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“ The UEMS-EBDVD Examination was a great opportunity for me to test my knowledge and skills and compare it to the European requirements. I also met dermatologists from all over Europe and some countries outside Europe and we were able to share our experiences. ”

My name is Magdalena Żychowska and I'm currently working in the Department of Dermatology in Rzeszów, the largest city in south-eastern Poland. In early 2019, I took my National Specialist Examination in Dermatology and Venereology and in August 2019, I successfully passed the UEMS European Board of Dermatovenereology Diploma (EBDVD) Examination.

The first examination was held in August 2007 in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. Since then, the examination has taken place in August in Frankfurt every year. The UEMS European Board of Dermatovenereology Diploma (EBDVD) Examination is a test of excellence in Dermatology and Venereology. The number of countries officially adopting the EBDV Diploma qualification with subsequent legal validation and recognition in the EU, EEA and the Switzerland is continuously rising.

In Poland, dermatology training consists of five years of intensive in-patient and out-patient practice, several obligatory courses (eg, on venereology, autoimmune diseases, dermatopathology, paediatric dermatology) and external internships in rheumatology, infectious diseases, allergology, surgery and internal medicine.

Residents are also encouraged to actively participate in national and international congresses and workshops. Moreover, many residents are also involved in conducting their own research and preparing PhD theses. Therefore, the time for specialist training is often a very busy period.

Despite the fact that it is possible to take the UEMS-EBDV Examination after four years of training, I decided to sit for it a year later and combine studying for my National Specialist Exam and European Examination. It was also easier due to the significant similarities in programme requirements. In my preparations for the exam I relied primarily on the Braun-Falco textbook and IUSTI guidelines. Other recommended reading included textbooks by Rook, Bologna et al, Fitzpatrick et al, guidelines developed by the European Dermatology Forum, as well as CME and review articles in major dermatological journals.

Unfortunately, the EBDV Diploma is currently not legally recognised in Poland, but undoubtedly, it is considered to be a test of excellence and a quality mark.

Last year's UEMS-EBDVD Examination

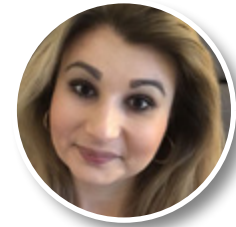
Deadline for applications:

1 May 2020

For more information and how to [apply](#)



opportunity to sit the exam



Dr Magdalena
Żychowska

was held in Frankfurt on 2-3 August. All organisational information was clearly described on the website (www.uems-ebdv.org) and was sent by email to all qualified participants. In order to take the examination, you had to apply online at least three months earlier and pay the required fee (550/750 EUR). The exam took place in the lecture halls of the University Hospital, which is located in the city centre, in close proximity to the Frankfurt main train station and numerous hotels. Candidates needed to bring their own laptop, as the examination has a computer-based online format.

The test consisted of 384 multiple choice questions. Many questions were based on assessment of clinical and dermoscopic photos as well as interpretation of histopathological images, sometimes with immunohistochemical stainings. A huge advantage of a computer-based format was very good quality of photos with the possibility of zooming. The exam was divided into five parts. Short coffee breaks between the sessions were a great opportunity for interaction and exchanging views between the participants. Candidates from many countries were taking the exam and we could discuss the differences in the national training systems. Questions requiring interpretation of histological images posed a challenge for several candidates, probably due to insufficient training in dermatopathology in some countries. In general, the test was constructed in a clear way. It was possible to mark and return to questions that raised doubts. A huge advantage was also the fact, that the results were announced within one hour after the final session.

Overall, I rate the examination very positively. The organisation and structure were extremely participant-friendly. The questions were clearly worded but still demanding. I'm convinced that the exam allows reliable assessment of the dermatological education that one received.

The UEMS-EBDVD Examination was a great opportunity for me to test my knowledge and skills and compare it to the European requirements. I also met dermatologists from all over Europe and some countries outside Europe and we were able to share our experiences.

Dermatology is one of the biggest passions in my life. I had to overcome many obstacles to fulfil my dreams. And I can assure everyone that it's worth persistently pursuing a goal and believing in yourself. "Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life".

I am convinced that the UEMS-EBDVD Examination opens the door to new opportunities and that for me, the real dermatological adventure has just begun. ●

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