Another successful EFIM Day was organised at the EFIM Headquarters in Brussels on 16 March, bringing together more than 60 EFIM representatives from 25 national internal medicine societies in Europe.

Presidents, board members and Young Internists representatives had an opportunity to take part in discussions about current and future EFIM projects.

The EFIM President, Runolfur Palsson, welcomed the attendees to the 4th EFIM Day sharing his perspectives on the achievements of the past year making EFIM become stronger and more visible in Europe.

Next, Runolfur presented the 2017 Annual Report and reflected on a sound year for EFIM overall, emphasising the success of the European Congress of Internal Medicine in Milan. The congress was a truly inspirational experience hosted in a spectacular venue thanks to the congress president, Nica Cappellini, and Nicola Montano, the EFIM President-Elect, who jointly led the organisation of this successful congress.

Runolfur highlighted the key EFIM activities in 2017, focusing on the 2 upcoming congresses, ECIM 2018 in Wiesbaden and ECIM 2019 in Lisbon. Runolfur also announced the nomination of a new Editor-in-Chief for the European Journal of Internal Medicine, Prof. Giancarlo Agnelli, who was selected following thorough evaluation of several outstanding candidates. The nomination of Prof. Agnelli will be forwarded to the General Assembly for approval at the next meeting in August.

Two new working groups were presented. Frank Bosch gave a short overview on the Point-of-Care Ultrasound Working Group, while Nicola Montano presented plans to launch a working group on critical appraisal of clinical guidelines.

Petra-Maria Schumm-Draeger, the President of ECIM 2018, updated the representatives on the preparations for congress to be held in Wiesbaden, Germany, from 30 August to 1 September. Petra-Maria presented a very attractive scientific programme and encouraged the participants to attend the congress and to spread the message among their societies’ members.

The 4th EFIM Day featured two keynote Lectures focusing on clinical practice guidelines and knowledge translation. Prof. Iannone Primiano from the National Centre for Clinical Excellence, Healthcare Quality & Safety in Italy gave an interesting insight into clinical
practice guidelines. Prof. Iannone focused on several points, ranging from why we need guidelines and the types of guidelines available (consensus vs evidence-based) to the flaws of guidelines and the adoption of new methodological standards.

Updates from the Choosing Wisely, Professional Issues and Quality of Care, and the IMAGINE working groups offered insight into the current projects and the progress made during the past year.

Ieva Ruza, the Chair of the Young Internists Subcommittee, reported on the activities of the Young Internists Assembly and proposed a new postgraduate course for young specialists in internal medicine, the European Advanced School of Internal Medicine.

An update from the European Board of Internal Medicine was given by Rijk Gans, the President of the UEMS Section of Internal Medicine and Vice-President of the European Board of Internal Medicine (EBIM). Rijk presented the next steps in the implementation of the curriculum in the EFIM member states. Relaunching of a European Diploma examination in internal medicine was introduced as well as the concept of an educational center in internal medicine.

The meeting concluded with the second keynote lecture entitled “Knowledge Translation: From Guidelines to Policy Makers”, delivered by Prof. Holger Schünemann, Chair of the Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence, and Impact at McMaster University in Hamilton, Canada. Prof. Schünemann outlined the work of COHRANE and the reshaping of the guideline development methodology and provided insight into the GRADE approach.

Runolfur thanked all the delegates for their active participation in the meeting and for their dedication and hard work that has made EFIM stronger and more visible. Finally, Runolfur invited the participants to the next General Assembly to be held in Wiesbaden, Germany.