



EUROPEAN  
HEMATOLOGY  
ASSOCIATION

# Madrid Declaration

on enhanced training requirements for  
hematologists in the Professional  
Qualifications Directive

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Directive 2005/36/EC (amended by directive 2013/55/EU) on the recognition of professional qualifications: the **‘Professional Qualifications Directive’ (PQD)**

Designed to:

- Regulate the recognition of professional qualifications
- Improve cross-border professional mobility



## Scope of the PQD:

- Applies to regulated professions in Member States
- Sets rules for professional mobility, recognition of qualifications, language requirements and academic titles
- Provides for automatic recognition of medical specialist qualifications (Annex V)



## The PQD's Annex V

Automatic recognition of medical specialist training is possible (only) if:

- the specialty is listed in the Annex V, point 5.1.3
  - the European Commission can add specialties common to at least two-fifths of Member States
- the destination Member State has opted in
  - by listing its own **specialty training title** in the Annex
  - **length of specialty training** must meet minimum specified in the Annex



## Hematology in the Annex V

Two categories:

- ‘General Haematology’**
  - minimum training period 3 years
  - 25 countries have opted in
  - no opt-in: BE/NL (hematology not a regulated profession), FR
  
- ‘Biological Haematology’**
  - minimum training period 4 years
  - only 4 opt-ins (BG/FR/LU/PT), hence inactive & obsolete
  - removal of this category only possible after MSs opt out!



## Issues arising from the PQD/Annex V

- 3-year training minimum: not enough!  
(for quality/harmonization/mobility)
- not in line with European Hematology Curriculum  
(5 years)
- not all MSs have opted in
- distinction general/biological hematology is not functional



## The Madrid Declaration:

- *is co-signed* by EHA & national societies
- *calls for* enhanced & harmonized training requirements
- *addresses* concrete recommendations to the EC, MSs, national health/education bodies
- *presents* hematology as a distinct discipline “which includes laboratory hematology, transfusion medicine and clinical hematology”
- *does not* directly address the ‘opt-in’ and ‘biological hematology’ issues (to be discussed with relevant MSs)



## Recommendations

- Raise minimum length of training to 5 years
  - 3 or 4 when preceded by 1 or 2 years of internal medicine
  - responsible: European Commission
  
- Adopt 5-year minimum at the national level
  - responsible: Member States
  
- Make the European Hematology Curriculum the basis of national training programs
  - national authorities/bodies responsible for hematology training





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## Bottom line

Increasing the minimum length of & harmonizing hematology training across Europe are essential for high-quality patient care and optimal professional mobility



## Next: ACTION

- Spread the Declaration (EHA, NSs)
- Lobby the EC & joint EC-MS 'Professional Qualifications committee' (EHA)
- Work on your national health/education authorities (NSs)





## For information/advice:

- Each EU Member State has a ‘National Assistance Centre’, e.g.:

ESPAÑA / SPAIN

Subdirección General de Títulos y Reconocimiento de  
Cualificaciones

Secretaría General de Universidades

Ministerio de Educación, Cultura y Deporte

<http://www.mecd.gob.es/portada-mecd/>

- EHA Executive Office

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## The Spanish situation 2017 (I)

- Hematology and Hemotherapy is an integrated specialty: clinical hematology + transfusion medicine + laboratory hematology
- 4-year training:
  - 1 year internal medicine (short rotations in key specialties)
  - 3 years specific hematology training
- Due to the wide scope of the specialty, and the recent clinical and technological innovations: 3-year training of specific hematology is insufficient



## The Spanish situation 2017 (II)

- ✓ A new regulation of medical specialties has been opened by the national authorities
- ✓ In a collaborative effort, the National Commission of the specialty and SEHH have developed a new training program based on the acquisition of knowledge, skills and competences of the EHA Hematology Curriculum
- ✓ We ask for a minimum total duration of 5 years of training with at least 3 years of specific hematology training
- ✓ Economic cost is one of the major issues for increasing the duration of the new program



## Why the the Madrid declaration is important for the Spanish Society of Hematology

- The Madrid declaration will be extremely helpful in supporting the new training program
- The arguments of harmonizing European education to get a high quality training based on the EHA Curriculum to facilitate mobility across the EU, is very attractive for the national authorities
- This document may be critical for convincing the Spanish legislators and to reach consensus at the European level in the future



## Why the the Madrid declaration is important for all Hematology Societies

- Increasing the minimum length of & harmonizing hematology training across Europe is essential for high-quality patient care and optimal professional mobility
- The national authorities must follow the European directives => lobbying at the European level is a key factor
- We have the opportunity to make an historical change in European hematology education
- Beneficial for the patients and the hematologists