European Credit Transfer System
ECTS

1989 - 2009

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Professor of Pharmacology
Coordinator of LLP/Erasmus Medicine
University of Crete
Member of ECTS-MA Executive Council

Brussels, November 3 2009
• History of ECTS

• Origin of ECTS - MA

• Evolutions / perspectives of ECTS
In the early 90’s, ECTS was established with the aim to promote academic recognition throughout the European Union in order to allow students to circulate freely between the member states and do part of their study program in different medical faculties.

Introduction of ECTS academic credits

- Promote the harmonization of the curricula
- Promote the mutual agreement among partner institutions and students
- Promote Recognition of Studies
History of ECTS

• ECTS was a Pilot Project within the ERASMUS PROGRAM (European Community Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students)

• Introduced for a maximum 6 year Pilot Phase: 1989 – 1995

• 5 academic disciplines
  - medicine
  - mechanical engineering
  - business administration
  - history
  - chemistry
History of ECTS

• 28 medical faculties were chosen to take part in this pilot phase

  ❖ Universite Libre de Bruxelles
  ❖ Universtitaire Instelling Antwerpen
  ❖ University of Crete
  ❖ Universitat of Wien
  ❖ University of Oslo

• ECTS ICMG: ECTS Inner Circle Medicine Group
ECTS is based upon the principle of mutual trust and confidence between the participating higher education institutions.

Few rules were set to reinforce mutual trust and confidence:
- Information (curricula)
- Learning Agreement (between the home and host institutions)
- Use of Credit Points (to indicate student workload)

ECTS Information Package later renamed ECTS study guide

Provide assistance to the prospective ECTS student to prepare his/her study period abroad

Ensure transfer of credits from one participating institution to another
History of ECTS

• **ECTS ICMG: ECTS Inner Circle Medicine Group**

• **Student mobility was initiated among the medical faculties of the ECTS ICMG**

• **Duration of studies abroad: 3-12 month**

• **60 ECTS per year/ 30 per semester/20 per trimester**

• **Studies included either classes or clinical clerkships**
History of ECTS

- Upon completion of the ECTS pilot phase, the EC introduced a new way for collaboration amongst European Higher Education Institutions

Socrates Program

- Bilateral Agreements between partner institutions
- Thematic Networks (TNs)

In addition to ECTS ICMG the EC funded Inter Collegiate Programs (ICPs) that ran in parallel.

An important meeting for the medical discipline took place in Cagliari, Sardinia, 1996
History of ECTS

- The following TN’s were funded by the EC:

  - 1997-1999, MEDNET I, Jan De Koning, Nijmegen
    Sjoerd Willemstein, Rotterdam

History of ECTS

The general aim of the thematic networks was

- to survey and present the actual status of educational systems and structures in the EC member states

- to improve medical education in Europe by providing fora for discussion on medical curricula, innovations, quality development, and professionalization of teachers.
Origin of ECTS MA

• ECTS Inner Circle Medicine Group grew gradually to a group consisting of about 45 members

• Survived without ECTS funding from 1996 -2004

• Supported by the member universities and the funding of the thematic networks

• Came together once a year, mainly as a clearing house meeting for student exchange in the annual meetings of MEDNET

• ECTS ICMG Meeting in Heraklion, Crete 2004 discussed the future of the group
• 9:30 - 10:00  The Bologna Process and Swiss Higher Education
   Speakers: Wolfgang Gerke and Christian Schirl, University of Zurich

• 10:00-10:30  Thematic Network application (MEDINE): update

• 10:30-11:00  Update on Medical Language Project

• 11:00-11:15  Coffee

• 11:15 - 13:30  Clearing House: student exchange/collaboration

• 3:30 - 14:30  Lunch

• 14:30 - 18:30  Decision Making on the Future of the Group
Decision Making
Future of the Group

✓ Creation of ECTS-Medicine Association
ECTS-MA Executive Board
2004-2007

Prof. Manuel Vijande (Oviedo, President)
Dr. Claire Menzel-Dowling (Saarlandes, Vice President)
Mr. Sverre Bjerkeset (Oslo, Secretary)
Dr. Karel Van Liempt (Antwerpen, Treasurer)
Prof. Michael Halaska (Prague, Member)
Prof. Pavel Kucera (Laussane, Member)
Prof. Kiki Thermos (Heraklion, Member)

ECTS-MA Executive Board
2007-2010

Prof. Borghild Roald (Oslo, President)
Dr. Karel Van Liempt (Antwerpen, Treasurer)
Mr. Sverre Bjerkeset (Oslo, Secretary)
Prof. Sylvain Meuris (Brussels, Member)
Dr. J. Hedemark Poulsen (Copenhagen, Member)
Dr. Human Salemi, Vienna, Member
Prof. Kiki Thermos (Heraklion, Member)
Proper Implementation of ECTS

based on student workload and learning outcomes

By 2012

to have ECTS implemented in at least 70% of the Medical Faculties in Europe
to increase student mobility by at least 10% within this period
ECTS ICMG  
Heraklion, 8 May 2004

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• 14:30 - 18:30 Decision Making on the Future of the Group
MEDINE 2

✓ 2004-2007, MEDINE I
  Gareth Williams, Bristol

✓ 2009-2012, MEDINE 2
  Andrew Cumming, Edinburgh
## MEDINE2, 2009 - Membership of Executive Board

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Members</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coordinator and Chair</td>
<td>Allan Cumming</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice-Chair</td>
<td>Karel van Liempt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workpackage 1 (MEDINElingua)</td>
<td>Ulrike Arnold, Gareth Williams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workpackage 2 (Mobility Toolkit)</td>
<td>Kiki Thermos, Borghild Roald</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workpackage 3 (Tuning Process)</td>
<td>Helen Cameron</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workpackage 4 (Tuning 1st Cycle degrees)</td>
<td>Michael Ross</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workpackage 5 (Curriculum Trends) and Workpackage 6 (Integration of Bologna Process)</td>
<td>Madalena Patricio, Patricia Lilley</td>
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<td>Workpackage 7 (Integration of research)</td>
<td>Chris van Schravendik, Richard Marz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workpackage 8 (Management)</td>
<td>Fiona Willox + Project Officer (to be appointed)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workpackages 9 and 10 (Dissemination and exploitation)</td>
<td>Michael Begg (website and learning technology), Project Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workpackage 11 (Quality Assurance)</td>
<td>Project Officer (to be appointed)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Representatives</td>
<td>Representatives (as shown, or as agreed with relevant organisation):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMEE</td>
<td>Ronald Harden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EUMS</td>
<td>Bernard Maillet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMSA</td>
<td>Ahmet Murt</td>
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<tr>
<td>EMA</td>
<td>Vicenzo Costiglioni, deputy Collette Creusy</td>
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• **Create a toolkit to promote openness and mobility in medical education and training in Europe**
  – The toolkit will link up and connect learning communities of students, teachers and administrative staff in networks within medical education in Europe.

This will be accomplished
  – through personal contact (site visits), web technology and promotion material to offer information.
  – Annual Meetings and ECTS-Schools to offer best practice principles
Evolutions / perspectives of ECTS

- ECTS transfer and accumulation system
- Linking workload to learning outcomes / competencies
- ECTS as an instrument for curriculum design