



UEMS Section of Neurology – European Board of Neurology

01. July 2023

TIME AND DATE Saturday, 01 July 2023, 09:30 -12:30

VENUE HUNGEXPO
Albertirsai út 10
1101 Budapest, Hungary
Gallery Floor EAN MR 8 (G15)

MINUTES

1. WELCOME BY THE PRESIDENT

Bureau

Patrick Cras, President (BE)
Martin Rakusa, Vice President (SLO)
David Garcia Azorin, Secretary (SP)
Lacramioara Perju-Dumbrava, Treasurer (RO) - online

Full members

Eduard Auff (A)
Tim Counihan (IR)
Marianne de Visser (NL)
Carlo Ferrarese (IT)
Sten Fredrikson (SE)
Inga Kalju (EE)
Jan Kuks, (NL)
Gereon Nelles (DE)
Joseph Claßen (DE)
Brian Sweeney (IR) - online
Deborah McIntyre (LU)
Anne-Mari Kantanen (FI)
Christian Bsteh (AT) – online
Georgios Kaponides (CY)
Antonio Federico (IT)
Bogdan Popescu (RO)
Miguel Lainez (SP)
Pablo Irimia (SP)
Olena Mialovytska (UA) - online
Nadia Ruzhdii (RU)

Associate members

George Chakhava (GE) - online
Serefnur Özturk (TR)

Apologized

Ida Bakke (NO)
Johanna Palmio (FI)
Kristina Ryliskiene (LT)
Pille Taba (EE)
Stephan Zierz (DE)
Jera Kruja (AL)



UEMS Section of Neurology – European Board of Neurology

01. July 2023

Josanne Aquilina (MT)
Michal Bar (CZ)
Dominique Boucquey (BE)
Gilles Edan (FR)
Urs Fischer (CH)
Simon Jung (CH)
Mette Lindelof (DK)
Georgios Hadjigeorgiou (GR)
Pall Ingvarsson (IS)
Petr Marusic (CZ)
Evija Miglane (LV)
Norbert Vella (MA)
Charlotte Lützhof Rath (DK)
Jana Midelfart-Hoff
Alain Jager (FR)
Mathiew Jones (UK)
Ruta Kaladyte Lokominiene (LT)

The President welcomed all members. Participants introduced themselves.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 25.06.2022

Minutes have been approved.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

On behalf of treasurer, J. Selimovic presented the report for the period from 01.01.2022 to 31.12.2022.

The income consists of € 9.430 (membership fees), € 10.400 (EACCME accreditation fee) and € 77.133,91 (examination fees), in total € 89.963,91.

Total expenditure was € 123.117,15, made up of administrative services for WMA € 59.445,96, exam costs €9.853,28, financial UEMS € 35.230,10, EAN invoice 14.892,50, meeting costs € 1928,47 and other costs €1.767,04 (detailed balance for 2022 below)

The EBN balance in 2022 is negative for € 33 153,24. The balance as of 31.12.2022 was € 139.782,64 and was € 172. 935,88 as off 31.12.2021.

This is due to € 35 230,10 UEMS finances (bonds and administration) and € 14. 892,5, an invoice from EAN. Otherwise, our balance would be positive in the last year.

According to the UEMS statutes, the Neurology Section is not allowed to manage its money in its own bank account and the UEMS manages our funds in Brussels according to Belgian law. To finance its 6-year bond and other initiatives, the UEMS has taken loans from all sections into an internal fund. In total, our section's loan amounts to € 76.059. Of the € 76.059, € 22.371 was retained this year and falls under a 'domus medica europea 6 year bond' (DME6YB). This bond matures in August 2028 and yields 0.5% per year, i.e. 3% after 3 years. We cannot dispose of the other € 53.688 for an indefinite period, therefore our Section, like other Sections, makes a significant contribution to the budget of the central UEMS, and there is some uncertainty about what will be returned to us.

At last meeting in Brussels, it has been decided to send out a survey amongst the members of our section on which project we should invest money. The discussion will be taken in the autumn meeting.



UEMS Section of Neurology – European Board of Neurology

01. July 2023

Five countries have not yet paid their annual fees for 2023: Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Slovakia, UK. We have no contact with Poland (has removed from the file).

UEMS EBN BALANCE 31.12.2021-31.12.2022		
REPORT 2022	INCOME	EXPENSES
BALANCE PER 31.12.2021	€ 172 935,88	
CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS 2022	€ 9 430,00	
EACCME	€ 10 400,00	
EXAMINATION FEES 2022	€ 70 133,91	
ADMIN. FEES 2022		€ 59 445,76
EXAMINATION COSTS 2022		€ 9 853,28
FINANCIAL UEMS		€ 35 230,10
EAN INVOICE		€ 14 892,50
MEETING COSTS		€ 1 928,47
OTHERS (Cesma, ...)		€ 1 767,04
TOTAL AMOUNTS	€ 89 963,91	€ 123 117,15
MINUS	-€ 33 153,24	
CLOSING BALANCE PER 31.12.2022	€ 139 782,64	

4. EXAMINATION: REPORT ON THE CURRENT SITUATION AND OUTLOOK TO THE NEXT SESSION

The report on the 2023 exam was presented by Jan Kuks.

The members of the Examination Committee as a sub-committee of the Joint EAN-EBN Educational Committee (JEB) are: Jan Kuks, David Garcia, Tim Counihan, Deborah McIntyre, Pablo Irimia, Manuel Alegre, Francesco di Lorenzo and Massimiliano Filosto. Manuel Alegre has resigned at last committee meeting. This place should be replaced RRFs person from the EAN. Jan and David will switch their position and David will become a new chair of the committee.

This year we have received 104 applications for the exam (63 from Europe and 41 outside of Europe). The highest number of European candidates coming from Italy (27) and Belgium (14). The highest number of non-European candidates coming from Saudi Arabia (8). The board should work on the promotion of the exam and try to include more candidates for other big European countries like France, Spain, Germany and the UK.

This year exam was the first one organized completely with iCognithus (provider from Portugal; in previous years we worked with them only for the written exam). Experience was very good, since we were able to have both part of the exam from the one place. We experienced some errors which we will solve for the next editions. The system was very useful (presentation and scores on one place).



UEMS Section of Neurology – European Board of Neurology

01. July 2023

The main challenge was difficulties with getting examiners (Cancellations after commitment, Limited response). Only 11 among 27 examiners were from EBN. Exam is responsibility of the board, and board members should be involved in the exam.

Ninety-eight candidates attended the written exam. Questions for the written exam have been taken from the questions database (n=428). We need 100 questions each year. We also use questions from previous years, it is not possible to offer new questions each year, old questions are base for the exam because of statistics (comparison with previous years). JK wrote half of the questions. Questions were provided from: EAN-committees (many), EBN (Cras, Fredrikson, de Visser), Teaching Courses (several), E-Learning (?), Individual authors (Vodusek), EC-members (Kuks). Other board members were not involved in the question preparation, although they were invited to do so. Some of them did not receive invitations emails due to strong firewalls in their company IT system. All will be invited to participate in preparation for the next year questions.

Written exam consists of 3 parts: Closed book (Topics are known; Only new questions (40); Open book I (Only 'old' questions (30); Open book II (Only 'new' questions (30). Each year we can provide 70 new questions.

Total failure in this year exam was 9% (not final number, some of candidate will repeat the oral part), what is in the average of the previous years.

Examinees completed the survey after the exam: The figures showing the following: exam price was not affordable for everyone, they preferred online exam (only one-third of candidates will attend on-site exam if it was offered); it is very important to them to have full feedback about exam achievements.

Examiners completed the survey as well: The figures showing the following: opinion is divided on online/onsite oral exam; majority are ready to be examiner in the next year exam, training for examiners for the half is great idea and they will attend.

Income for this year exam is € 63.700. The final financial balance of the exam will be present at the autumn meeting.

Plans for the near future: Analysis of errors in 2023; Setting the real balance; Writing the report; Rewriting the standard operating procedure (SOP; Orals at the congress? If so, who will take the organization?; Study-material for the closed book exam; Scanning the E-learning modules for question writing; Extending the tasks of iCognitus.

In the discussion after the presentation of the report, the following topics were raised: The number of candidates from large European countries was highlighted as a key problem. How to open the process of communication about the exam in the countries where the board members come from. Promote in the relevant medical journals, direct communication with national scientific and professional societies. Is the goal to make the exam mandatory at the European level? (Belgium) Should it only be a matter of prestige and personal success of the candidate? Or an individual award for young neurologists? (Italy) What is the motivation for potential candidates to apply, can we increase the practical and visible benefits for those who take the exam? To offer exam in local languages? Currently no support for the latter.

Patrick Cras, Deborah McIntyre, Anne-Mari Kantanen, Gereon Nelles, Carlo Ferrarese, Tim Counihan, Martin Rakusa and Jan Kuks took part in the discussion.

5. LACK OF RELIABLE EXAMINERS

Discussed under agenda point 4.

6. MOU WITH EAN

Patrick Cras presented the draft version of the agreement with the EAN.



UEMS Section of Neurology – European Board of Neurology

01. July 2023

In 2019, EBN and EAN signed the Memorandum of Understanding. The MoU defined basic responsibilities between each party. EAN want to have forma agreement with us.

Agreement should be signed, not with section, but UEMS. UEMS will be involved in legal reviewed of the agreement.

The main and the most important part of the agreement should be joint activities:

- Update of the European core curriculum
- The European Board Examination (exam) – learning material is something what EAN is doing.
- Visitation and accreditation of training centers – to provide fellowship, to train in that particular center. (This activity should be common for both EAN and EBN) - EAN support on professional level, it is already part of the ETRN. We could help some centers to start accreditation process. It would be good to establish European system of accreditation in this field. The main benefit would be that institutions get the opportunity to test their facilitates and teaching methods against the European level. Furthermore, a positive accreditation could make the institution more attractive for the EAN to send them exchange students. However, it seems that for now the EAN is not inclined to take the accreditation as a requirement for fellowships. This should be discussed further in the JEB-meeting.

Agreement should be signed in 2023 and pertains until further notice.

The contract defines the role of the JEB and the Examination Committee. Both committees have equal representation from both parties.

EAN consider that they have contributed substantially to the development of the exam. Intellectual contribution is more contribution in the kind, EAN expect to be paid for this part. Development and organization are with EBN. Both sides can nominate examiners for the oral part. EAN will provide administration for JEB meetings and EBN for Examination Committee meetings. Both sides will recognize each other and will develop SOP.

Budget should be negotiating each year. EBN should take all costs for the examination and pay to EAN their contribution on fair price (depends on the involvement). Also, their so no risk for EAN, all risk is on EBN side.

Contract should make space for the further development of collaboration since both sides are somehow dependent on each other.

7. EUROPEAN TRAINING REQUIREMENTS (ETRN)

ETRN is published online. An important achievement for EBN and EAN, we were equal partners. This was confirmed by UEMS. A lot of work was done by the delegates.

We should use ETRN in practice. In addition to use it for exam questions, ETRN is useful for the accreditation process of European neurological institutions, we should now develop this process for neurology.

8. EACCME/ACCREDITATION OF E- LEARNING EVENTS

A new platform was developed, and new criteria were set. For example: micro-learning accreditation; no more CME for Industrial Satellite Symposia, a non-consecutive course; CME on demand, blended learning, publication of scientific and educational material; examiners at the UEMS exam, etc.

Patrick does 2-3 accreditations for live events per week and is experiencing minor issues with the new platform. The number of e-learning events is less. David Garcia receives several requests in a month.

Belgium introduces provider accreditation. EACCME is not moving towards this system.



UEMS Section of Neurology – European Board of Neurology

01. July 2023

9. SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN

- There will be a survey amongst the delegates to hear about proposals for using our budget. Idea for the last meeting in November should be implemented as soon as possible
- Support for the agreement and EBN position regards it.
- Natural evolution of the examination committee
- Remind Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Slovakia, UK of their contribution

Mandates as they are now:

Patrick Cras (chair) until 2025. We will discuss his succession in the next meeting.

Martin Rakusa (vice chair) until 2025, renewable for 4 years

Lacramioara Perju-Dumbrava (treasurer) until 2025, renewable for 4 years

David Garcia Azorin (secretary) until 2025, renewable for 4 years.

Consider the idea of not all terms ending at the same time, in order to have continuity.

10. NEXT MEETINGS

12:25 – 12:30 HRS

The next meeting will take place in the second half of November in Brussels at Domus Medica Europea (after the council meeting in Malta). The date will be determined later.