

Abstract EuLDP

Accreditation of Events of Continuing Medical Education in Ophthalmology in Portugal.

In Portugal we are taking the first steps in the accreditation of Ophthalmology events. With Dr Pedro Afonso, who was involved in the Panamerican Society Leadership Programme – PAAO, we decided to develop a joint project to facilitate the procedures for the accreditation process by the European Union of Medical Specialists-European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education. This joint project was approved and encouraged by Professor Nikolaos Bechrakis and by Professor Zelia Corrêa. It is also a joint project with the support of the Portuguese Society of Ophthalmology and the College of Ophthalmology of the Portuguese Medical Association.

The European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS) represents the interests of specialist doctors at an international level, since 1958. It has a current membership of 34 countries, representing 39 specialties, corresponding to about 1.4 million doctors working in Europe. It aims to promote the highest attainable quality in medical care for European citizens, medical education, and the free movement of medical specialists throughout Europe.

The European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education aims to encourage high standards in the development, delivery and harmonization of continuing medical education, through international acceptance of the CME credit system for accreditation of events. CME credits are a means of confirmation of involvement of doctors in approved learning activities. UEMS accredits around 1400 events per year.

We think that it is important to remember that there is recognition of the UEMS credit system by the American Medical Association and by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, and the same happens for Europeans regarding CME credits obtained in the USA and Canada.

In practice our project created guideline documents for CME event promoters who wish to be accredited by the UEMS. In the process, that has already begun, we are accompanying promoters of those events, trying to understand their difficulties and finding the most appropriate solutions in order to achieve UEMS accreditation. We have created a PowerPoint document with the steps, time schedules and documents to guide the certification process.

During the last National Congress we organized a symposium about the accreditation involving members of the Portuguese Society of Ophthalmology and the College of Ophthalmology of the Portuguese Medical Association. We invited the main organizers of scientific meetings in Portugal, creating an interactive session that included an online simulation of submission of one event.

The current boards of directors of the Portuguese Society of Ophthalmology and the College of Ophthalmology of the Portuguese Medical Association are highly committed to the development and the goals of this project. We integrate a committee created to incentivize the accreditation process, giving formation and support to the meetings organizers.

Since the beginning of our project 4 courses in Portugal achieved accreditation by the UEMS.