

Report on the 2023 Edition of the European Postgraduate Assessment in Occupational Medicine

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On October 24th, was held in Brussels, at the Domus Medica Europaea, the 2023 edition of the European Postgraduate Assessment in Occupational Medicine, organized to release the European Diploma in Occupational Medicine. It was the 4th edition of the exam that, organized according to the procedures provided by the Council for European Specialist Medical Assessments (CESMA), is aimed to assess the consistency of the Occupational Medicine (OM) specialist competence with an adequately high and updated European standard, established with the aim to advance and harmonize the competence of the OM specialists across Europe. Even if the European Diploma in Occupational Medicine, in principle, cannot be assumed as a license to practice in the EU countries, as only the National Competent Authorities have the role to provide such a license, for sure is at least as an important quality curriculum mark, complementary to the national examinations.

The European Postgraduate Assessment in Occupational Medicine, organized yearly, consists in a questionnaire of 130 Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) of different levels of difficulty (easy, moderate, difficult). The competences to be covered to take the exam are described in the Occupational Medicine European Training Requirements (OM-ETRs), a document detailing the aspects of training to be covered for an adequately high European standard of OM specialists. The organization of the European Postgraduate Assessment in Occupational Medicine was the result of the activity of a committee of experts composed of core group of medical specialists with clinical expertise as well as expertise in educational and assessment aspects, of the UEMS Occupational Medicine Section, with the collaboration of European Association of Schools in Occupational Medicine (EASOM).

The Brussels UEMS Office gave the equipment needed for the Assessment, as well as an active support for the smooth running of the exam.

All the applicants to the 2023 edition, coming from different European Countries and from Turkey, average age around 33 y/o, passed the European Postgraduate Assessment in Occupational Medicine, proving a full qualification to obtain the European Diploma in Occupational Medicine.

The applicants evaluation of the Postgraduate Assessment in Occupational Medicine by the applicants was highly positive: all expressed a high satisfaction regarding the organization of the exam, the information on useful training materials, the adequateness of the time for MCQs answering, the estimation of the weight of MCQs and the covering of the ETRs, as well as for the technical information and venue.

The 2023 European Postgraduate Assessment in Occupational Medicine was promoted on the websites of different organizations, including UEMS and EASOM, through section's member national activities, and by participation of the UEMS OM president to various meetings and webinar. Most of the participants to the exam got info by their national representatives.

According to the positive result of the 2023 edition of the European Postgraduate Assessment in Occupational Medicine, and to the high satisfaction of the applicants, the exam proved another milestone for the promotion of Occupational Medicine as a high-level Specialty in Europe. The organization of the 2024, edition, that will be held on Monday 21st of October 2024, is in progress.