

National Centre for physically disabled people, in a total of 180 beds. The organization of training is supervised by the Ministry of Health with a total of about 6 new trainees per year. There is a waiting list of almost five years for a young doctor willing to start training in PRM, which is not very different than most of medical specialties in Greece. The duration of training is five years, consisted of 3 semesters (internal medicine, orthopaedics and neurology) followed by 3.5 years in a PRM service, during which period there is a possibility of a semester of training in another European country. The number of trainees does not exceed a total of 30–32 and they are paid by the Ministry of Health for all the period of their training. The up-to-date number of specialists is about 165, despite the fact that training in PRM has started on 1974. At the end of the five years of training in PRM, trainees have to successfully pass an oral exam so as to be granted the license to work as specialists in PRM. In most of PRM training departments, trainees are involved in clinical research, whilst very few follow PhD Studies and research in a Medical school under the supervision of a professor in a relevant specialty. Educational courses and seminars are organized by or under the auspices of PRM Society for trainees as well as for CME/CPD purposes, mainly free of charge. During the annual Congress of PRM Society in Greece, reduced fees are offered to PRM trainees and paramedical students.

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PRM EDUCATION IN PORTUGAL

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Introduction: A survey about PRM education and teaching in Portugal was done both in undergraduate and the postgraduate. **Aim:** To characterize how the teaching of PRM is structured in the several Portuguese Universities. **Methods:** Direct contact with those in charge for the teaching and education in the several Portuguese Universities. **Results:** The situation is not uniform, differing from University to University. **Conclusions:** Necessity to reinforce the PRM education by requiring it compulsory in the undergraduate teaching and by increasing its schedule where it is already compulsory.

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COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF PHYSICAL MEDICINE AND REHABILITATION WITH BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA – INDIVIDUALS OR INSTITUTIONS?

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In 1996, Bosnia Herzegovina faced major difficulties: An increase of the number of people with disabilities, due to war casualties, a destruction of most of the PM&R facilities, a complete reorganisation of academic and health institutions in BiH. **Objective:** Description of an array of different cooperations in the field of PM&R between 1996 and 2008. **Results:** Four different types of cooperations and programs have been implemented. Upgrading the level of competencies of Bosnian PM&R teams, and implementing new techniques. Urodynamic expertise is now available in Tuzla and Sarajevo. Short training periods in France, and training sessions in Bosnia have been supported by the French foreign office; Facilitating Bosnian participation in international meetings, and international participation in Bosnian meetings. A Bosnian society of PM&R has been set up. Bosnian colleagues have participated regularly since 1998 to the meetings of the French society of PM&R with financial support from the SOFMER; Upgrading initial training in PM&R for Bosnian medical students. This project was implemented within the tempus framework and supported by the European union. It consisted between 2001 and

2004 in 12 seminars covering most of the field of PM&R and was organized in cooperation by the universities of Angers/Newcastle/Banja-Luka/Sarajevo and Tuzla. Coordination of these different levels has been provided by a French NGO (Médecine France Bosnie-Herzégovine) and local support has been provided by the French cultural centre André Malraux in Sarajevo. **Discussion:** Cooperation relies on motivation of individuals, financial support of different actors (health institutions, NGOs, Governments, European Union), implication of institutions. Coordination of the different interventions and long term planning are crucial. The main difficulty remains the sustainability of these actions in a political context which remains difficult.

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TEACHING AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES IN PHYSICAL AND REHABILITATION MEDICINE (PRM) IN SPAIN

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Undergraduate Teaching Programmes (UTP) in PRM are not included in all Spanish Universities, and the physiatrist is not always in charge of their lecture. Other medical specialties (i.e. Radiology) sometimes teach Rehabilitation, as this discipline is included also in their teaching programs. Overall, UTP (usually 6–10 h of lesson, where available) are very variable: e.g., in Complutense University (Madrid) and in Canarias PRM programmes are compulsory, whereas in Santiago de Compostela and Autonoma de Madrid they are optional and elsewhere they don't exist. Where PRM is taught, students have usually both theoretical and practical lessons, including stays in a PRM unit. In Hospital Clínico de Madrid (linked with Complutense), all teaching is done by PRM doctors. Postgraduate Teaching and Training Programmes (PTTP) in Spain begin after a National Exam and in PRM they last 4 years. Usually, the 1st year is organized in different clinical units (e.g., Orthopaedics: 6 months; Neurology: 6 months; Radiology: 1 month; Internal Medicine: 6 months; etc.). The following 3 years, the trainees stay in a PRM Department, but they are allowed to visit 'external' facilities (also abroad) for 2 months per year. The 'Hospital Nacional de Paraplégicos' in Toledo represents an almost universal stage. During these 'external' visits, the trainee receive a reduced salary. During the 4 years the trainees are on duty about 4 days per month: most trainees in trauma units, some in internal medicine, very few in PRM departments. During this period, courses for the theoretical programme are organized at local level, but there are some official courses that are mainly taught by PRM doctors. Textbooks are mainly translations of foreign books, but now some Spanish textbooks begin to be included. International PRM Journals are not broadly read. Some Universities are starting to include lessons in Evidence-Based Medicine and Research. The Congress of the National PRM Society have only a 'small' fee reduction for trainees. An important recent advance is the creation of APUMEFYR (National Association of University Professors in PRM; President: dr. Santos del Riego), to promote PRM within the frame of undergraduate and postgraduate teaching, and to defend our speciality when it is required, from other disciplines (e.g. Physiotherapy).

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HIGHER EDUCATION PROVIDED BY ITALIAN UNIVERSITY FOR MEDICAL DOCTORS AND REHABILITATION PROFESSIONALS

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Education of physiatrists and other rehabilitation professionals takes place in many Italian Universities and the number of students