandre Gouveia to help me. The small group format of the majority of the course allowed exploration and reflection on the content and for each group to prepare a teaching package by the final morning. As a facilitator it was an absolute delight to find such enthusiastic participants willing to engage with at times new and unfamiliar concepts. The effective group working and collaboration was excellent and I learnt so much myself.

One distinctive element of the course was the field visit to a patient's home with my group which was humbling and contributed so much to the learning. The organisation of the field visits and the following case reports was expertly handled by Leopold Zonik and his team from the Bled Health Centre.

The "joker" session from Ivor Svab on the controversial topic of cheating provided additional stimulation and creative dissonance.

No report of the Bled course can omit mention of the wonderful and varied social programme which included a concert by a medical orchestra in the church on the beautiful island in the lake, a visit to a very interesting ethnographic museum and a delightful conference dinner with dancing lessons. A very special mention must go to Nena Kopčavar Guček for her hard work in organising such an extensive programme.

The hospitality of all the Slovene organisers and colleagues was extremely warm. The organising committee led by Mateja Bulc, and including Vesna Homar and Vesna Pekarovič Džakulin, did a wonderful job.

Alongside the academic content it was also fascinating to share experiences with course members, to learn of the different systems and organisation of family medicine in different countries and the variability in primary care teams and working practices. It was also striking how many similarities there are in how we practice: the core of the doctor-patient relationship, the ways in which it is changing, and of the challenges created by increasing multi-morbidity, new technologies and societal changes.

I am very proud of being a GP and GP educator; I feel GP educators with their empathy, curiosity and innovation are my tribe and the Bled course confirmed to me that this is an international tribe!

I would thoroughly recommend the course to any GP educators from any country who wish to expand their horizons and learn from an interesting, friendly and diverse group of peers. I was very pleased to be asked to remain on the faculty for 2018 and I am already looking forward to the 27th Bled course. Why not join me?

Alan Shirley,

Bled course faculty member, UK

Appraisal Task Group

Our meeting focused on the rather little activity that had taken place in the appraisal system since our last meeting in Tel Aviv.

The appraisal system was completed by Francesco Carelli who had finished his appraisal with success on the competent level and by Nele Michels who was appraised with success at the expert level.

The task group finds that further efforts must be done to give power to the system and we focused on possible solutions:

1. We all should try to support and promote the appraisal system.
2. Appraised teachers to be clearly visible on our website!
3. A way forward could be to do partial appraisals as a start.
4. We should spread it among colleagues – and perhaps also go for a bottom-up approach!
5. Some small ideas for external motivation:
 - Payment could be removed for a period;

- Benefits in relation to courses, membership fee etc.

SOME SHORT REFLECTIONS WHY WE SHOULD DO THIS:

- "The appraisal system is like sitting in a Formula 1 car seat"
- It will give you a valuable tool for self-assessment
- A tool for systematic reflection – and getting feedback
- A tool for objective measurement of your competences and having feedback on them
- Learn about your past and your future
- A way to find areas for improving your teaching

ACTION PLAN:

1. Clarify the issues about non-EURACT members' payment.
2. Make appraised teachers visible in our website.
3. Encouraging Council Members to be active until Thessaloniki meeting via reminders.

Roar Maagaard,

Chair of the Task Force, representative of Denmark

Website & Branding

- EURACT 2nd Medical Education Conference, Leuven September 2018: in coordination with Jan Degryse, an abstract submission page is to be set up in Leuven with a link from a EURACT website page to be dedicated to the conference.
- Online membership application on EURACT website: green light given to developer for this facility; Council members will be notified when this is live.
- New EURACT logo: a decision has been made.

ONGOING TASKS:

- develop pages on the EURACT website to promote the Leuven Conference;
- put up videos on the website, starting with the EURACT 25th anniversary video produced by Jachym Bednar.

Darach O' Ciardha,

Chair of the Task Group, representative of Ireland

EURACT Leonardo Level 3 Teachers' Course - part 1 in Malta

The importance of education and training throughout a professional's career have long been understood to be essential to many professions, but even more so in the medical and scientific field, with the quick paced development of knowledge and technology.

EURACT has been providing teaching courses for several years and developed the Level 1, 2 and 3 courses for Trainers in Family Medicine. For several years, EURACT has worked on a framework to guide the development of GP and family medicine educators and set the basic standards for training the trainers at different levels. This framework is intended to provide a sustainable background for the harmonization of GP and family medicine training across Europe.

The level 3 programme is designed to help develop proficient educators to the level of educational experts, with the capability of developing their own educational expertise and providing skills training for future GP teachers. Those who progress to this highest level will be tasked with maintaining a European teaching skills programme, and ensuring that it is cascaded beyond the original partner organizations to other European countries. The methods used in this project will promote a common European approach and a harmonised delivery of the GP training curriculum. The level 3 programme is structured in the same way as a Masters module, with most of the time spent in self-directed study, and three days of course work spread over two sessions that are separated by several months. At the end of the course, participants will be expected to deliver an educational intervention in their country and publish a paper on their educational intervention.

The first Level 3 course was held in Portugal between December 2011 and June 2012. The second Level 3 course to be organised by EURACT has now kicked off, and the first part was held on the 14th October in Malta. The second part will be held in Thessaloniki,



Happy participants and the Faculty of the Leonardo 3 course

Greece on the 29th and 30th June 2018.

It was an extremely successful start for the course. The 12 participants hailing from all around Europe, namely Slovenia, Greece, Sweden, Denmark, Russia, Romania, Macedonia, and Israel, brought together a good mix of cultures and experiences. Participants shared their projects that will eventually certify them as Level 3 Experts in GP training. During the programme, participants worked with their peers and gained an understanding of the advantages of such a common European approach. Programme participants are being supported by their respective academic institutions and have an individual educational su-

pervisor that will guide them throughout their project.

The faculty of the course is made up of Igor Švab as course director, current EURACT president Jo Buchanan, Renzo De Gabriele, Dimitrios Karanasios, Roar Maagaard and Adam Windak. Mario R Sammut, Hon Secretary of EURACT, provided invaluable support during the course. Special thanks go to Vitals Global Healthcare for co-sponsoring this first part of the course in Malta together with EURACT.

Renzo De Gabriele,

local organizer of part 1 of the Leonardo 3 course, Malta

European Medicines Agency

The European Medicines Agency [EMA] began operating in 1995. The Agency is responsible for the scientific evaluation, supervision and safety monitoring of medicines developed by pharmaceutical companies for use in the EU.

The EMA has been interacting with European healthcare professionals in various areas of its work since it was founded in 1995. In 2016 a workshop was held with representatives from FM/GP across Europe. At this workshop the importance of the EMA getting a better understanding of how medicines were being

used in real life was recognised. There was also a discussion of how to increase the awareness of the EMA's work amongst GP/FM specialists and enable them to inform the regulatory discussions.

Medicines are licensed on the basis of findings from clinical trials and pre-licensing studies carried out in a very controlled way, which do not reflect the real use of medicines. It is therefore important to bring real-life experience and clinical practice into the medicines evaluation. As prescribers and handlers of the medicines that the Agency evaluates,

healthcare professionals are key stakeholders in the Agency's work and have specific knowledge and expertise to offer. The ultimate mutual goal is to protect public health by promoting the rational and safe use of medicines.

If you would like to know more about the work of the EMA the website is here: <http://www.ema.europa.eu/ema/>

Jo Buchanan,

EURACT President, UK

EURACT Medical Education Conference, 21st-22nd September 2018

Following our successful educational conference in Dublin in 2016 we are now planning the next conference, which will be held at the University of Leuven, Medical Campus Gasthuisberg. The title of the conference is 'Family Medicine in the Real World: from Theory into Practice.' Professor Jan Degryse is the local organiser of the conference.

We have three excellent keynote speakers. Jan Heyrman, the founding president of EURACT, will explore the Role of Clinical Teachers in the Acade-

misation of Family Medicine. Valérie Dory, who is an Associate professor at McGill Centre for Medical Education will share her work on 'Assessment of Clinical Reasoning: new thinking about an old topic'. Yonah Yaphe who has had a long association with EURACT through his contribution to the annual EURACT course in Slovenia will talk about 'Teaching Family Medicine in the real world: The view from Three Continents'.

The conference themes are: Evaluating and im-

plementing new ways of teaching and assessment; Developing research in family medicine; Sharing educational experiences.

The conference will provide an opportunity for practicing family medicine teachers and researchers to meet and exchange research findings and new ideas in order to continue the development of Family Medicine in Europe.

Further details will shortly be available on the EURACT website euract.woncaeurope.org.