

Accreditation of Medical Microbiology in an European perspective

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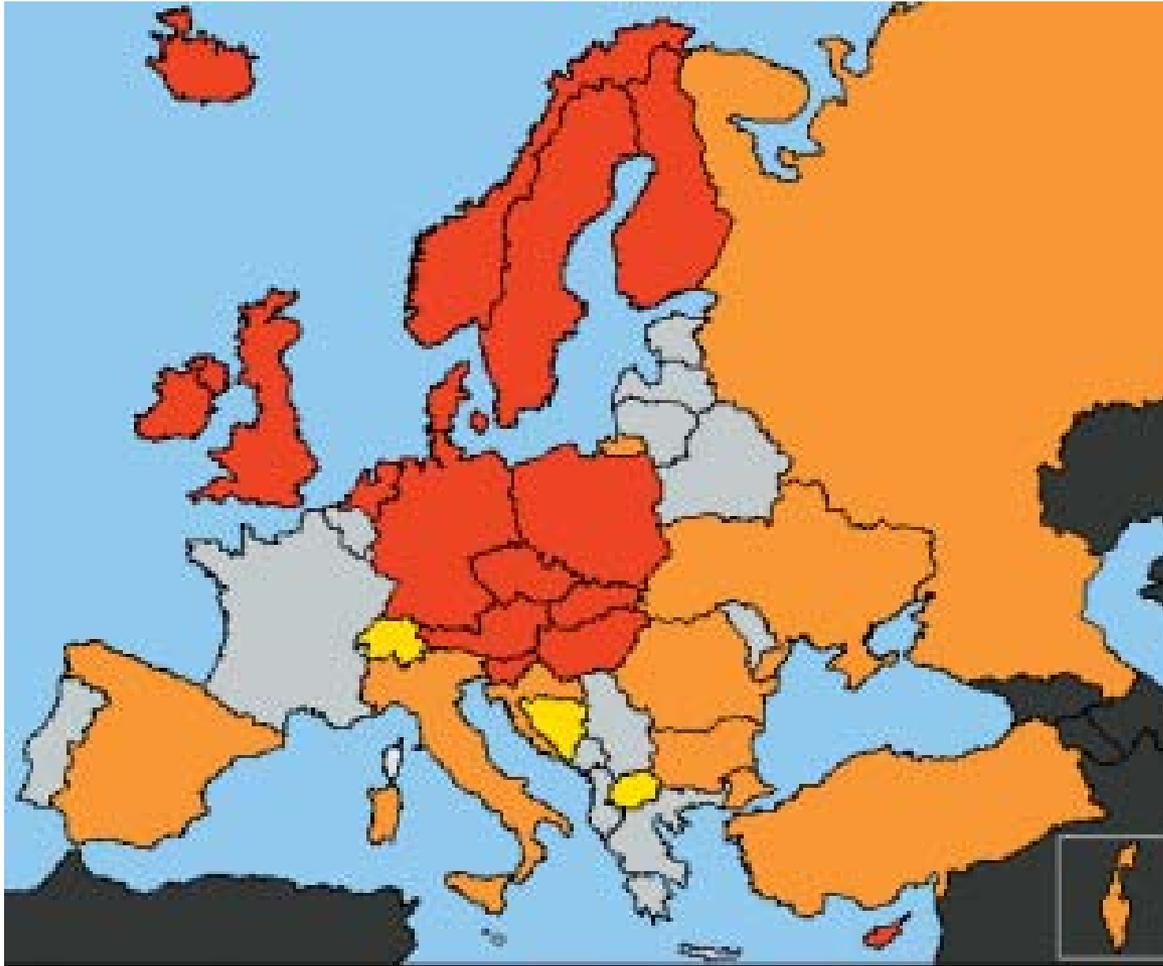
What is Medical Microbiology in Belgium ?

- A not recognized medical speciality
- Performed by medical specialists in polyvalent laboratory medicine
- In the majority of the large laboratories a medical specialist in polyvalent laboratory medicine with special interest in medical microbiology is in charge of the laboratory

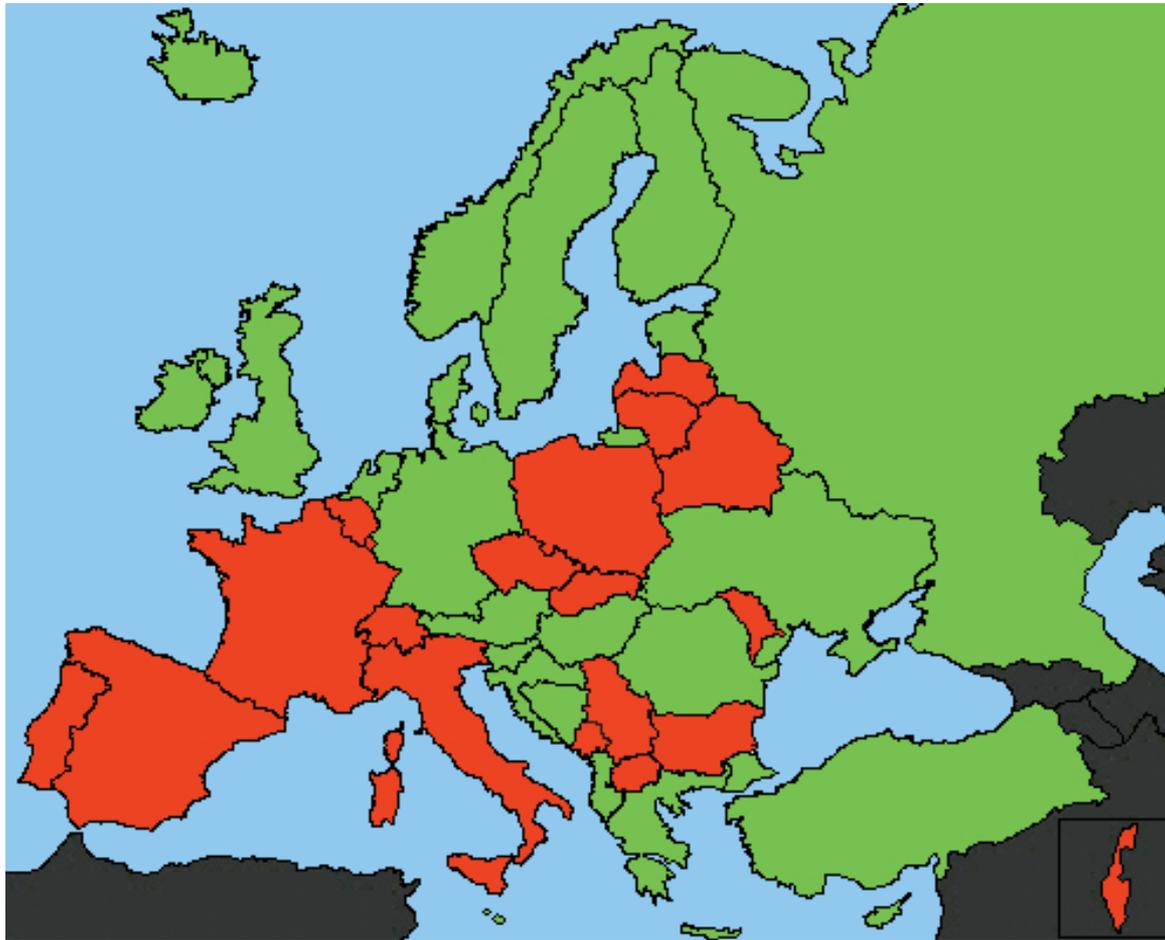
Training in medical microbiology in Belgium

- Duration of the training in polyvalent laboratory medicine is 5 years.
- During the training in polyvalent laboratory medicine 0.5 to 4 years are training in medical microbiology
- Training is offered to medical doctors and pharmacists
- There is no final examination

Duration of training in clinical microbiology in years
3 (yellow), 4 (orange), 5 (red)



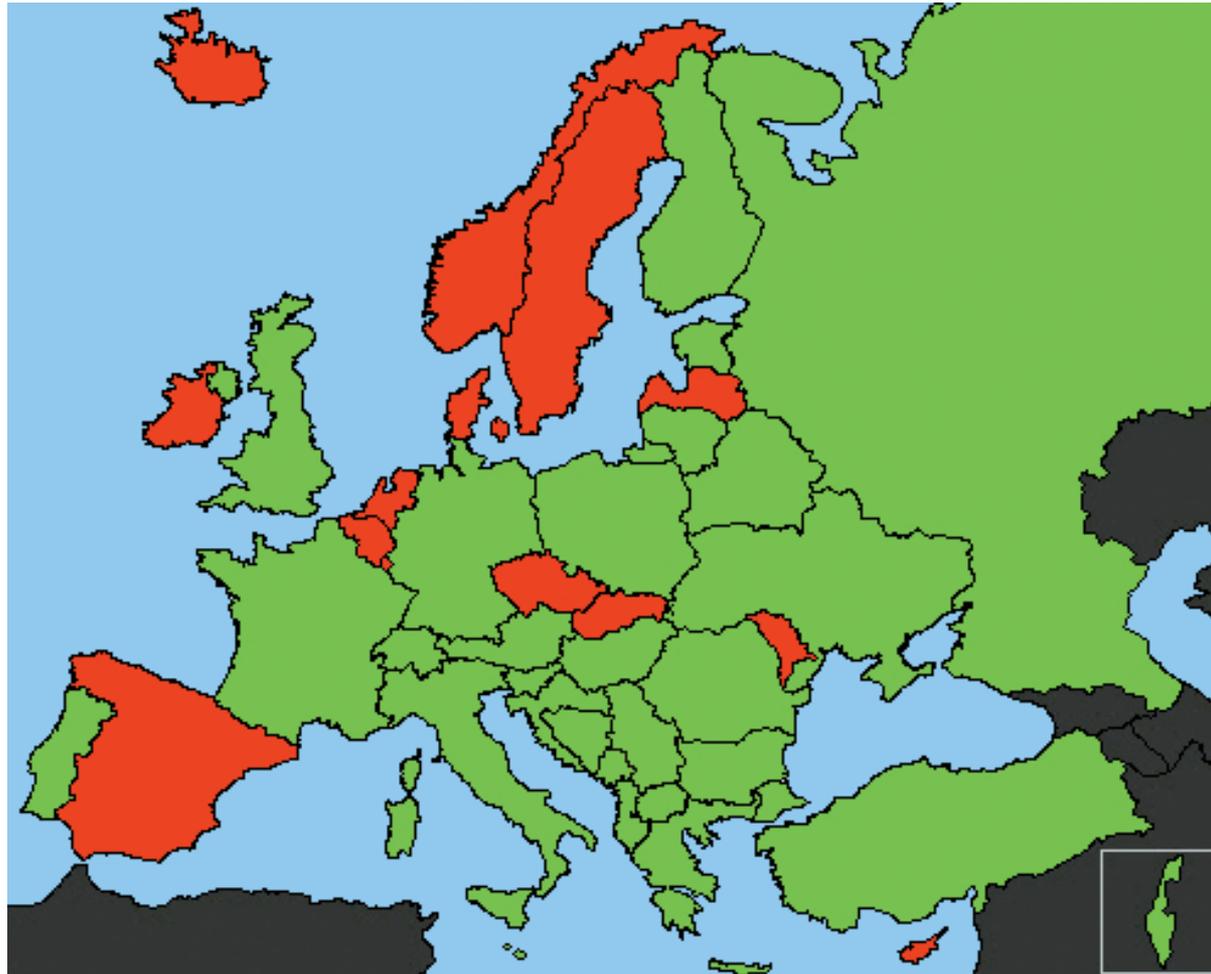
Is the training in clinical microbiology offered exclusively to
medical doctors ?
Yes (green), no (red)



ESCMID News 3.2002

Is there a final examination before registration as clinical microbiologist ?

Yes (green), no (red)



Questionnaire professional affairs 2008: new questions

- Continuing medical education (CME) ?
- Lack of clinical microbiologists ?
- Official training curriculum
- Clinical practice is mandatory part of the curriculum ?
- Postgraduate courses offered for clinical microbiology ?
- Model for regular inspection of training centres ?
- Need for re-certification ?

Arguments **pro** a recognized speciality “clinical microbiology”

- New possibilities to organise the training in clinical microbiology
 - Clinical practice as a mandatory part of the curriculum
 - Final attainment level can be defined
 - Curriculum is no longer 5 separate years but one unit with different subunits
 - ...

Arguments **pro** a recognized speciality “clinical microbiology”

- A more attractive medical speciality for young medical doctors because:
 - Better scientific training
 - More recognized as a Consultant for other medical specialists
 - Oriented towards the future
 - Free movement to other European countries
 - ...

Arguments **pro** a recognized speciality “clinical microbiology”

- Better organized laboratories because:
 - More and excellent trained new clinical microbiologists available
 - More possibilities to implement new techniques
 - Better networking between hospitals
 - ...

Arguments **pro** a recognized speciality “clinical microbiology”

- Better care for the patient because better trained microbiologists are probably better armed to:
 - Improve diagnosis of infectious diseases
 - Optimize use of antibiotics
 - Prevent spread of multi-resistant micro-organisms
 - Manage a laboratory
 - ...

Arguments **contra** a recognized speciality “clinical microbiology”

- Clinical microbiology will be too small to survive
- Polyvalent laboratory medicine is still necessary
- Collaboration with other specialists in polyvalent laboratory medicine will be more difficult
- Practical aspects:
 - Organizing a guard duty for clinical microbiology
 - Clinical microbiology in smaller laboratories
 - ...
- *Clinical microbiologists are not smarter than other specialists in polyvalent laboratory medicine*

CHANGE

WE CAN BELIEVE IN



OBAMA '08

Before we have a change ...

- We will need to convince a lot of people of art. 3.2 of the statutes of SBICM-BVIKM

Art. 3. De vereniging heeft tot doel:

2. de belangstelling van elke persoon of elke instelling voor de infectiologie en de klinische microbiologie te steunen en te stimuleren, meer bepaald:

a. de erkenning van de infectiologie en de microbiologie als autonome specialiteiten in het Belgische en Europese kader actief te steunen;

Art. 3. L'association a pour but :

2.d'encourager et de stimuler l'intérêt de toute personne ou de toute institution pour l'infectiologie et la microbiologie, plus particulièrement:

a. encourager activement la reconnaissance de l'infectiologie et de la microbiologie en tant que spécialités autonomes dans les cadres belge et européen;

Parties concerned in professional affairs clinical microbiology in Belgium

- Training and education:
 - Commission for recognition of medical specialists in polyvalent laboratory medicine
 - Training centres
 - Universities and scientific institutes
 - Scientific societies, including SBIMC-BVIKM
- Pressure groups:
 - Unions
 - Belgian union of medical specialists in medical biopathology
 - SBIMC-BVIKM
- Recognition of medical specialities:
 - High Council for medical specialists and general practitioners
- Federal government
 - BAPCOP

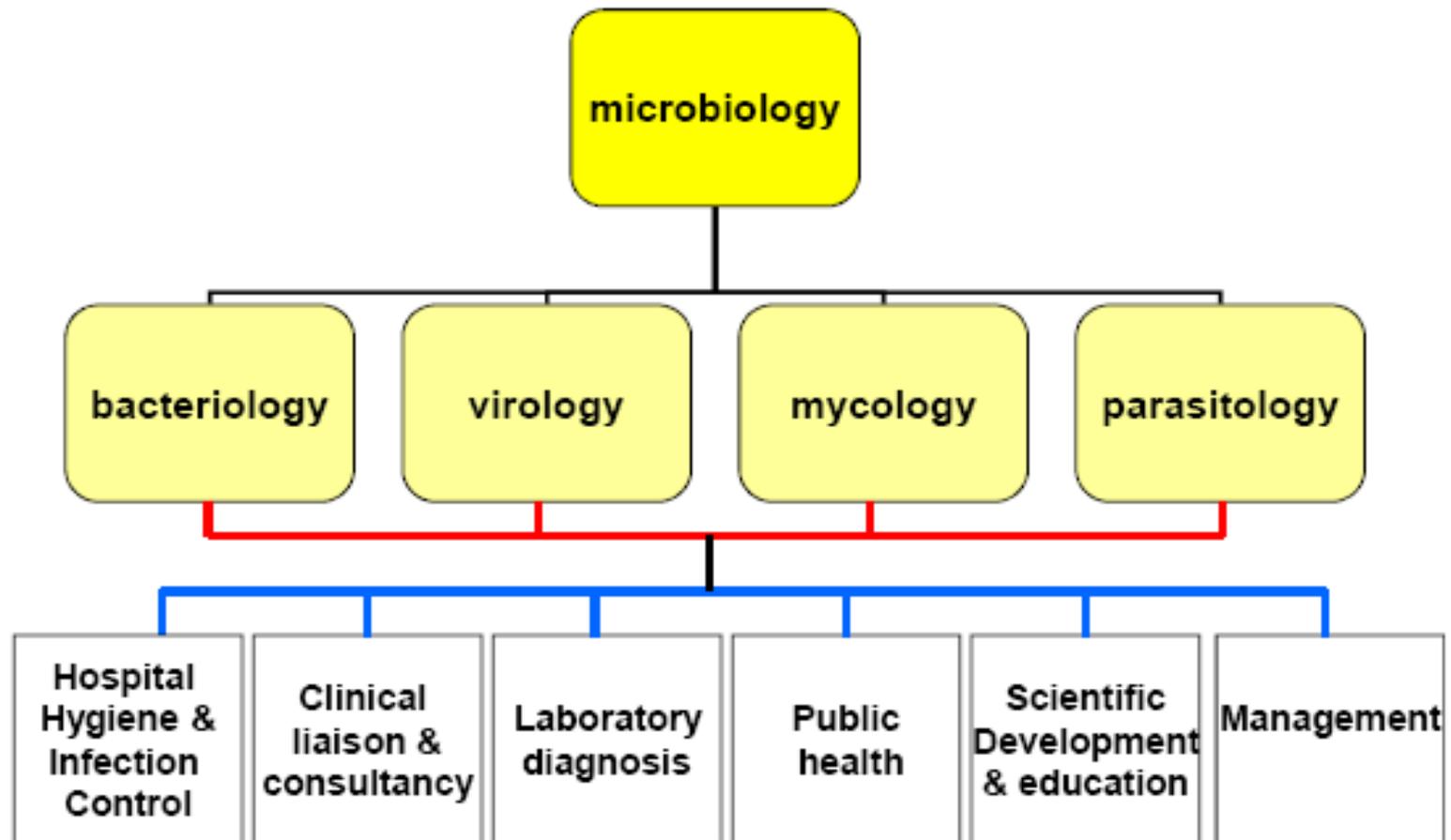
Parties concerned in professional affairs Clinical Microbiology in Europe

- European Community
- UEMS (European Union of Medical Specialists)
 - Section of Medical Biopathology
 - Division medical microbiology
 - Section of Medical Microbiology
 - since April 2008
 - Vote: in favour 22 countries, against 4 and 2 abstentions

Harmonizing the profile of the specialty in the EU

**Define the elements of a modern
training programme for residents to
make them fit for specialist tasks**

1st Stage: Themes in Microbiology



2nd stage: specialty specific competences (UEMS 2005)

- Scientific basis of clinical microbiology
- Laboratory safety
- Sterilisation and Disinfection
- Handling of specimens
- Microscopy
- Culture methods
- Further processing of cultures
- Antimicrobial investigations
- Molecular microbiology and emerging technologies
- Typing techniques
- Data handling
- Clinical experience
- Antimicrobial usage
- Results reporting
- Quality control
- Audit and clinical governance
- Accreditation

Knowledge
Skills
Attitude

3rd stage: logbook

Conclusion

- Belgium has had en still has a lot of world class medical microbiologists but ...
- If we want to guarantee the future of medical microbiology we must have a change.
- The new section for Medical Microbiology of UEMS will activate in Europe harmonization of medical microbiology.
- It is the duty of SBIMC-BVIKM to actively participate in this process.
- A working party on professional affairs is the best way to realise this objective

Thanks to

- John Degener, president of the section of medical microbiology of UEMS
- Bernard Maillet, secretary-general of UEMS
- Karin Werner, ESCMID PA Manager