



**UNION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS OMNIPRACTICIENS/  
MÉDECINS DE FAMILLE – EUROPEAN UNION OF GENERAL  
PRACTITIONERS/FAMILY PHYSICIANS**

Dear UEMO Members,

This bulletin announces a big development for UEMO, as EMA has accepted the medical organization as a member of the Working Party with Healthcare Professionals! We also share the outcomes of the General Assembly in Romania, developments in Malta regarding specialty recognition and give some highlights about the European Elections.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue!

Yours sincerely,

Calin BUMBULUT

UEMO President

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# EU NEWS

## I. EUROPEAN ELECTIONS TOOK OVER THE SCENE IN BRUSSELS



The month of May in 2019 was dominated by the European elections, particularly in Brussels, the heart of the European project. These elections are going to determine a new composition for the European Parliament, a new president for the European Commission – who will be elected by the members of the EP based on an absolute majority – and a new president for the European Council, elected by a qualified majority within the Council itself.

For the time being, it is official that the European People's Party (EPP) will lose seats in the European Parliament yet it will remain ahead of the Socialists (S&D). The expected gains from the extreme-right were softened by a surge in the Greens. The big question now is who will become the president of the European Commission as there is a possible unprecedented chance of a three-party coalition between the Socialists, the Liberals (ALDE) and the Greens. We could see Ms Margaret Vestager or Mr Frans Timmermans leading the Commission.

## II. CONFERENCE “MEDICINES FOR RARE DISEASES AND CHILDREN”



The European Commission announced an upcoming conference on June 17, at the Square, Brussels Convention Centre, dedicated to rare diseases, access to medicines and children. In the beginning of this century, the EU put in place two regulations: one for medicines for rare diseases ('orphans') in 2000 and one for medicines for children in 2006. The ultimate objective of the legislation was to increase therapeutic choices for children and patients suffering from rare diseases.

Following the publication of the [2017 Commission Report on the Paediatric Regulation](#), the European Commission also announced a joint evaluation of both the paediatric and the orphan Regulations covering their effects and impacts so far. To conduct this evaluation, the Commission will use the outcomes of various recent studies and of public and targeted consultations that were finalised earlier this year. DG SANTE also aims to have an in-depth discussion with Member States and stakeholders and allow your voice and thoughts on both regulations to be heard.

The online registration for this conference is closed but we will ensure an appropriate follow-up of its outcomes.



### III. EUROPREV'S WEBINAR: FREE MEDICAL EDUCATION



On April 23rd, at 21h00 (Central European Time), EUROPREV, the European Network for Prevention and Health Promotion in Family Medicine and General Practice, released the first webinar of EUROPREV e-learning webinars 2019. This is a free medical education activity. EUROPREV said they will try to debate interesting topics related to preventive medicine from a very practical perspective. During the webinars, participants will be able to participate and share their comments or questions through the chat platform.

Each module will last for 90 minutes. It will be a continuing medical education activity, and for colleagues attending the 6 Modules, a Certificate of Attendance corresponding to a 9-hour training activity will be issued.

If you are interested in receiving the Certificate of Attendance at the end of the six webinars, you can visit our website.

#### More information:

- [UEMO's announcement of EUROPREV's webinars](#)

### IV. 72<sup>nd</sup> WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY IN GENEVA



On May 22, Member States at the World Health Assembly agreed three resolutions on universal health coverage (UHC). They focused on: primary healthcare, the role of community health workers, and the September UN General Assembly high-level meeting on UHC. The first resolution urges Member States to take measures to implement the Declaration of Astana, adopted at the 2018 Global Conference on Primary Health Care.

It recognizes the key role strong primary health care plays in ensuring countries can provide the full range of health services a person needs throughout their life – be it disease prevention or treatment, rehabilitation or palliative care.

The resolution calls on the WHO secretariat to increase its support to Member States in this area. WHO is also required to finalize its Primary Health Care Operational Framework in time for next year's World Health Assembly. WHO and other stakeholders are tasked with supporting countries in implementing the Declaration of Astana and mobilizing resources to build strong and sustainable primary health care.

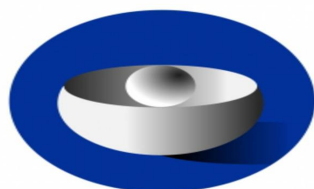
#### More information:

- [WHO: Astana Declaration](#)



## UEMO NEWS

### I. UEMO ACCEPTED AS MEMBER OF THE WORKING PARTY WITH HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS AT EMA



EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY  
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

On 23 May 2019, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) has addressed UEMO's President Dr Calin Bumbulut, informing that UEMO has been accepted as a new member of the Working Party with Healthcare Professionals (HCPWP). This is a great step for UEMO, since the organization will now have a more participatory and active role in decision-making.

The Healthcare Professionals' Working Party (HCPWP) provides a platform for exchange of information and discussion of issues of common interest between the European Medicines Agency and healthcare professionals.

The HCPWP, established in 2013, has enabled the Agency to build upon its existing interactions with healthcare professionals. It provides recommendations to the EMA and its human scientific committees on all matters of interest in relation to medicines.

### II. GENERAL PRACTITIONERS RECOGNISED AS SPECIALISTS IN MALTA



General Practitioners in Malta have finally been listed as specialists' doctors in family medicine, under the Annex V of Directive 2005/36/EC. This development brings great joy to the General Practitioners' community in Malta, after years of battling for a statute that would consider them specialists in the field they operate: family medicine.

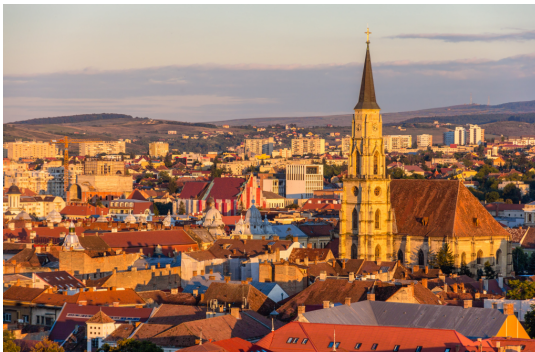
According to the 2017 "State of Health in the EU" report from the European Commission, several initiatives have already been adopted to strengthen primary care in Malta. For example, GPs and private family doctors linked in to the myHealth system are now able to make referrals for services that could previously only be requested by hospital specialists. Additionally, the range of services provided in primary care has been expanded to include, for example, chronic disease management clinics and healthy lifestyle clinics. Infrastructure investments have also been made to upgrade public primary care facilities and to build a Primary Care Regional Hub in the Southern Harbour area.

According to the "Country report Malta 2019", investments in primary care infrastructure are progressing. The decentralisation of services from hospitals to the primary care level continues, with a new concept for primary care centres and investments to gradually expand the use of eHealth being made. Rehabilitative and geriatric care capacity will increase by means



of a public-private partnership between the government and a private hospital operator, which envisages the refurbishment, development and management of three public hospitals in Malta and Gozo. In light of this shift of responsibility for capital investment, it will be important to scrutinise how the rollout of this initiative will affect the accessibility and quality of care, as well as long-term fiscal sustainability

### III. SPRING GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN CLUJ, ROMANIA



The first Spring General Assembly under the Romanian Presidency took place on May 24-25 in Cluj, Romania. Prior to the event, UEMO held its Board Meeting, on May 23, where participants discussed the major topics affecting primary care. Also, both the Board and the General Assembly paved the way to a dialogue defining policy for the coming years as well as the implementation of active Working Groups and Task Forces. The UEMO presented the result of a survey near its national members on how to avoid burn-out. Work has also started on a policy statement on “Healthy professionals, healthy patients” as well as on Vaccination hesitancy. Bearing in mind the importance of the working conditions of doctors, UEMO also decided to set-up a working group devoted to these questions.

The Autumn General Assembly will take place in Belgrade on 18-19 October 2019.

### IV. UEMO SUPPORTS EMA UPON THE EUROPEAN IMMUNIZATION WEEK



UEMO is happy to support the European Medicines Agency (EMA) by sharing EMA's video about the European Immunization Week as well as raising awareness on the importance of overall vaccination. On April 24, EMA published an awareness video on its website, entitled 'Our vaccine heroes', in which points out the science-based approach of our vaccines as well as the importance of a herd immunity for the most vulnerable patients who can't get vaccinated. As General Practitioners concerned with preventive healthcare measures, we believe that high vaccination rates are paramount to protect our society from dangerous and contagious diseases.

#### More information:

- [Council Recommendation on Vaccination](#)
- [Barometer on European's attitudes towards vaccination](#)

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