



# Towards an European Accreditation System

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The European Heart Rhythm Association  
[www.escardio.org/EHRA](http://www.escardio.org/EHRA)



# Accreditation

- Making something credible or proving its certitude
- It is:
  - Voluntary
  - Motivational
  - Aims at improvement of quality

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# Why do we need EP Accred?

- Enormous development and sophistication of electrophysiology
  - Patient protection
  - Professional recognition
- Quality control and excellence

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# European Experiences

- French
- Spanish
- Polish
- Italian

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# Why do we need *EUROPEAN* EP Accreditation?

- Enormous development and sophistication of electrophysiology
  - Patient protection
  - Professional recognition
- Quality control and excellence
- *Homogeneous training within Europe*
  - *Mutual recognition*
  - *Easy professional circulation*

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- European Heart Rhythm Association (2003)
  - Project to certificate and endorse professional excellence
  - Similar to the HRS & ABIM system but in Europe

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# Accreditation Task Force 2003

Chair: J Brugada (ES)

Cochair: JL Merino (ES)

- P Adragao (PO)
- E Aliot (FR)
- H Huikuri (FL)
- M Schalij (NL)

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# Accreditation

- Accredited Subspecialties
  - Invasive Cardiac Electrophysiology
  - Cardiac Pacing (PM / ICD)

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# Requisites

- Cardiology specialist official certification
- Written Examination
- EP / Device practicing experience  
*100 EP Dx + 100 Abl (in 3 years)*  
*100 PM/ICDs*

# Cardiology specialist official title

- Issued by a National Authority  
*Recognized by the UEMS*
- Officially Certified photocopy  
plus National Society of Cardiology ratification

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# Examination

- 120 test questions + 10 backup questions
  - 5 choice – only 1 valid
- Divided in 2 parts of 3 hours
- Practical cases and EP-ECG tracings

# EP /Device experience

- National Society of Cardiology ratification
- Audits:
  - All procedures reported
  - 10% of applicants
  - Carried out by:
    - Quality Certification Company (1 auditor)
    - Local EHRA representative (1 auditor)

- Cardiac Invasive Electrophysiology
- Cardiac Pacing
- Interventional Cardiology
- Nuclear Cardiology
- Cardiac Magnetic Resonance
- Acute Coronary Care
- Echocardiography

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## 2004: Joint venture of the:

- European Society of Cardiology
- European Union of Medical Specialists



European Board for the Specialty of Cardiology (EBSC)

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# Subspeciality in Cardiology

- Field of knowledge and skills in a specific sector of the speciality in cardiology that:
  - A) goes beyond the basic requirements to become a cardiologist
  - B) is acknowledged by the experts and by the ESC and UEMS as a field of subspecialization
  - C) follows the general speciality cardiology training
  - D) requires specific additional knowledge and training

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# The EBSC Taskforce For Sub-specialty Accreditation

## **[The role/mission of the TF:**

The role of the Coordination Task Force will be twofold:

- To define and promote (minimum) sub-specialty accreditation standards, requirements and procedures;

*EBSC Coordination Taskforce for Subspecialty Accreditation  
Draft*

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- To advise the EBSC on the development and status of sub-specialty accreditation, and contribute to the overall coherence of accreditation within the specialty of cardiology

## **Structure:**

Until now five sub-specialties will be represented in the Coordination Taskforce:

- Echocardiography (European Association of Echocardiography, EAE)
- Electrophysiology (European Heart Rhythm Association, EHRA)
- Interventional Cardiology (ESC WG 10)
- Nuclear Cardiology (ESC WG 5)
- Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance (ESC WG 26)

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# Subspecialty accreditation

- Training: established approved programme in a recognised institution by a qualified teacher
  - Training curriculum (educational process) and syllabus (subject matters)
  - Trainees: cardiologists
  - Training centers: recognised in quality standards and minimal volume, research
  - Trainers: documented experience

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# The EBSC Taskforce For Sub-specialty Accreditation


- Subspecialty requirements:
  - Certified Cardiologist
  - Exam
  - Log-Book (procedures)

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## » My Accreditation

### Welcome to My Accreditation

From this area, you have the possibility to directly access the Enrolment Form, to complete it online and to apply for at least one of the following written Accreditation exams:

- **EAE: Accreditation in Adult Transesophageal Echocardiography (TEE)**  
27 May 2006 and 8 December 2006
- **EAE: Accreditation in Adult Transthoracic Echocardiography (TTE)**  
6 September and 8 December 2006
- **EAE: Accreditation in Congenital Heart Disease Echocardiography (CHD)**  
7 December 2006
- **EHRA: Accreditation in Cardiac Pacing (CP)**  
2 September 2006
- **EHRA: Accreditation in Invasive Cardiac Electrophysiology (EP)**  
6 September 2006

Candidates are kindly requested to enrol for the exam/s at least one month before the written assessment

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# HR Accreditation Committee 2006

Chair: JL Merino (ES)

Vicechair: C Linde (SE)

- E Aliot (FR)
- F Arribas (ES)
- GL Botto (IT)
- LI Krämer (DE)
- P Ritter (FR)
- M Schalijs (NL)
- E Simantirakis (GR)
- C Wolpert (DE)
- H Huikuri (FL) - UEMS Representative

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## *National delegates*

- Information & promotion (National Societies & WGs)

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*National delegates.  
Advantages of an European system*

- The system is ready, well developed and tested
- Can be applied to any national need
- National societies have a role in the system
- Parts of the existing systems can be recognised