



European Credit Transfer System ECTS

1989 - 2009

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- History of ECTS
- Origin of ECTS - MA
- Evolutions / perspectives of ECTS



History 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
 - ❖ Université Libre de Bruxelles
 - ❖ Universtaire Instelling Antwerpen
 - ❖ University of Crete
 - ❖ Universitat of Wien
 - ❖ University of Oslo
- ECTS ICMG: ECTS Inner Circle Medicine Group



History of ECTS

- 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
 - 1999-2003, MEDNET II, Enzo Molina, Parma



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**



ECTS ICMG

Heraklion, 8 May 2004

- *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)**



ECTS-Medicine Association

Main Goals

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



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MEDINE 2

✓ 2004-2007, MEDINE I

Gareth Williams, Bristol

✓ 2009-2012, MEDINE 2

Andrew Cumming, Edinburgh



MEDINE2, 2009 - Membership of Executive Board

| | |
|--|---|
| Coordinator and Chair | Allan Cumming |
| Vice-Chair | Karel van Liempt |
| Workpackage 1 (MEDINElingua) | Ulrike Arnold, Gareth Williams |
| Workpackage 2 (Mobility Toolkit) | Kiki Thermos, Borghild Roald |
| Workpackage 3 (Tuning Process) | Helen Cameron |
| Workpackage 4 (Tuning 1 st Cycle degrees) | Michael Ross |
| Workpackage 5 (Curriculum Trends) and Workpackage 6 (Integration of Bologna Process) | Madalena Patricio, Patricia Lilley |
| Workpackage 7 (Integration of research) | Chris van Schravendik, Richard Marz |
| Workpackage 8 (Management) | Fiona Willox + Project Officer (to be appointed) |
| Workpackages 9 and 10 (Dissemination and exploitation) | Michael Begg (website and learning technology), Project Officer |
| Workpackage 11 (Quality Assurance) | Project Officer (to be appointed) |
| Representatives (as shown, or as agreed with relevant organisation): | |
| AMEE | Ronald Harden |
| EUMS | Bernard Maillet |
| EMSA | Ahmet Murt |
| EMA | Vicenzo Costiglioni, deputy Collette Creusy |



ECTS-MA in MEDINE2

- 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