

# Next step in harmonisation of the CME system

## EBU has agreed to sign the cooperation agreement with UEMS/ EACCME

The European Board of Urology (EBU) has agreed to sign the cooperation agreement with the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME) of the Union Européenne Des Médecins Spécialistes / European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS). The main goal of this initiative is to enhance the harmonization of the European CME credit system for the benefit of all European urologists. Since 1 January 2009 the current accreditation procedure has been adjusted to harmonize the CME credit system.

### European endorsement

After approval by EBU the application will be automatically submitted for European endorsement to the EACCME. This additional step is needed to ensure the recognition in the home country of the CME credits awarded by EBU. The UEMS will inform the applicant within six weeks following the request.

### AMA PRA Category 1 Credit

The conversion of EBU-CME credits to AMA PRA Category 1 CME Credits will be generalized to all events being awarded the European accreditation, and the related process will be facilitated. The American Medical Association (AMA) has an agreement of mutual recognition of CME credits with the UEMS. Under the terms of this agreement, the AMA will convert CME credit certified by the EACCME to *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit*<sup>™</sup>. Physicians (MDs, DOs or equivalent international degree) may have their EACCME credit converted to *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit*<sup>™</sup> by applying to the AMA ([www.ama-assn.org](http://www.ama-assn.org)).

### Administrative costs and accreditation fee

The application fee is divided into two separate stages: **administrative costs** and accreditation fee. Administrative costs must be paid upon submitting the application form for all events. A fee of € 50 is charged. National Urological Associations which joined the European Urology – Accredited Continuing Medical Education programme (EU-ACME) will not be charged with the administration fee.

**Accreditation fees**, calculated prorata the expected number of participants (on the basis of € 1 per participant), are charged to applicants whose event has been accredited by EBU and submitted to the UEMS clearing house system (EACCME) for European endorsement.

The EACCME applies the following fees for European accreditation:

Up to 50 participants	€ 150
51 – 250 participants:	€ 300
251 – 500 participants:	€ 600
501 – 1,000 participants:	€ 900
1,001 – 2,000 participants:	€ 1,200
2,001 – 5,000 participants:	€ 1,500
More than 5,000 participants:	€ 3,000

Additionally, EACCME (European Accreditation Council for CME) charges a fee of € 50 for its clearing house activities.

A small flat fee is charged by the EBU for other educational products such as CD-Roms, educational articles eg.

### What will remain the same?

**Application procedure:** Organisers of CME events will still be able to submit applications with the request for European accreditation through the EU-ACME office. This can be done either by e-mail ([eu-acme@uroweb.org](mailto:eu-acme@uroweb.org)) or through the on-line application available on [www.eu-acme.org](http://www.eu-acme.org).

**Evaluation process:** All applications in the field of urology are evaluated by EBU Accreditation Committee. In this evaluation process, EBU works according to the UEMS/ EACCME rules and quality standards.

**Registration of gained CME credits by urologists:** By registration of accredited CME events in the EU-ACME database European urologists have access to their on-line accounts. They may check on-line the number of collected CME credit points as well as update their address data.

### Benefits of European accreditation

- Internationally recognised accreditation ensuring high-quality standards
- Quality control of the event by international experts
- User-friendly electronic platform to apply for

- accreditation. Providers must only register once
- Deadlines: four weeks
- Event advertised on [www.eu-acme.org](http://www.eu-acme.org) website
- Possibility to use EBU logo on advertising material
- Free access to document library (disclosure form, certificate of attendance, evaluation forms)

*“...to enhance the harmonization of the European CME credit system for the benefit of all European urologists.”*

### The history of the EBU CME/CPD credit system

The EBU CME/CPD (Continuing Medical Education and Continuing Professional Development) credit system applied to CME started as a pilot study at a European School of Urology (ESU) course in Lisbon in July 1998. Ten years after its inauguration it proves to be a very successful system. The UEMS recommends that institutions sponsoring and/or providing CME/CPD activities on a regional, national and international level, as well as the activities themselves, are accredited in the European Union. The EBU, being the UEMS Section of Urology, supports this vision and realizes that, in future, it will be forced to move from a credit accumulation system to a programme based on confidence and reliance on people.

**EU-ACME: EBU/European Accreditation:** In 2004 the EBU and the European Association of Urology (EAU) joined forces to improve the system by founding the EU-ACME committee, defining the EU-ACME programme and by establishing the EU-ACME office.

Within the EU-ACME Committee, in which both organisations have equal representation, the roles and responsibilities are clearly defined. The EBU Accreditation Committee is responsible for all regulatory matters, such as determining the rules for accreditation of educational activities in accordance with the guidelines of the UEMS/EACCME and for the accreditation of CME/CPD activities and institutions.

The EAU is the main provider of scientific programmes in Europe. Consequently this collaboration guarantees a professional system with its promotional and administrative advantages and possibilities.

The EU-ACME programme is based on the EBU/UEMS rules and its primary task is the implementation, promotion and organization of CME among European urologists. Participation in the EU-ACME programme offers certified European urologists the opportunity to collect the required points. Members of the EU-ACME programme have access to the online database system ([www.eu-acme.org](http://www.eu-acme.org)), allowing them to keep track of the accumulated credit points irrespective of the country they practice in or where they have participated in accredited CME/CPD activities.

For this programme to be successful a close co-operation between and with national and international associations is of vital importance. National societies and international professional medical associations can join the EU-ACME programme, thus benefiting from administrative and



Prof. Dr. Stefan Müller, Chairman EBU Accreditation Committee

logistical support. For more information, please contact the EU-ACME office at [eu-acme@uroweb.org](mailto:eu-acme@uroweb.org). The execution of the operational activities is done by the EU-ACME office, located within the Center for European Urology in Arnhem.

**The EACCME is an administrative clearing house**

CME systems evolve independently in each of the European states. The necessity to and importance of collecting CME credits currently differs throughout Europe. It is expected that national CME systems for specialists will become obligatory throughout Europe in the near future.

The EACCME, set up by the UEMS in January 2000 with the goal to facilitate the recognition of CME credits awarded to doctors attending events outside of their home country by medical authorities within their home state, is to be considered an administrative clearing house. It is designed for CME credits awarded by an accrediting body to be valid CME credits in each European state and as such becoming European CME credits.

The EACCME does not have the facilities to evaluate or accredit events itself; it only considers events having already received accreditation from an accrediting body such as the EBU. It provides standards for accreditation to which the EBU guidelines comply.

The EACCME endorsement is advantageous when delegates are expected from multiple countries wishing to collect valid European CME credits. Prior to granting European CME credits the EACCME will request the appropriate national authority where the event takes place to evaluate the quality of the event. Once such evaluation is performed and consequently the event is approved by the competent national authority, the event is granted European CME credits valid in all European countries participating in the EACCME.

**For more information please check:**  
[www.eu-acme.org](http://www.eu-acme.org)  
[www.uems.net](http://www.uems.net)  
[www.ebu.com](http://www.ebu.com)

EBU : European Board of Urology  
EAU : European Association of Urology

EU-ACME : European Urology – Accredited Continuing Medical Education  
CME : Continuing Medical Education  
CPD : Continuing Professional Development

UEMS : Union Européenne Des Médecins Spécialistes / European Union of Medical Specialists  
EACCME : European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education