

# External Meeting Report - Deans Meeting: Training Future-Proof Doctors for the Digital Society

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## Short Summary

European Health Policy Director Lina Mosch represented EMSA at the Deans Meeting “Training Future-Proof Doctors for the Digital Society” on 12 April 2019 in Rotterdam, The Netherlands. The meeting was organized by the European Commission and Erasmus MC Rotterdam and gathered deans, medical education directors and student representatives from 25 EU countries to discuss about the implementation of digital health in medical education. Together with digital health entrepreneurs, representatives from professional organizations and the European Commission we drafted four joint principles and recommendations for action to advance digital health skills and knowledge among European future doctors.

## Background of Meeting

EMSA has been invited by the organizers from Erasmus MC in September 2018 to represent European medical students and give an input talk alongside the other professional organizations The Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME) and The European Junior Doctors Permanent Working Group (EJD). The aim of the meeting was to gather deans of one medical school per EU country to discuss and publish the joint principles and recommendations for action regarding the training and education of “future-proof doctors” in digital health. Each university should carry those principles back to their home countries and function as a lighthouse institution, inspiring other medical schools to bring forward medical education regarding digital health.

## Time and Venue

12 April 2019, Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

## Participants at Meeting

Around 95 participants (deans, medical education directors and student representatives from medical universities of 25 EU countries, representatives of professional organizations: EMSA, EJD, CPME; digital health innovators, Dutch ministry of health, European Commission)



EMSA Health Policy Director Lina Mosch with Student representatives at the Deans Meeting

## Content of Meeting

The meeting gathered representatives from universities of 25 EU countries to discuss ways of how to implement digital health into medical education and come up with an action plan on how to tackle this challenge in Europe. The universities shall function as lighthouses in their home countries and push forward innovations in digital health in medical education.

[Agenda of the meeting](#)

### Break out sessions

In the 4 break-out sessions, the groups discussed the joint principles

#### Break-out session 1

- emphasized the need for an introduction to digital health
- Data management and evidence based medicine should be part of the curricula
- include digital skills *and knowledge* - future doctors need to understand the basic operating principles of technologies
- resources have to be allocated to the implementation of digital health into the medical training
- ethical aspects of digital health have to be an important part of medical education

#### Break-out session 2

We discussed specific actions to be done and ways of how to approach them.

#### EMSA input:

- Continuous research and assessment of the impact of the training on personal, programme, organisational and health care system level / Perform research on the performance of the education and training methods
- Allocate resources to digital health education (financial, human)
- Create a platform for European digital health training programmes
- Exchange good examples (e.g. national platform in Finland that will be piloted)
- Implement European funding calls specifically to develop training (competition)

*My conclusion after the break-out sessions:* There is still a long way to go and the status quo of implementation of digital health in medical education as well as the willingness to drive it forward varies considerably among the deans but also students of different EU countries. It was very necessary and valuable that an exchange of positions and a consensus on the principles and recommendations was achieved.

### Afternoon plenary

After the 4 parallel breakout-sessions, the outcomes have been wrapped up by the chairs and note-takers of the sessions and the final joint principles and recommendations for action have been shared with the participants:

## 1. To advance digital knowledge, skills and competences as a new core component of training for future and current doctors

### WHAT:

- Update educational programmes
- Understand knowledge limitations
- Changing didactics

### HOW:

- Timely integration into curricula
- Develop cross-disciplinary communication skills
- Student-centered education

## 2. To embed in co-creation training for future and current doctors in institutional digitalisation strategies and policies

### WHAT:

- Medical training high on digitalisation agenda
- Continuous impact assessment of training
- Combine theory with practice

### HOW:

- Collaboration with different stakeholders
- Monitoring impact at all levels
- Co-creation courses with stakeholders

## 3. To promote innovative structures and networks to create diversity in digital skills training for medical doctors

### WHAT:

- Capacity building
- Technology for teaching
- Peer-to-peer learning and best-practices exchange

### HOW:

- Funding for training
- Creation of learning environment
- Platforms to be developed

## 4. To increase interoperability and mobility for medical students, doctors, patients and data

### WHAT:

- Interdisciplinary common training platforms
- Inter-sectoral training
- Tackle global digital health inequalities
- Uniform standards

### HOW:

- Minimum digital health competency set according to shared principles
- Creation of digital innovation hubs
- Recognition and funding
- Legal and regulatory frameworks

## Follow-Up:

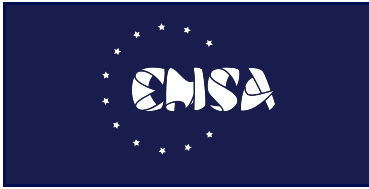
The meeting was very fruitful and great for networking purposes. Especially the organizers (Erasmus MC Rotterdam) are keen to continue meetings like this one to further refine and recommit to the published principles.

## Finances

Participation was free. Travel and accommodation costs were covered by the European Commission.

## External meeting representation checklist

External meetings: Representation Checklist			
(please copy this checklist once filled to your external meeting report to the relevant section)			
Name of the representative:	Lina Mosch		
Name of the external meeting:	Deans Meeting: Training Future-Proof Doctors for the Digital Society		
Date of the meeting:	12 April 2019		
Location of the meeting:	Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands		
Checklist	Done/Not Done	Explanation if Not Done	Comment
Preparation for the meeting: relevant policy papers read, consulted with Director/other EEB member if needed	Done		
Preparation for the meeting: previous external meeting reports read (at least for the previous 2 years)	Not Done	There is None	
Preparation for the meeting: Input asked from members and EEB members	Partly Done	Asked for input in the ESD for eHealth, due to illness and my internship in Canada I did not reach out to members.	
At the meeting: PR measures taken (use of EMSA social media channels)	Done		I did an Instagram campaign with the students' representatives and their statements for digital health in medical education - recommend to do similar actions when you have the chance!



After the meeting: Policy follow up sheet is updated	Done		
After the meeting: External partners sheet is updated	Done		

## Conclusions

EMSA's participation in the Deans Meeting "Training Future-Proof Doctors for the Digital Society" was highly beneficial. On the one hand, it was a very productive and outcome-oriented meeting and I hope there will be follow-up meetings / a platform to exchange best practices will be implemented as a consequence of this meeting. On the other hand, I got a lot of positive feedback for my presentation from the organizers, the invited keynote speakers, deans but also the student representatives. The tenor was that the EMSA presentation was very valuable to set the scene and shed light on the needs of students in this process and our concrete calls to action were needed to refine the vision of where we should head. The meeting considerably increased EMSA's visibility and credibility as the voice of medical students in Europe. Further, I got approached by several student representatives that wanted to know how to join EMSA.

I highly recommend EMSA to stay tuned about the follow up actions and possible next meetings and, if possible, attend them. Also, the EMSA eHealth survey proved once again the value of the evidence we can gather through our members network.

If you have any questions regarding the event please do not hesitate to contact me!

Lina Mosch

European Health Policy Director 2018/19

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