



UNION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS SPÉCIALISTES  
EUROPEAN UNION OF MEDICAL SPECIALISTS  
European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME®)

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## PRESS RELEASE

### **EACCME 3.0 Conference: Industry Support, Bias, Competence-Based Medicine, EDI, Ethics, Green Practice, General Practice/Family Medicine... and much more!**

**One year after the implementation of EACCME 3.0, the EACCME conference was a much-anticipated event. This two-day conference, which took place on 8-9 March 2024 in Brussels, provided an opportunity for CME/CPD stakeholders to discuss and debate about the new criteria. With an attendance of around 150 participants, European and international faculty and up to date discussion topics, the event met its promises. The highlight of the conference was the signing of a collaboration agreement between the UEMS-EACCME and the European Union of General Practitioners (UEMO) in the field of accreditation!**

The 6<sup>th</sup> Conference, organised by the UEMS-EACCME, was entitled ***EACCME 3.0: The Next Frontier - A Pan-European CME-CPD Partnership***. After the usual presentation of the EACCME figures for the past year, the first session addressed the grey areas of industry funding, starting with an interesting comparison between the EFPIA code and the EACCME 3.0 criteria, followed by examples of bad practice taken from applications submitted to the EACCME for review. The second session tackled the complex issue of bias, and how to minimize its effect on CME/CPD programmes. Although commercial bias is often referred to in relation to the funding of a CME/CPD activity, other forms of bias exist such as state, political, cultural...bias which are as equally important. After a presentation of the French accreditation model with CME/CPD activities obeying a framework guaranteeing independence from the industry, the second presentation provided a detailed overview of the different biases that exist, such as publication, unconscious or confirmation bias. A presentation on Competence-Based Medicine and its application to CME/CPD programmes made up the third session, which included the Canadian competency-based medical education (CanMEDS) and the Entrustable Professional Activity (EPA) concepts. The morning session ended with a fourth plenary session on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI), Ethics and Green Practice. Following practical examples of implementation of these concepts in the organisation of a CME/CPD activity, the question was posed if EACCME should grant extra credits to activities taking these elements into account. The regulator's point of view was then presented with the accent placed on the notion of trust and its various levels.

The climax of the morning session was an **agreement signing session between representatives of the UEMS and UEMO** to formalize the collaboration between both organizations in the field of accreditation for general practitioners/family doctors. The UEMS-EACCME is very proud of this achievement in the advancement of CME/CPD for all doctors in Europe and beyond. The EACCME platform will from now on serve as entry point for the submission of activities aimed at general practitioners/family doctors also.



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The afternoon session was dedicated to the presentation of an assessment of CME/CPD systems in Europe and beyond and to an abstract session. The audience then split into various working groups to brainstorm over the morning plenary sessions. Some very constructive feedback came out from these groups to feed into EACCME 4.0!

On the following day National Accreditation Authorities gave a presentation of their collaboration with EACCME and the implementation of EACCME 3.0 in their country. It was then the turn of External Partners to express their appreciation of their collaboration with the EACCME over the years. And last but not least three groups of providers shared their views and concerns about EACCME 3.0 with the audience. They all acknowledged the openness of EACCME in discussing these issues and are looking forward to the continued collaboration with the EACCME.

**All in all, the EACCME Conference was a huge success! The UEMS-EACCME was applauded for investing the necessary time and resources to host such an important event, gather an impressive panel of expert faculty, and promote cooperation amongst the various stakeholders. The UEMS Enlarged Executive presents its grateful thanks to all colleagues involved and looks forward to the next conference in 2026!**

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