Duration of Training and the Common Trunk

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EFIM President-Elect
European Board of Internal Medicine
Cyprus:
- The proposition of the Cyprus Society of internal medicine is that a 5 year training should be required to become an internist, and a 4 year training of common trunk plus a 3 year training of a sub-specialty to become a dual specialist.

Czech Republic:
- After careful consideration, we suggest to change the duration of training from 6 years (as currently proposed) to 5 years.
- Prolonging the duration of training may discourage junior physicians from choosing internal medicine.

Italy:
- As SIMI, we agree with the 5 years training (not 6), and 2 years “common trunk”. 
Portugal:
- It is clear to us that the minimum required time of training in internal medicine should be 5 years.

Spain:
- The document supports the core curriculum of 2 years and proposes a duration of 6 years (2+4) to complete the training in internal medicine. In Spain and Portugal, no specialty has this duration, and it seems infeasible to extend the training from 5 years to 6 years. So, we propose to maintain, in agreement with the current EU Directive 2005/36/EC, a training period of 5 years and the possibility to perform a subsequent training of 1-2 years of "expertise" in a specific area, thereby avoiding the risk that new specialties emerge (for instance, palliative care, geriatrics, emergency medicine, etc).

Turkey
- We believe that a 6-year education will be too long for our country.
While the current minimum requirement for internal medicine certification is 5 years, the EBIM Curriculum Working Group has proposed to extend this to 6 years.

The 7-year (minimum of 4 years of internal medicine) requirement is a proposal from the EBIM Curriculum Working Group which is in line with current practice in many countries that offer dual certification in internal medicine and a related specialty.

The final verdict regarding minimum duration of training will depend on whether the European Commission decides to amend this item in Directive 2005/36/EC.
Duration of training in internal medicine required for specialist certification

DIRECTIVE 2005/36/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL
of 7 September 2005
on the recognition of professional qualifications
(Text with EEA relevance)

ANNEX V

Recognition on the basis of coordination of the minimum training conditions

V.1. DOCTOR OF MEDICINE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>General (internal) medicine</th>
<th>Ophthalmology</th>
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<td>Minimum period of training: 5 years</td>
<td>Minimum period of training: 3 years</td>
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We are writing to you regarding the revision of Annex V of the Directive 2005/36/CE on the recognition of professional qualifications.

At the European level, specialist medical training was defined in terms of duration on the basis of the Annex 5.1.3 of Directive 2005/36. For some specialties, this regulation entered into force with the first sectorial “Doctors’ Directive” in 1975 and was never adapted since then.

We would like to kindly invite each UEMS Specialist Section to consider if amendments to the title of specialty and duration of training are needed. If so, please provide us with the proposal and the evidence to support it (survey on length of training in each country etc.). We would be very grateful if you could fill in the attached table and send it to the UEMS office (lise@uems.eu) at your earliest convenience but not later than 31st July 2015.
The common trunk: Comments

Portugal:
- As it is depicted in the document, the Portuguese College of Internal Medicine Physicians is completely against this concept. The proposed common trunk (with a 2 year programme length) would allow internal medicine residents to spend 8 months (at best... in an internal medicine ward ... he/she should spend more time in the ward

UK:
- Clarification is needed as to when the clock starts. It is assumed it could be from qualification. However, in the UK trainees do a 2 year Foundation Programme which, it is assumed, for the purposes of the European document, is not counted as training in GIM...
The common trunk consists of a combination of rotations in internal medicine wards, emergency medicine wards, ambulatory care clinics and medical specialties. The goal is to provide a broad experience in internal medicine. The UEMS endorses a common trunk for medical specialties.

The number of years are counted from the onset of specialty training, so from the start of Core Medical Training in the UK. Each national authority needs to decide when specialty training begins, whether this occurs immediately after graduation from medical school or after an obligatory foundation training.