

European Reference Networks

The view of the medical profession



Conference on
European Reference Networks
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Declaration of potential conflict of interest

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Educational Consultancy (paid)
Wentz-Miller and Associates
Individual consultancy work (nil in the last two years)

Medicopolitical representative
British Medical Association (BMA)
Secretary General, European Union of Medical Specialists
(UEMS)



The UEMS – background

“Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes”

“European Union of Medical Specialists”

- Established in 1958
- Representing 37 countries
50+ specialities, sub-specialities &

multidisciplinary areas

ca 1.4 million medical specialists



The UEMS – purpose

- Objectives

Promote **free movement**

Through the **harmonisation** of the highest level of specialist training and the medical care provided for patients

- Vision

Set standards in the fields of

Postgraduate Specialist Medical Training

Continuing Medical Education & Professional Development

Quality Assurance in specialist medical practice



Potential for ERNs

- Centres dedicated to:
Patient care – Training – Research
- This also includes:
 - Pooling of knowledge & competence
 - Highly specialised / complex procedures
 - Quality benchmark & improvement
 - Concentration & mobility of expertise
- UEMS identifying existing networks...



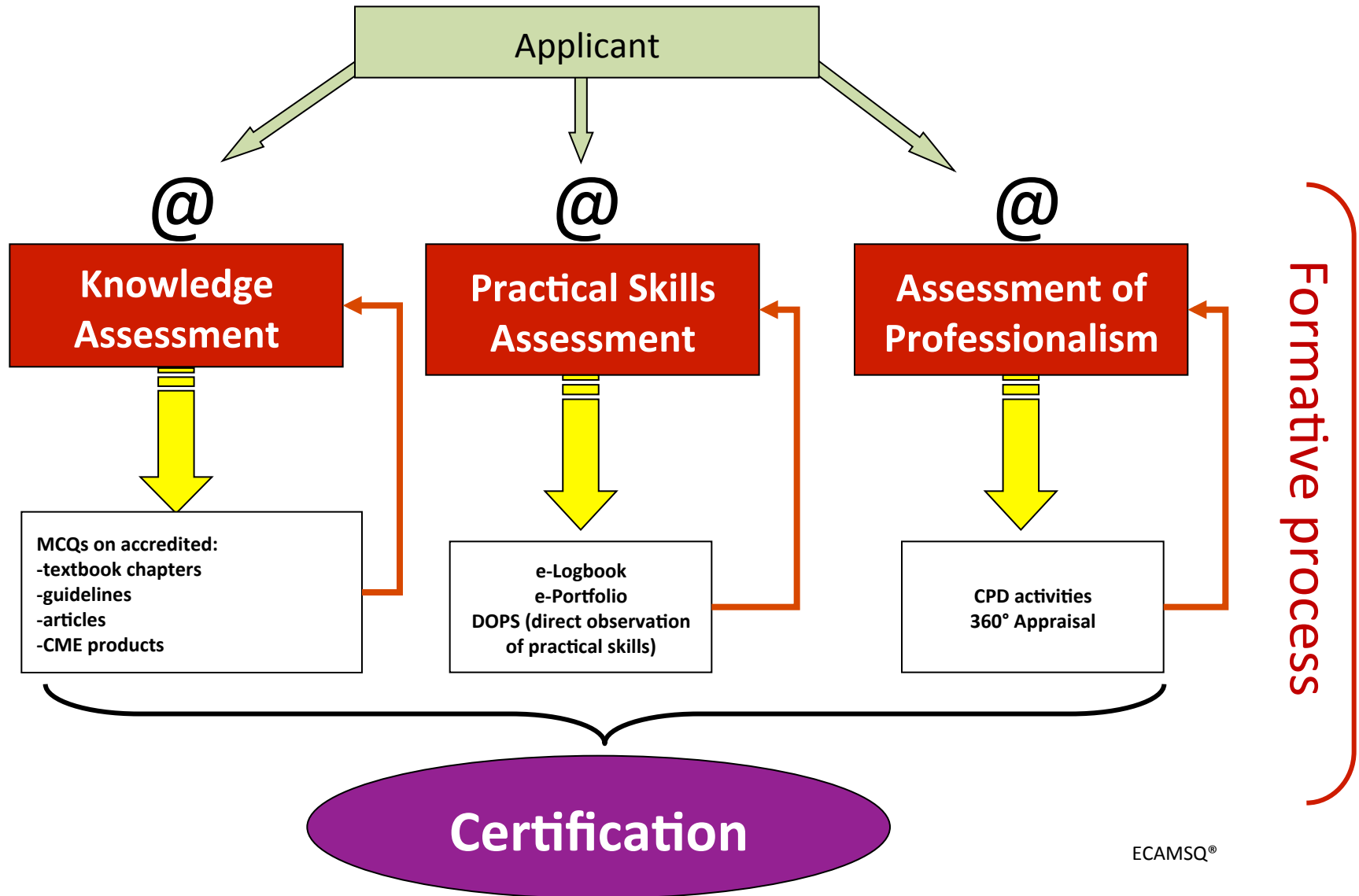
An e-Platform for Medical Specialists

- An e-Platform that will support the assessment of medical specialists' competence
- Expected outcome:
 - ✓ Clinical logbook linking to European curricula and showing the progress of trainees
 - ✓ Assessment of knowledge
 - practical procedures
 - behaviours





European assessment & certification of medical competence



e-Platform for Medical Specialists

- Creating a Network for:
 - ✓ Improved quality training and quality of care
 - ✓ Links and contacts between professionals
 - ✓ Exchange of experience and clinical cases



Accreditation of Clinical Skills Centres in Europe (NASCE)

- Aim to ensure:
 - ✓ High quality training in clinical skills centres
 - ✓ Quality management
- Criteria to include:
 - ✓ Governance & Administration
 - ✓ Teachers & Learners
 - ✓ Competencies
 - ✓ Research & Development



Accreditation of Clinical Skills Centres in Europe (NASCE)

- Key for simulation for training purpose
 - ✓ provide for quality training in rare / complex / highly sophisticated procedures
 - ✓ for multiple specialities or professions
 - ✓ an increased guarantee of high quality care provided by highly skilled professionals

- ❖ *Suggestion...* for Accredited Centres to be recognised as, or to become part of the ERN



Potential Networks

Head & Neck Surgery

- Skull-based tumours
 - ✓ complex procedures
 - ✓ collaboration on national guidelines
 - ✓ sharing of national patient databases (DAHANCA)
 - ✓ different procedures or treatments:
 - ✓ 'swing technique' (Copenhagen or Aarhus)
 - ✓ endoscopy (Brescia)
 - ✓ and others...



Potential Networks

Paediatrics & Neonatology

- Premature births

EuroNeoNet & EuroNeoStat

- ✓ EU funded research project 2006-2009
- ✓ EU Information System to monitor short and long-term morbidity for very-low-birth-weight infants
- ✓ Database of premature deaths
- ✓ Centres identified



Potential Networks

Gynaecology & Obstetrics

- Gestational diabetes & newborn obesity
 - ✓ diabetes in pregnancy study group
 - ✓ consensus on screening
 - ✓ criteria for diagnostic
 - ✓ implementation of WHO recommendations

- ✓ timely diagnosis
- ✓ appropriate treatment
- ✓ stimulated research



Conclusions

- Challenges
 - ✓ Support will be necessary in setting up ERNs
- What ERN recognition entails...
 - ✓ a mark of excellence – certainly! – but..
 - ✓ ... what else?



Recommendations

- Beware complexity...
 - ✓ role of Board of Member States & Commission
 - ✓ national vs European criteria
 - ✓ stakeholder consultation to be provided
- We need to go beyond rare conditions
 - ✓ the potential to encompass other fields,
 - ✓ eg. complex procedures
 - ✓ support and develop valuable existing initiatives



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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