



## Madrid Declaration on enhanced training requirements for hematologists in the Professional Qualifications Directive

On June 22, 2017 the European Hematology Association (EHA) and national societies of hematology professionals in Europe met in Madrid at the annual EHA congress.

On the occasion of the meeting there was unanimous support for the

### “Madrid Declaration on enhanced training requirements for hematologists in the Professional Qualifications Directive”

Automatic recognition of professional qualifications across EU Member States, based on enhanced and harmonized minimum training requirements, is of crucial importance for safeguarding the quality and safety of patient care and essential for the mobility of hematology professionals.

The EU’s Professional Qualifications Directive specifies the minimum training period required for the automatic cross-border recognition as a qualified (general) hematologist; currently three years.

Given the wide scope and innovative nature of the hematology discipline - which includes laboratory hematology, transfusion medicine and clinical hematology - such a *training period* is clearly insufficient to allow professionals to gain, update and exchange the knowledge, the competence and the experience needed. In addition, harmonized hematology *training requirements* are essential for providing high-quality care across EU Member States to patients with blood disorders.

The European Hematology Curriculum, a consensus document developed by EHA and endorsed by 40 national hematology societies, provides recommendations on the length of training as well as on the skills and knowledge a junior specialist in hematology should possess.

Based on the above, we recommend that:

- the *European Commission* makes five years the minimum training period required for automatic cross-border recognition of hematology professionals, by amending the Professional Qualifications Directive accordingly (a minimum training period of three or four years could apply if preceded by one year or two years of training in internal medicine);
- the *Member States* adopt this minimum training period at the national level;
- *the competent authorities or bodies responsible for hematology training in Member States* base their training programs upon the European Hematology Curriculum, while taking into account professional traditions and national disease-specific circumstances.



**So agree:**

Austrian Society of Hematology and Medical Oncology  
Belgian Hematology Society  
Bulgarian Medical Society of Hematology  
Croatian Society of Haematology  
Cypriot Society of Haematology  
Czech Society of Hematology  
Danish Society of Haematology  
Dutch Society of Hematology  
Estonian Society of Hematology  
Finnish Society of Hematology  
French Society of Hematology  
Hellenic Society of Hematology  
Hungarian Society of Hematology and Transfusiology  
Icelandic Society of Hematology  
Irish Haematology Society  
Italian Society of Hematology  
Latvian Hematology Society  
Lithuanian Society of Hematology  
Luxembourgish Society of Hematology  
Hematology Society of Malta/ College of Pathology  
Polish Association of Haematologists and Transfusiologists  
Portuguese Society of Hematology  
Romanian Society of Hematology  
Slovak Society of Hematology and Transfusiology  
Slovenian Society of Hematology  
Spanish Society of Hematology and Hemotherapy  
Swedish Hematology Association

Acute Leukemia Advocates Network  
CML Advocates Network  
European Cancer Patient Coalition (ECPC)  
European Federation of Associations of Patients with Haemochromatosis (EFAPH)  
European Haemophilia Consortium (EHC)  
EWMnetwork  
Haematology Nurses & Healthcare Professionals Group (HNHCP)  
ITP Support Association  
MDS Alliance  
MPN Advocates Network  
PNH Support UK  
Thalassaemia International Federation (TIF)