



UNION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS SPÉCIALISTES
EUROPEAN UNION OF MEDICAL SPECIALISTS

SECTION OF RADIOLOGY

CME-CPD in Europe, an evolving process

A survey from the Section of Radiology

Edited by

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The European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS) is the oldest medical professional organisation in the European Union, as it celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2018. With 40 member countries, 60 specialist bodies, and well-established partnerships across Europe, the UEMS represents around 1.6 million medical specialists.

One of the UEMS' main activities is CME (Continuing Medical Education) and CPD (Continuing Professional Development) and, under the impulse of a growing shift from voluntary to mandatory CME-CPD in Europe, the European Union of Medical Specialists set up the European Accreditation Council for Continuing

Medical Education (EACCME) in October 1999, finally bridging the gap with the United States, where an Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education had been established in 1981.

The EACCME – now a worldwide mark of excellence – sets itself as the central link between the National Accreditation Authorities (NAAs), the UEMS Specialist Sections and Boards (S&Bs), the European Specialty Accreditation Boards (ESABs) and the Providers of CME activities, accrediting more than 2,000 events per year. CME-CPD events in Europe are evaluated in ECMECs: 1 ECMEC = 1 hour of CME, with a maximum of 8 ECMECs for a day and 4 ECMECs for half a day.

In 2016, EACCME 2.0 addressed the new challenges of CME-CPD in Europe, from an ageing population to rapid technological developments, making the application/review/accreditation process smoother and expanding the portfolio of recognised activities and learning materials.

For the UEMS, CME-CPD is not only a clinical and professional duty, but overall an ethical obligation, for which health operators are life-long required to update their skills. CME-CPD should be free from commercial influence, meaningful during the entire professional life, affordable and - as far as possible - harmonised at national and European level.

In order to have a better framework on the current status of CME-CPD in Europe, in February 2019 the Section of Radiology has launched a survey on the current status of CME-CPD in Europe, targeting 31 member countries.

The information we searched for each country were:

1 Is CME-CPD mandatory or voluntary in your country? Number of credits required per year?

2 Are there any forms of re-certification or re-licensing?

3 Which is the responsible authority for CME-CPD?

4 Does a conversion scheme for accreditation of CME-CPD events abroad exist?

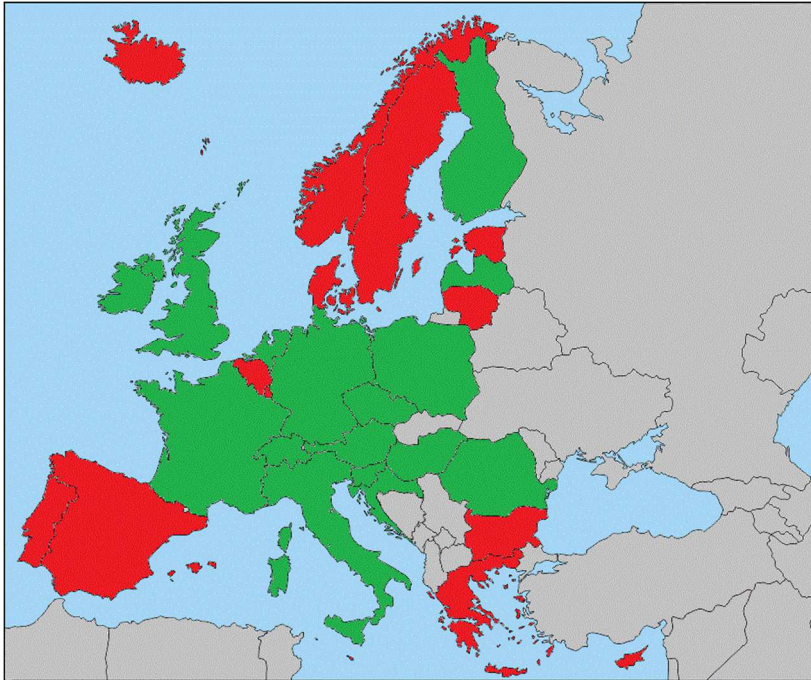
5 Which CME-CPD activities are recognized in your country?

6 Does your country follow the EACCME criteria?

7 Is CME-CPD onerous? How is it supported and promoted by the healthcare system?

The data for each country have been collected, analysed and summarised in some thematic maps below and in a table of results.

1 Is CME-CPD mandatory or voluntary in your country?



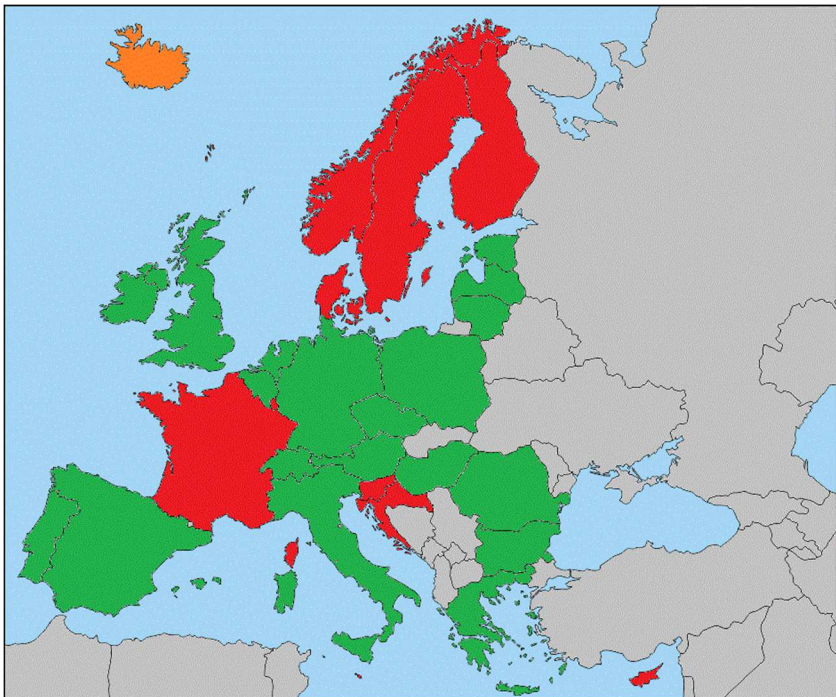
Mandatory

Voluntary

No answer

Partially/Not applicable (0)

4 Does a conversion scheme for accreditation of CME-CPD events abroad exist?



Yes

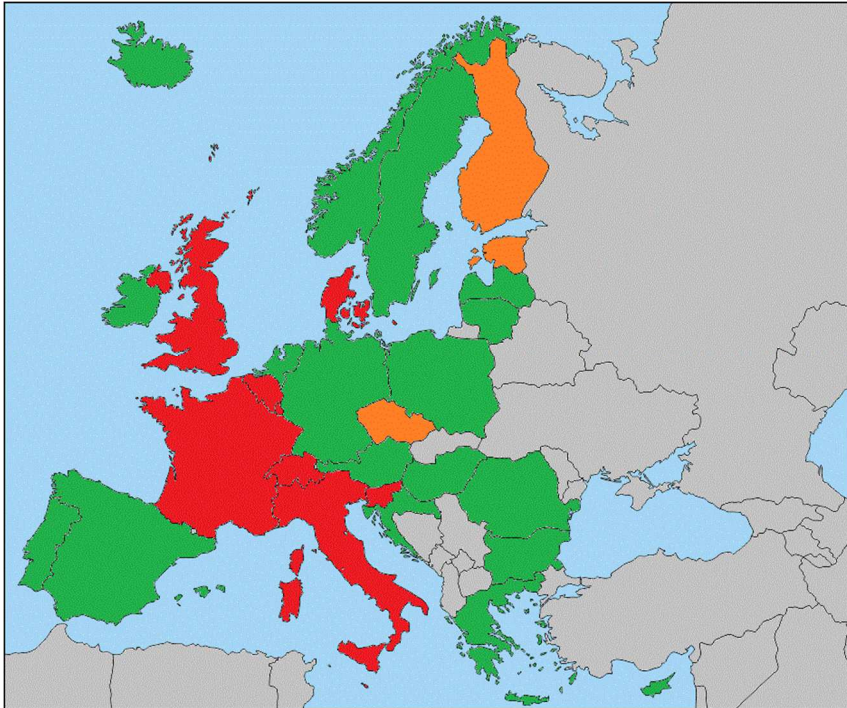
No

No answer

Partially/Not applicable

5 – UEMS/Section of Radiology - CME-CPD in Europe, an evolving process.

6 Does your country follow the EACCME criteria?



Yes

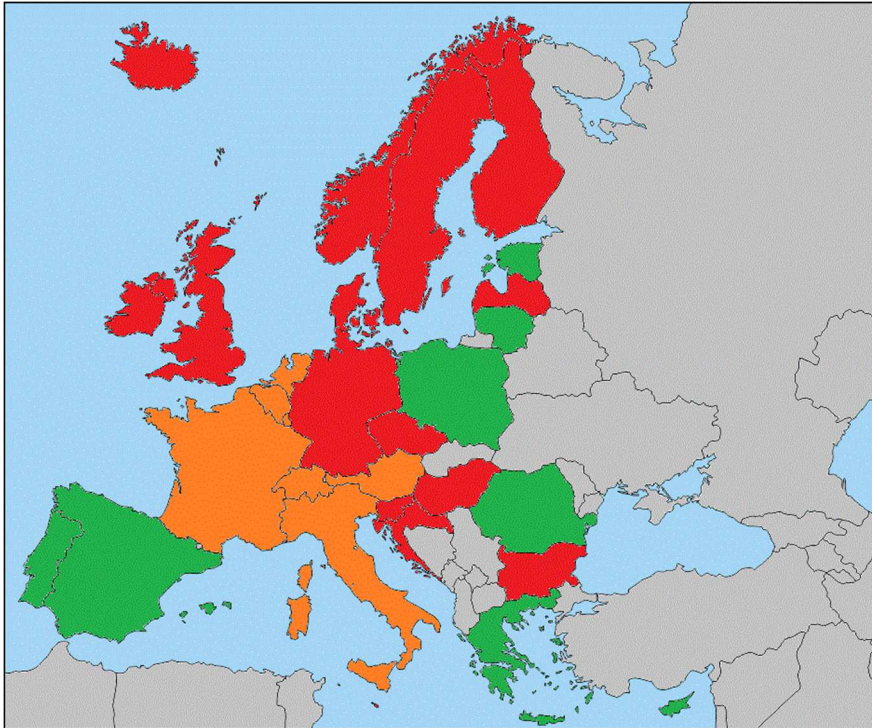
No

No answer

Partially/Not applicable

6 – UEMS/Section of Radiology - CME-CPD in Europe, an evolving process.

7 Is CME-CPD onerous?



Yes

No

No answer

Partially/Not applicable

7 – UEMS/Section of Radiology - CME-CPD in Europe, an evolving process.

TABLE OF RESULTS

Country	1. Is CME-CPD mandatory or voluntary in your country? Number of credits required per year?	2. Are there any forms of re-certification or re-licensing?	3. Which is the responsible authority for CME-CPD?	4. Does a conversion scheme for accreditation of CME-CPD events abroad exist?	5. Which CME-CPD activities are recognized in your country?	6. Does your country follow the EACCME criteria?	7. Is CME-CPD onerous? How is it supported and promoted by the healthcare system?
AUSTRIA	Mandatory.	50 credits per year, 150 credits every 3 years.	National professional Body – Austrian Medical Chamber and Austrian Academy of Physicians	Yes, on condition that they are equivalent to certified national CPD activities, for which the doctor makes an application and produces a confirmation of participation. Austrian Medical Chamber is responsible for the assessment of equivalence by way of the Medical Chambers in the provinces. ECMEC are recognized to the same extent as CPD points in terms of the CPD programme.	Events, Webinar, Quality Circles, Intervisions, scientific activities (authoring and reviewing), supervisions, traineeship, E-learning.	Yes, there is a contract signed between the EACCME and the Academy of Physicians with mutual recognition of CPD points	It depends on the personal and professional situation of the physician.

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BELGIUM	Voluntary.	No	NMA, University, Private	Approximately yes.	Attending events/lectures/co courses, publishing.	No	very partially
BULGARIA	Voluntary. National Medical Association is introducing regulations to make CME mandatory. 50 credits points are requested.	No	National Professional Body and National Medical Association	Yes	Mainly attending events/lectures/co courses	Yes, mutual recognition EACCME/Bulgarian Medical Association	CME-CPD are not onerous
CROATIA	Mandatory. It is required a minimum of 120 credits in a 6-year period.	Re-licensing is obligatory every 6 years.	Croatian Medical Chamber	A conversion scheme does not exist at the moment, but it has been informally announced that it will be implemented by the end of 2019.	Several professional and scientific activities are recognized: courses, lectures, seminars, professional meetings, day courses, different types of publications...	Yes	Healthcare system has no direct influence on gaining CME-CPD credits. Usually CME-CPD is not onerous because there are enough educational events where to collect credits. Lecturers gain

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							more credits than attendees.
CYPRUS	Voluntary. 50 credits per year.	No	Cyprus Medical Association	No	Attending events/lectures/co courses, publishing, personal learning, other...	Yes	It is onerous, and not supported by healthcare system. The Radiological Society of Cyprus advocates for mandatory CME/CPD supported by Ministry of Health.
CZECH REPUBLIC	Mandatory. Credits are counted on 5-year-basis and 150 credits (in 5 years) are required (= 30 credits per year).	Each event, as well as promoting organisation must be accredited.	Czech Medical Chamber (= National Professional Body) is responsible.	Yes, it is possible to acknowledge credits obtained abroad.	All types are possible: attending events, publishing, study stays, e-learning.	EACCME criteria are not fully followed - mainly the number of credits which is necessary.	For most physicians, it is not onerous. This system is "indirectly" promoted by the healthcare system.
DENMARK	Voluntary. Number of credits is not applicable.	No	No responsible body	No	None	No	Not onerous. Hospitals can pay for attending CME events and sponsors are

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							sometimes allowed, but no interference from industry allowed.
ESTONIA	Voluntary. Law suggests 300 hours of CME activity during 5-year period. In real life, there is no systematic control neither enforcement of this rule.	No	Ministry of Health	Yes	Attending events/lectures/co courses, publishing, reviewing	Not systematically	Yes, it is highly appreciated by the doctors. Support by the national healthcare system is modest.
FINLAND	Mandatory. Exact definitions vary by fields of specialization and level of education. For radiation protection, 40h/5 years is mandatory. Recommendation	No	Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority (STUK).	No	Approved courses and lectures.	Not strictly.	Legislation-based CME is generally not onerous.

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	ns for CME/CPD are issued by the Finnish Medical Association and the Ministry of Health. Amount of CME/CPD recommended by FMA is 10 working days / year.						
FRANCE	Mandatory, under the control of National Professional Body of professionals. Credits remain to be defined.	Program of recertification currently under definition.	National Professional Body	No	Currently under definition. It should include training, evaluating clinical practice, and evaluation of risk management	No	To be defined. Should be in part supported by healthcare system.
GERMANY	Mandatory. It is mandatory to reach 250 points in 5 years.	No	National medical chambers.	Yes, events abroad are recognised if the German criteria are met.	Lecture events, seminars, literature reading, e-learning	On principle yes, with its own criteria.	If a doctor participates regularly, no problems. There are enough events and

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							seminars with points.
GREECE	To present, it remains voluntary.	No	Panhellenic Medical Association	Yes	Live Educational Events, Publishing, E-Learning, CME-CPD activities	Yes	Yes. It is onerous and not supported by the national healthcare system.
HUNGARY	Mandatory. For a 5-year period, physicians have to collect 250 credit points (50 credit points/year).	Yes. After 5 years, if the physician has collected 250 points, the office of AEEK (who makes the recertification of medical specialists) will send the testimonial (recertification document).	CME-CPD is under the supervision of Education and Training Centres of the Universities (Budapest, Pécs, Debrecen, Szeged). The recertification is made by AEEK.	Yes, CME conversion scheme is defined by law (decree of EMMI - Ministry of Human Capacities 64/2011. (XI.29.)). Based on the law: 1 European CME credit = 1 Hungarian credit.	Attending events, conferences, congresses, symposiums, local scientific meetings, courses, e-learning, local in hospital scientific discussions.	Yes	CME-CPD is supported by government and hospitals. A system called "OFTEX" collects available courses, meetings, conferences that can provide credits. If anybody participated, their names are electronically registered, and points are automatically assigned.

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ICELAND	Voluntary. However, CME/CPD is in compliance with the mandatory Codex Ethicus of the Icelandic Medical Society.	No. Despite there is no centralized registration of CME/CPD, most medical doctors are in good standing with the obligations.	N/A. The Icelandic Medical society is in the process of preparing to register CME/CPD activities and will seek funds from the Ministry of Health to maintain a database.	N/A	N/A	Yes	Most medical doctors are employed by government. All specialists have 15 days of paid CME/CPD activity and some reimbursements. Doctors in training have similar conditions. Industry can still have much influence in CME/CPD according to Icelandic medical doctors.
IRELAND	Mandatory. Local credit points system: 50 points/year	Yes, every 5 years.	All medical royal colleges and faculties have published guidelines or have formal CPD schemes.	Yes, 1:1 ratio.	Attending events/lectures/co courses, peer review activity, personal learning.	Yes	Generally, not.
ITALY	Mandatory. 150 credits are	Currently there are no forms of re-certification	“Commissione Nazionale ECM” (National Commission	Yes, credits are recognized (1 hour – 1 credit), up to a	Live events, e-learning, lecturers/courses,	No, criteria are established by	CME-CPD could be onerous or free. CME-CPD

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	required every 3 years.	or re-licensing. If the professional doesn't acquire the 150 credits in the 3 years, he/she is sanctionable by the Professional Order.	for Continuing Medical Education), composed by representatives of Ministries of Health, Ministry of Education, Regions and Health Professionals Orders.	maximum of 50 credits, for each training activity carried out abroad at the institutions included in the LEEF (List of Foreign Education Bodies). This applies to all EU countries. Individual training activities carried out at institutions not included in the LEEF give the right to the recognition of 50% of the training credits, up to a maximum of 25 credits.	publishing, personal learning, university tutoring, on-the-job training.	Commissione Nazionale ECM.	activities are provided free by the Professional orders, the trade unions and by the Public Local Health Unities.
LATVIA	CME-CPD is mandatory every 5 years. The minimal number of credits required per year is 50.	Yes, there are official forms with mandatory approvals and attachments for re-certification.	Certification Council of Latvian Medical Association.	Yes.	Attendance of national and international congresses and conferences, lectures, courses, personal learning, lecturing, courses conducting and	Yes	No. CME-CPD provides and maintains a professional standard. The health care system and universities support in the

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					publishing, at least, 60% in Radiology. The number of credits obtained is different in Radiology from other disciplines.		Radiology specialty the activities listed under point 5.
LITHUANIA	Voluntary. 120 university Congress hours per 5 years.	Yes.	Ministry of Health	Yes: 1CME credit = 2 university hours.	Attending events/lectures/co courses, publishing, personal learning, other.	Yes	No direct support.
LUXEMBOURG	Voluntary. N/A	No	N/A	Not at present	There is still no official regulation for CME/CPD: no university and specialists from other countries.	No	N/A
MALTA	Voluntary. N/A	No	Medical Association of Malta	Not at present	Attending local and international medical events, lectures, conferences and courses.	No	Annual financial support to attend CME-CPD activities and 2 weeks of study leave per year to attend such events.

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NETHERLANDS	Mandatory. 40 CME credits per year, 200 per 5 years.	Every 5 years, medical specialists have to re-register through the Dutch RGS.	Radiological Society of the Netherlands (NVvR)	Yes	All, if present on predefined list: including all major conferences like ECR, RSNA etc.	Yes	Some forms of financial support
NORWAY	Voluntary. However, the Norwegian Medical Association has decided to develop mandatory CME-CPD for each medical speciality.	No	Norwegian Directorate of Health	No	Attending events/lectures/co courses, publishing, personal learning, other, but on a voluntary basis.	Yes	Financial support from the employer
POLAND	Mandatory. CME/CPD for medical doctors is both a legal and ethical obligation. 200 points should be collected every 4 years. There are	No re-certification or re-licensing. Fitness to practice procedures are conducted by a regional chamber in case	CPD/CME is regulated by law on medical profession and by Ministry of Health regulation. The chambers of physicians and dentists (23 regional chambers and Military Chamber) are	Yes. 1 ECMEC is equal to 1 Polish educational point (i.e. 1 hour of educational event). to one Polish educational point. In general, credits obtained abroad are	Attending events/lectures/co courses, publishing, personal learning are all recognised activities. 19 forms of CME activities are listed in the	Yes. The most important criteria are followed: e.g. programme free of any form of advertising and any form of bias.	No support or incentives. Medical professionals have unsuccessfully demanded more support from healthcare

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	no sanctions in case a physician or dentist is not fulfilling this duty.	of illness, complaints and disciplinary or legal sanctions or after more than 5-year period out of medical practice.	in charge of recognition and registration of CME credits in the registry of doctors.	recognized on 1/1 basis, but it is at discretion of regional chamber.	Ministry regulation.		system and authorities, and, as result, the CPD/CME system has modest acceptance among physicians and dentists.
PORTUGAL	Voluntary. No defined number of credits required per year.	No forms of re-certification or re-licensing in place at this moment.	Portuguese Medical Association (PMA).	Yes. Since 2018 one ECMEC has a 1:1 conversion ratio to a future credit scheme to be implemented by the PMA.	CEM-CPD activities recognized in Portugal are in line with the ones recognized for accreditation purposes by EACCME.	Yes	Onerous. PMA has a scholarship program for interns. Some hospitals give financial support to doctors to attend scientific events. Vast majority of clinicians either pay themselves or have industry-related support, although that has been diminishing in recent years due

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							to regulatory restrictions.
ROMANIA	Mandatory. 40 credits/year and 200/every cycle of 5 years	Yes, if minimum conditions are not fulfilled every 5-year cycle, medical activity is suspended until accomplishment	Romanian College of Physicians	Yes, ECMECs and AMA credits are recognised in the limit of 6 credits/day.	LEE, Distance-learning, courses, congresses, conferences, publishing.	Yes	It could be in many cases. Every educational event is evaluated and if reasonable suspicions of onerous involvement, it is rejected from accreditation and the accredited providers are warned. Expenses are sustained by physicians, most of the time.
SLOVAKIA (no feedback has been provided)							

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SLOVENIA	Mandatory. 75 credits in 7 years.	Yes. If all criteria are met (75 credits + working in the field of licence), the licence is extended for next 7 years.	Medical Chamber	No, all events are subject to general rules of CME-CPD recognition.	Attending events, lectures, courses, publishing, e-learning.	No	Not onerous. It is quite easy to get 75 credits in 7-year period. Medical chamber promotes learning by organising free lectures, mainly in the field of ethics, communication, etc.
SPAIN	Voluntary. CME-CPD depends on regional differences - Health System organisation is autonomous in different communities.	There are not yet defined forms. Regarding Radiology, periodical recertification is on a draft stage - basic skills have been agreed, but not implemented / specific skills have not been developed yet.	There are professional and administrative authorities: professional organisations are CGCOM - Consejo General de Colegios Oficiales de Médicos (equivalent to General Medical Council) and SEAFORMEC - Sociedad Española para la Acreditación y Formación de Médicos (Spanish society for	Yes: agreement between the Health Administration with Professional authority (SEAFORMEC)	All type of activities, live activities and E-learning materials.	SEAFORMEC entirely follows EACCME criteria. Health Administration has its own rules but mainly in accordance with EACCME criteria.	It is very onerous. Healthcare system does not support CME.

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			Medical accreditation and professional development), and the other being represented by Health Administration with seventeen offices (one for each autonomous community).				
SWEDEN	Voluntary. 0 credits required.	No	<i>Lipus - The Physicians' Institute for the Professional Development of Healthcare</i> , subsidiary company owned by the Swedish Medical Association.	No.	National CME/CPD and specialty training courses: Certification and publication of approved course descriptions online International CME/CPD: Live educational events held in Sweden and e-learning modules.	Yes	No, since it is not mandatory. According to Swedish Medical Association, CPD is not supported enough by the healthcare system (employers). There should be sufficient budgeted resources for CPD for every specialist doctor, with the possibility of corresponding at least 10 days

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							external training per doctor and year. Design and planning of CPD must not be controlled and obstructed by a county council or one region's geographical, educational or financial constraints.
SWITZERLAND	Mandatory. 80 credits per year (of which 30 self-study)	Yes. Recertification exists for almost all certificates of aptitude and interdisciplinary subjects.	SIME is the central organisation responsible for drawing up regulations and structuring the legally prescribed CME-CPD. SIME also operates a continuing platform on which all doctors post their CME-CPD log and are able to print out their CME-CPD diploma once the relevant requirements have been met. Within a CME-CPD programme,	Yes	CME-CPD programmes, e.g. participation in some events/congresses, publishing, supervision, life-long learning,	Not directly	Swiss authorities leave the concrete regulation and implementation of the SIME up to the specialist societies.

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			the specialist societies govern the recognition of continuing professional development events in their area of speciality. They verify whether the requirements for granting a CME-CPD diploma have been met. The cantons are responsible for issuing sanctions (reprimand or fines) if a doctor has neglected to fulfil his/her continuing professional development obligation.				
UK	Mandatory. The regulator, GMC, does not set a number of required credits; the medical Royal Colleges for different specialties may do so. The Royal	Yes. Every licensed doctor must revalidate with the GMC. Revalidation normally takes place every five years. In order to revalidate doctors are	Medical royal colleges, faculties, specialist associations and professional trade bodies are some of the main providers of CPD. For Radiology - the RCR is the responsible authority and CPD is mandatory. The RCR	The RCR does not formally accredit overseas courses but, generally recognises 1 CPD point per hour of education (as documented by a certificate) with an additional point	Attending events/lectures/courses, publishing, personal learning, other). All of the above examples are accepted for credits. CPD can include both formal and	This may vary by specialty. The British Medical Association does not have a role in setting or assessing criteria for CPD in the UK. The RCR does not formally	There is an allocated budget for study leave for doctors. This varies between employing organisations as does the time allowed although, most

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	College of Radiologists (RCR) requires all radiologists to obtain 50 CPD credits/hours per annum (or 250 credits over 5 years).	required to undertake an annual appraisal including CPD. Doctors are responsible for identifying their CPD needs, planning how those needs should be addressed and undertaking CPD that will support their professional development and practice. GMC is the professional regulator of doctors, responsible for setting the national framework for revalidation and for making revalidation	provides a certificate to every radiologist every 5 years after assessing that the doctor has complied with the CPD scheme.	awarded for reflective practice.	informal learning but can also be achieved by many other ways such as writing and delivering a lecture, refereeing papers, writing and editing national standards and guidelines, setting national professional exam question or watching online lectures.	assess educational events but has published guidance for event organisers. Event organisers can allocate credits to their own meetings provided they meet the conditions set by the RCR. Therefore, for Radiology the UK does not strictly follow the EACCME criteria.	doctors' contracts include 10 days per annum. Study leave budgets are constrained to some extent, and this may affect colleagues' ability to undertake some forms of CPD. In general, CPD is not thought to be onerous and the flexible ways in which CPD can be achieved e.g. by watching lectures online, reviewing papers, preparing lectures and teaching should make it feasible to achieve.

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		decisions about individual doctors.					

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