



UEMS Section of Neurology – European Board of Neurology

25. June 2022

Protocol of the European Board of Neurology Meeting

DATE	Saturday, 25 June 2022
TIME	09:30 – 12:30
VENUE	Austria Center Vienna Bruno-Kreisky-Platz 1, 1220 Wien Room 0.14 on level 0

MINUTES

1. WELCOME BY THE PRESIDENT PATRICK CRAS (PC)	09:30 – 09:40 HRS
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Present:

Bureau:

Patrick Cras, President (BE)

*Martin Rakusa, Vice President
(SLO)*

*Lacramioara Perju-Dumbrava,
Treasurer (RO)*

*David Garcia Azorin, Secretary
(ES)*

Eduard Auff (AT)

Maia Beridze (GE)

Christian Bsteh (AT)

George Chakhava (GE)

Tim Counihan (IE)

Marianne de Visser (NL)

Carlo Ferrarese (IT)

Urs Fischer (CH)

Sten Fredrikson (SE)

Nikolaos Grigoriadis (CY)

Alain Jager (FR)

Anita Kamondi (HU)

Jana Midelfart Hoff (NO)

Jan Kuks (NL)

Deborah McIntyre (LU)



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Serefnur Öztürk (TR)

Norbert Vella (MT)

Stephan Zierz (DE)

Absent:

Jera Kruja (AL)

Mette Lindelof (DK)

Magnus Andersson (SE) **excused**

Johanna Palmio (FI) **excused**

Georgios Hadjigeorgiou (GR)

Ida Bakke (NO)

Kristina Ryliskiene (LT) **excused**

Pall Ingvarsson (IS)

Michal Bar (CZ)

Mustapha El Alaoui-Faris (MA)

Georgios Kaponides (CY) **exc.**

Gilles Edan (FR) **excused**

Josanne Aquilina (MT)

Brian Sweeney (IE)

Matthew Jones (UK) **excused**

Dominique Boucquey (BE)

Evija Miglane (LV)

Ruta Kaladyte Lokominiene (LT)

Hans Jung (CH)

Anne-Mari Kantanen (FI) **exc.**

Pille Taba (EE) **excused**

Charlotte Lützhof Rath (DK)

Gereon Nelles (DE) **excused**

Content:

- Welcoming everyone online and onsite
- Start role call: quick introduction of the members

2.	APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 06.11.2021 PATRICK CRAS (PC)	09:40 – 09:50 HRS
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- Prof. Schoser, who coordinates the oral exams in the Examination Committee (EC), has decided not to develop an instruction video.
- An instruction video (PPT) for written questions was developed in the EC and can be found on the website.
- It was suggested that all delegates should have the opportunity to participate in an online session with Professor Olle ten Cate, who is an expert in entrustable professional activities. He has published quite a number of papers on EPA. This has not been organized yet. Patrick Cras will invite him.

3.	TREASURER ´S REPORT, MEMBERSHIP, NEW BOND FOR UEMS BODIES LACRAMÍOARA PERJU-DUMBRAVA (LPD), Gabrielle Lohner (GL)	09:50 – 10:15 HRS
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UEMS EBN BALANCE 01.01.2021-31.12.2021		
REPORT 2019	INCOME	EXPENSES
BALANCE PER 31.12.2020	€ 128 141,64	
CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS 2021	€ 12 620,00	
EACCME	€ 15 600,00	
EXAMINATION FEES 2021	€ 59 115,40	
EXAMINATION FEES 2022	€ 16247,70	
ADMIN. FEES 2020 4Q & 2021-1-3Q		€ 49 822,81
EXAMINATION COSTS 2021		€ 8 660,00
OTHERS (Cesma, ...)		€ 306,05
TOTAL AMOUNTS	€ 103 583,10	€ 58 788,86
PLUS	€ 44 794,24	

Figure 1: UEMS EBN Balance 01.01.2021 - 31.12.2021

The amounts show that the UEMS_SN is a financially sound section.

LPD shows income and expenditure for the period 01.01.2021 to 31.12.2021 and membership fees for 2021 of EUR 12.620,-

Income EUR 103.583,10,- from contributions, examination fees, and EACCME review fees. GL: EACCME is for the fourth quarter in 2020.

Total expenditure EUR 58.788,- consisting of administrative services, CESMA contributions, examination costs, and other costs.

Taken all together there is a plus of € 44.794,- for 2021 and we do now have € 172.935,88 on our account. In addition there are € 60.000 belonging to our section on the central UEMS account, taken as a loan in 2014 so totally we own € 232.935,88.

The financial report is adopted by the audience.

As a section we are not allowed to keep an own bank account so the whole sum is on a Belgian UEMS-account. The UEMS takes care of the money of all the sections and thus manages a considerable fortune.



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Such an amount leads to a negative interest. Furthermore the Belgian tax authority (IRS) is critical on a non-profit organisation having that much money in trust.

For these reasons the UEMS is considering several options to manage the capital:

- Pay off the 2014-loans prematurely to the sections
- Invest in bonds
- Invest in common projects

The section believes that, unless there is no alternative option, our funds should not be invested in bonds, but should be kept available for activities such as the examination or others. EBN remains open and will discuss and analyse all proposals to participate with funds.

The following activities were discussed in the meeting:

Exam fees:

- We could consider lowering the fees for the exams. This could also attract more neurologists to participate in the EBN exam. On the other hand the exam is cheap in comparison to other board exams, we are not sure about costs in the near future and it is not opportune to change the fees again and again.
- Lower entrance fees for the candidates for the congress, this is a topic for the EAN. We only could award grants to our candidates.
- Lower the fees further for the low-income countries.
- Lower the fee for on-site exams to stimulate candidates to visit the EAN congress

After discussion, the decision was made not to lower the examination fees.

Invest in the future:

- We should now invest in e-platforms and training platforms. Especially in times like these with pandemics, climate- and economic crisis, virtual education will be more important than ever. So, we should invest in existing platforms. On the other hand this kind of education is a task of the EAN and we should not interfere with this.
- Investing in the infrastructure mainly the website: usually upgrading a website is expensive.

Scholarship:

- Give a scholarship to the best examinee (or to a number of best candidates) in Europe and outside of Europe to attend the EAN congress.

Teaching courses:

- The section should, if possible, arrange teaching courses on regional or European level
- This is the field of the EAN: we could join them but not undertake those activities on our own.
- An e-learning platform and teaching modules for the preparation of the exam could be offered. JK feels we should test the ability of candidates to use the knowledge they got during their full training period and not their ability to retrieve knowledge they got in recent courses. Furthermore the exam should cover the whole field of neurology and it will not be easy to offer (and to follow) courses in each field.



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Teaching courses before/after the next UEMS meeting in the hosting city:

- The possibility of preparing a short workshop / course in the city that will hold the next UEMS meeting was discussed. This would not increase the cost significantly, since travel costs will be paid equally.
- This could be done both for students/residents/young neurologists, but could be proposed with the UEMS members as attendees.

Ukraine:

- Reduction or waive exam fees and/or provide scholarships for Ukraine students.
 - This could be announced on our website, e.g. that we give e.g. 5 scholarships for Ukrainian people. A letter should be sent to the President of the Ukrainian Society
 - Maybe we should not limit the discount to Ukraine only, but offer it to other countries that are in a difficult situation too.
 - Can we legally enforce such a proposal?

General Remark: the board receives a mandate to make concrete proposals that will be approved by asking for support through e-mail correspondence to all EBN-Members.

4. EXAMINATION: REPORT ON THE CURRENT SITUATION AND OUTLOOK TO THE FUTURE JAN KUKS (JK)	10:15 – 11:00 HRS
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This year 158 candidates applied for the EBN exam, 141 finally appeared. There is a positive trend with increasing numbers of applicants. Details can be found in the exam reports on the website. 77 candidates came from Europe, e.g. 16 from Belgium, 12 from Germany and 22 from Italy. Fees for the exam are listed on the website. European candidates pay an average of 600 euros, while candidates from low-income countries pay 350 euros.

As before, the written exam consisted of 100 questions and the online exam of three presentations: an essay, a critical appraisal of a topic, and a clinical case. 117 candidates took an online oral exam, and the remaining 24 appeared in Vienna for the in-person exam. Two out of the 100 questions were skipped. The best candidate answered 89 of the remaining 98 questions correctly. Scores for the written exam are calculated using the Cohen method, based on a percentage of 55% of actual knowledge. The method applied was explained in extension during the meeting.

The results of the written and oral exams were combined to produce a final grade with weighting factors of written/oral 70%/30%. The procedure and results will be discussed at the next meeting of the Examination Committee on July 14th, before being distributed to the candidates. Preliminary results from 117 candidates resulted in a fail rate of 14.5%, which is consistent with previous years' results.

Actually the EBN-Exam is an Exam under the auspices of the UEMS, so our section (the European Board of Neurology with all members) is responsible for this. Therefore an earnest reply for providing questions, help with the oral exams and review process of the questions is repeated. Until now only 3 members sent some questions. More than half of the examiners were recruited outside our section. Jan Kuks will address a personal letter to all delegates.



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Another point is that JK is not aiming at keeping the coordination on the long term, he feels he should step back in favour of a younger EBN-member who will take the opportunity to make necessary changes in the whole procedure. For now we have an Examination committee with 4 members from the EBN (Gilles Edan, Tim Counihan, Deborah McIntyre, Jan Kuks) and 4 members supported by the EAN (Benedikt Schoser, Pablo Irimia, Manuel Alegre, Francesco di Lorenzo). Of course Gabrielle Lohner is involved as well in all parts of the exam.

The following points were raised during the discussion:

- It is necessary to provide detailed feedback to the candidates. We are not able to send candidates a full report of their performance on the questions, but they will receive a personal report with information on the number of questions they answered correctly in each area (e.g., movement disorders, vascular neurology, etc.). They also receive insight into their performance on the oral exams. This was discussed in detail at a previous meeting and can be found in previous years' reports. Until now a home-made program of JK is used. I would be worthwhile to develop a professional program for the future.
- It is not easy to solve the problem of the different native languages of the candidates. We cannot easily offer translations, and for countries that send many candidates (e.g. Italy) it will even be difficult to offer translations. For the time being, we will stick with English.
- To link the exam to the EAN objectives, the exam part is linked to the EAN guidelines 2016-2022. There is a discussion about whether these guidelines are appropriate and the EC has sent requests for information to the various committees, but this has not led to a solution for now..
- Tim Counihan: many questions need rephrasing for the use of English language and with regard to educational principles.
- David Garcia (DGA): A parallel organization of the oral examination, with examiners assessing only one of the three required aspects and candidates moving from one face-to-face or virtual room to another, would be ideal compared to the current situation with only one pair of examiners per candidate for all three sections. The latter is difficult to organize online.
- Is the exam really linked to the ETRN? JK developed the current exam in parallel to his writing of the ETRN a couple of years ago (2016). He feels there are no substantial over-all changes in the current draft (2021). The written exam is composed according to the chapter 8 of the ETRN and data on the numbers of questions in the several fields are available (exam report). Other competencies are covered in the orals. Of course it always can be done better and JK invites the EBN-members to check this.
- Eduard Auff mentions the Austrian system where the exit-exam consists of several (8) parts related to distinct neurological fields and all candidates have to pass all parts successfully to get their final certificate. JK responds that he would be keen to get more insight in this system but that he feels it will not be easy to offer 8 exams with a sufficient number of questions to all European candidates.
- How many candidates do we aim at for the EBN-Exam? Here we should find a balance between what is desired and what is possible. Jan Kuks feels we could host 400 candidates with the system we have, if more members of the EBN will provide their help.



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5. EUROPEAN TRAINING REQUIREMENTS (ETRN) PATRICK CRAS (PC)	11:15 – 12:00 HRS
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ETRN defines different stages of neurology training; it starts with how people should be selected for a training for neurology. It describes the organization of the training, as well as the training staff.

The ETR describes:

- The competencies of a trainee and post graduate students
- Types of instruments to measure the progress of the trainee
- Four levels of competence within a particular domain in terms of clinical knowledge and applied clinical skills. (From level one to “knows of” to level four “is able to manage and teach to younger students and younger residents”)
- The requirements for staff and the training centers in terms of educational competences and expertise
- The European board examination as the ultimate test to take

The ETRN updated version 2021 is supported by a great number of European neurological societies and organizations

Challenges:

- Alignment with national certification criteria
- Overlap in terms of pediatrics and pediatric neurology, neurophysiology, pain medicine and rare diseases



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6.	EACCME/ACCREDITATION OF E- LEARNING EVENTS	12:00 – 12:15 HRS
	PATRICK CRAS (PC)	

Live educational events are certainly gone up in 2021. Electronical learning material is about 10% of the total. There is an increase in electronic learning materials compared to the previous year but not a big one.

	2020	2021	2021 vs 2020
LEE	1490	1973	+32.4%
ELM	262	281	+7.2%
REV Pack	8	8	=
WEB Pack	27	42	+55.5%
Total	1264	1577	26.5%

Figure 22: Comparison of EACCME Activities in 2020 and 2021

The latest educational events:

EHDN Plenary Meeting 2022	16.09.2022 - 18.09.2022	Italy, Bologna	www.ehdn.org	Neurology	European Huntington's Disease Network	17 European CME credits (ECMEC®)
Moving from pediatric to adult epilepsy care	27.07.2022	United Kingdom, London	https://www.exploring-connections.com/	Neurology	International Medical Press (IMP)	1 European CME credits (ECMEC®)
Webinar on Lhon	22.07.2022	Italy, Webinar on line	https://www.webinaronline.it	Neurology	First Class Events and conferences	1 European CME credits (ECMEC®)
14th European Epilepsy Congress	09.07.2022 - 13.07.2022	Switzerland, Geneva	https://www.ilae.org/conference/european-epilepsy-congress	Neurology	14th European Epilepsy Congress	34 European CME credits (ECMEC®)
PRECEPTORSHIP - MANAGEMENT OF SPASTIC PARESIS	07.07.2022 - 08.07.2022	France, Creteil	https://www.volumeconferences.com/events/spastic-paresis/	Neurology	VOLUME CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS	10 European CME credits (ECMEC®)
17th International Congress on Neuromuscular Diseases (ICNMD 2022)	05.07.2022 - 09.07.2022	Belgium, Brussels	https://icnmd.org/	Neurology	17th International Congress on Neuromuscular Diseases (ICNMD 2022)	31 European CME credits (ECMEC®)
8th Congress of the European Academy of Neurology - Europe 2022	25.06.2022 - 28.06.2022	Austria, Vienna	https://www.ean.org/congress	Neurology	European Academy of Neurology	25 European CME credits (ECMEC®)
20th International Symposium on Pediatric Neuro-Oncology	12.06.2022 - 15.06.2022	Germany, Hamburg - hybrid	https://www.ispno2022.de	Neurology	Prof. Dr. med. Stefan Rutkowski & Prof. Dr. Stefan M. Pfister	22 European CME credits (ECMEC®)
35th Global Conference of Alzheimer's Disease International	09.06.2022 - 11.06.2022	United Kingdom, London	https://www.adiconferences.com	Neurology	Alzheimer's Disease International	15 European CME credits (ECMEC®)
International Sleep Medicine Course	07.06.2022 - 10.06.2022	Netherlands, Sint-Michielsgestel	www.sleepmedicinecourse.com	Neurology	International Sleep Medicine Course	19 European CME credits (ECMEC®)
The 2022 Fresco International Workshop on Synaptic Plasticity and Advances in Parkinson's Disease	07.06.2022 - 10.06.2022	Italy, Florence	https://www.highmarkschool.com/pln.viewActivity&style	Neurology	NYU Grossman School of Medicine	21 European CME credits (ECMEC®)

Figure 33: Screenshot of the latest educational events.



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7.	SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN PATRICK CRAS (PC)	12:15 – 12:20 HRS
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Think about the offer of UEMS office to host and develop our website.

Organize an online meeting with prof. Ten Cate

Re-invite the EBN members to write exam questions.

Prepare a budget for next year's activities. The Section feels that the EBN funds should not be invested in bonds, but should be available for activities such as the exam or other activities.

No support for lowering the exam fees.

It should be better explained to colleges from different countries what they need to do to certify a course or congress through EACCME.

If there is a positive balance, EBN might consider incentives for taking the examination, such as travel fellowships for the EAN congress. The board receives a mandate to make proposals in this sense. These can be approved through e-mail.

We sympathize with the dire situation in which our Ukrainian colleagues find themselves. Even though there has been little or no contact with Ukrainian neurologists in the past, it has been suggested that Ukrainian neurologists who wish to take the exam have their exam registration fees waived. A letter will be sent to the President of the Neurological Society in Ukraine to spread the word.

8.	NEXT MEETINGS PATRICK CRAS (PC)	12:20 – 12:30 HRS
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- Next meeting could be organized in Georgia it depends on how things develop.
- Probably it will take place in November
- More information will follow, after getting in touch with George Chakhava

END OF THE MEETING AND LUNCH		12:30
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