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Incoming President of the European Federation of Organizations for Medical Physics editorial

Since the onset of the federation, EFOMP has a mission to improve and harmonize the educational and professional status of its 10,000 members in 36 National Member Organisations (NMOs), having as core objectives Communication, Intergration and Education [1]. Working together, we accomplished tackling critical challenges, the greatest being during the 2020–2023, the coronavirus pandemic, the war in Ukraine and rising inflation across the Eurozone. They affected the provision of Medical Physics services, education and training opportunities, cross border mobility. The above challenges made us build resilience, develop new pathways, show solidarity with our colleagues, embrace the digital transformation, adapt work practices and identify solutions, remain united and join forces with European and International Organisations.

The key priorities and sustainability goals for the coming year and beyond are summarized in the Strategic Agenda.

The Strategic Agenda (2024–2026)

A. Common Training Framework

EFOMP recognises the fundamental role of Medical Physics Experts (MPEs) in assuring quality and safety for the patients, workers, care givers and general public in clinical, academic, research and industry organisations [2]. The range of medical practices expands far beyond the use of ionising and non-ionising based imaging and treatment, whilst the Medical Physics Healthcare Professional has a fundamental role in other areas such as advanced physiological measurements, artificial intelligence, clinical trials, data management and protection, medical devices life cycle. Europe is composed of many countries, with diverse cultures, demographics, medical practices, health infrastructures, economies and educational programmes thus the road to harmonisation often comes with challenges.

To transform challenges into solutions:

1. Increase the number of EFOMP accredited National Registration Schemes which establishes a Common Platform for training, educational standards, national registration and continuous professional development for the Medical Physics profession. Help countries that face specific challenges in implementing training and residency accredited programmes in collaboration with the European Board for Accreditation in Medical Physics (EBAMP).
2. Work towards a Common European Core Curriculum (CC) for MPEs with a multidisciplinary approach to combine the three existing ones: radiotherapy CC (already revised) [3], nuclear medicine CC (under revision) and radiology CC (to be revised) and incorporate curricular guidelines developed by EFOMP Working Groups in

subfields such as artificial intelligence and clinical trials as well as common policies in magnetic resonance, medical devices, physiological measurements, lasers and ultrasound.

3. Target the EFOMP School for Medical Physics Experts courses to existing and novel areas of scientific and research interest, educational and training space in the context of Medical Physics clinical practice in order to achieve harmonisation of the knowledge, skills and competences.

B. Automatic recognition by the European Union (EU) of the Medical Physics Expert (MPE) profession

Harmonised minimum training requirements is the key element for the submission to EU along with the proof that the current system creates economical barriers. A successful submission sets a general system for the recognition of evidence of training, automatic recognition of professional experience and allows free mobility of MPEs within the Member States while ensuring a more efficient and transparent recognition of professional qualifications. This will also act as a foundation for such recognition outside the EU. A critical number of states already achieved the EFOMP standard and these will form the basis in the EU recognition of professional qualifications and interstate recognition under EU directives 05/36 and 13/55 [4].

To pursue this goal:

1. Prepare the submission by cross collaboration of the EFOMP Advisory Committees (mainly Professional Matters, European & International Matters, Projects, Education & Training) while gaining insight and support from the NMOs.
2. Raise EFOMP's organizational profile among key decision makers, affiliated societies, patient communities and manufacturers in Europe to advocate the role of Medical Physics to a high quality patient centric and community care, global health improvement and economic growth.
3. Organise leadership courses following a multidisciplinary and multiorganisational approach, including leading international policy makers to foster transformation and collective learning, deepen existing and new skillsets and competences and create networking opportunities.

C. Sustainability Roadmap

EFOMP recognizes that increasing the number of highly skilled trained professionals throughout our Member Organisations will be key for a sustainable and equitable future. This must go together with

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actions to address needs related to prevention, diagnosis, treatment of health problems thus improve patient health and quality of life, reduce inequalities of care within and among countries, provide decentralized expertise to make good medical physics practices accessible for everyone, contribute in preserving resources, developing expertise in the nuclear fields and minimizing environmental impact.

To build a sustainable model aligned with the 2030 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) [5]:

1. Expand the current educational and training platform to include synchronous, asynchronous, combined courses accredited by the EBAMP making knowledge easily accessible remotely to anyone and promote lifelong learning opportunities for different levels of education in various subfields of medical physics. It will be within our goals to offer equal chances for training to the whole Medical Physics workforce, thus make the platform available for use by our National Members to include courses in their own language. Interconnection of the EFOMP platform with existing national platforms will increase visibility of their educational content and access by communities speaking the same language. Examinations can be delivered via the educational platform as a qualification evidence of a common training level and expertise.
2. Develop a website based volunteering portal. EFOMP will take advantage of the experience of past officers, committees, working groups, national boards members which was collected during their term of office to help current and future leadership in providing direction in complex situations that may arise and ensure continuity. The platform will also gather medical physics volunteers willing to devote some of their free time to the medical physics and healthcare community work in order to achieve a broader representation worldwide and assist tackling health challenges, strengthening the radiological protection system and drive solutions for a sustainable future.
3. Empower the existing Special Interest Groups of EFOMP (Radionuclide Dosimetry & Early Careers), launch new ones in areas such as Particle Therapy, Dental Imaging, Artificial Intelligence, Magnetic Resonance Imaging. These supporting structures are vivid communities of professional experts in specific fields which they produce educational webinars, schools, scientific publications, policy statements, guidelines, congress tracks and participate in projects. Especially for European projects, SIGs can serve as incubation spaces for research, collaborations and networking and eventually lead the construction of projects. EFOMP will continue to be present as a partner in projects that are going to shape future EU policies concerning our profession, support the development of sustainable vocational education and training, exchanges in scientific and clinical research to improve human health and combat the impact of environmental crisis to our health systems.
4. Reduce the environmental footprint of the European Congress of Medical Physics (ECMP), EFOMP Schools for Medical Physics Experts (ESMPE) and Symposia. We already provide hybrid editions for all our Schools. For the onsite events we will encourage the choice of ecological friendly venues and hotels, optimize travel journey, manage waste, reduce packaging or if needed use biodegradable, reusable products, choose digital solutions and include green awareness sessions in their programmes. Congresses will offset their carbon footprint impact by supporting climate sustainable projects and awards will be attributed to this participants who take the most sustainable routes to the venues. A Permanent Congress Organisation structure will assist in achieving the goals above and make administration more efficient.
5. Keep the attendance fees for all EFOMP educational activities low and increase the number of participants from countries with lower economies in order to give equal opportunities to significant number of colleagues to get trained and transfer knowledge and expertise back to their regions and countries thus contributing to diagnosis and treatment of patients and advancement of the national health care and protection of human health.
6. Enhance the Memoranda of Understanding and Practical Agreements with professional networks, regulatory authorities, scientific institutions, industry and patient communities, unite with these organisations to address societal, economic and environmental challenges, foster partnerships on radiation safety legislations, exchange scientific and technical knowledge on the impact of the healthcare practices to the climate change and vice versa, hence contribute to planetary health. Support the Europe's Beating Cancer plan and global coordinated efforts that will contribute to the UNSDGs: good health and well - being, quality education, decent work and economic growth, reduced inequalities, industry and innovation, climate action.
7. Increase the use of digital tools for regular online virtual leadership meetings and educational events. Organise in person meetings with international organisations, networks, stakeholders during our main event, the European Congress of Medical Physics and ultimately minimize our carbon footprint.
8. Increase the number of open access science publications at the European Journal of Medical Physics which ensures inclusive and equitable education for all. Invite submissions of articles for sustainable practices, research, technological innovations and advancements, scientific solutions to address the environmental crisis in all medical subfields.
9. Support regional meetings organized by NMOs which gather the whole Medical Physics community by planning educational courses to reduce inequalities of training between member countries and regions and deliver knowledge and specialism to the four corners of Europe. Support Medical Physics training programmes for young physics graduates from low and medium income countries worldwide.
10. Engage the younger audience in the communications and publications tools of EFOMP (website, social media, newsletter) by refreshing the current platforms and include discussion topics such as physical and mental wellbeing, work - family life balance, cross border mobility, job opportunities, mentorship, academic expectations, ethical principles. Raise awareness of the Medical Physics profession to a wider audience and attract students to pursue this field of studies.

The sustainability model will be strengthened by creating sustainability roles within EFOMP supporting and administrative structures. Some members can originate from the Early Career Special Interest Group, thus the new generation will get acquainted with EFOMP's work, provide fresh ideas, amplify their voice, set ambitious targets, share their expectations and concerns, have an active role in decision making and build democratic spaces. Being part of these structures offers them opportunities of growth, learning, volunteering and mentorship, strengthens their identity, guides them to become the Medical Physics ambassadors and future leaders. The sustainability people will suggest and oversee all actions that will respond to the UNSDGs.

I would like to close this editorial by thanking all NMOs boards and delegates who have supported my candidacy. My gratitude to the EFOMP Presidents and Officers who have been a valuable source of inspiration and guidance to me the past 7 years, whom I will continue to pursue their goals and ambitions. Lastly, but not least my gratification to the Company and Individual Associate Members with whom I have closely worked with, along with the Medical Physicists who I met these past years for their encouragement and warm welcome as the President. Having a clear, shared vision and working all together we will embark on new adventures which may come with challenges and uncertainties. We are confident that obstacles can be overcome with a positive

outcome for our profession, patients, staff, societies and planet.

As you set out for Ithaka [6].
 hope your road is a long one,
 full of adventure, full of discovery.
 Laistrygonians, Cyclops,
 angry Poseidon—don't be afraid of them:
 you'll never find things like that on your way.
 as long as you keep your thoughts raised high,
 as long as a rare excitement.
 stirs your spirit and your body.
 Laistrygonians, Cyclops,
 wild Poseidon—you won't encounter them.
 unless you bring them along inside your soul,
 unless your soul sets them up in front of you.

 Ithaka gave you the marvelous journey.
 Without her you wouldn't have set out.
 She has nothing left to give you now.
 And if you find her poor, Ithaka won't have fooled you.
 Wise as you will have become, so full of experience,

you'll have understood by then what these Ithakas mean.

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