

EBCOG

Who We Are

**European Board & College
of Obstetrics and
Gynaecology**





EBCOG

European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology



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EBCOG History

EBCOG was created in 1996 as the result of a fusion between the European Board of Gynaecology and Obstetrics (EBGO) and the European College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (ECOG). EBCOG is the Board of the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Section of UEMS. The statutory purpose of UEMS is to harmonise and improve the quality of medical specialist practice in the European Union (EU). Education is a key element in this field, and UEMS has been pursuing the formulation of a common policy in the field of training for many years. EBCOG's aim is to improve the health of women and unborn and new-born babies by promoting the highest possible standards of care in Obstetrics and Gynecology. EBCOG's core activities are education and training. We work with subspecialties, special interest societies, trainees and European interest groups to achieve this. We work and support European trainees' organisation, ENTOG, and offer fellowships to trainees to improve their knowledge and skills and broaden horizons by visiting advanced centres in Europe.

For more information on the history of EBCOG, please visit: <https://ebcog.eu/about/>

EBCOG Structure

The EBCOG Council is made up of two national delegates from each of our 33 member countries. National delegates are members of both EBCOG, and the UEMS Section of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Councils. Current EBCOG Council meetings are joint meetings of the EBCOG and Section.

EBCOG has four Officers, (President, President-Elect, Secretary-General and Treasurer) and an Executive Committee. Subscription fees are payable annually and are calculated according to the UEMS 'key'. As of January 1st 2025 there are 33 full member countries and 1 observer country represented on our Council: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel (Observer), Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, The Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia*, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine, and United Kingdom. Serbia was ratified to join Council as a Member in December 2024. *The membership of Russia is currently suspended.

In addition, we also work closely with the four subspecialist societies: maternal-foetal medicine (EAPM, the European Association of Perinatal Medicine), gynaecological oncology (ESGO, the European Society of Gynaecological Oncology), reproductive medicine (ESHRE, the European Society for Human Reproduction & Embryology), and urogynaecology (EUGA, the European Urogynaecology Association). EBCOG also works with other special interest organisations.



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EBCOG has a longstanding collaboration with the European Network of Trainees in Obstetrics and Gynecology (ENTOG).

Council

The EBCOG Council is the ratification-making body of EBCOG. Council members are nominated by their respective national societies to join EBCOG Council. There are up to two national delegates from each of our member countries. National delegates are members of both EBCOG and the UEMS Section of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Councils.

For more information on the current Member Countries and Representatives, please visit:
<https://ebcog.eu/council/>

Rights and responsibilities of Council members

Council members represent their national societies in EBCOG and also act as ambassadors of EBCOG and therefore Council members are encouraged to uphold and promote EBCOG's value at their respective national societies. Active participation in Council matters is encouraged.

Responsibilities of the National Delegate
Ensure an active communication channel between their respective societies and EBCOG: represent their national society at Council and EBCOG nationally
Ensure that EBCOG initiatives in education, training, hospital visiting and examinations are promoted at regional and national level events.
Promotion of EBCOG activities nationally e.g. the EBCOG Congress and EBCOG's news and publishing it through their national society website. Attendance of the congress is encouraged.
Update their contact information annually. *
Inform EBCOG when there is a change in representation. *

* This information should be shared with the Secretary-General and the Central Office.

Voting

There are different voting procedures in EBCOG. The most common form of voting is for Elections. The procedure for this will be outlined below; for all other election matters please reference the Constitution of EBCOG: <https://ebcog.eu/constitution/>

For the election of Officers and Executive Members ONLY, different countries will have different specified numbers of votes depending on their size and the number of constituents they represent. The number of votes will be determined by the repartition of the UEMS key.



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If a member country is in arrears of the annual subscription by more than twelve months from the end of the relevant year, that country will lose its right to vote on Council and to have candidates being elected for posts in EBCOG.

Executive Board

The EBCOG Executive Board is the decision-making body of EBCOG. The Executive Board is responsible for:

- The management of the affairs of EBCOG.
- The establishment of the yearly budget and the use to be made of the available funds.
- The submission to Council of proposals for the establishment of standing and ad hoc working groups necessary for the activities of EBCOG and for receiving the reports from these groups.
- The preparation of agendas for Council meetings.
- Ensuring that the Constitution and the By Laws are correctly adhered to.

The Executive Board is made up of the Officers of EBCOG and five National Delegates elected as members of the Executive Committee. There are four Regional Executives and one Pan-European Executive.

1. **Northern Region:** Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom
2. **Southern Region:** Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia, North Macedonia (Israel – Observer)
3. **Eastern Region:** Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Turkey, Ukraine
4. **Western Region:** Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, The Netherlands, Switzerland

It is recommended that an Executive serve as a Council member or as part of a Standing Committee/Working Group before applying for an Executive position.

The Chairs of the Standing Committees, subspeciality society representatives, and ENTOG president participate in Executive meetings as ex officio members.

For more information on the current Executive members, please visit:

<https://ebcog.eu/executive/>



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Rights and responsibilities of each Regional Executive

Responsibilities of the Regional Executive
Maintain contacts with the national societies of the region.
Develop a regional database of Council members with special skills/attributes who can be invited to serve on Standing Committees and Working Groups.
Discuss issues related to education, training, and implementation of standards of care of relevant national or international importance in their region.
Act as a main contact point of the region for research and audit activities initiated by the EBCOG Standing Committees and Working Groups.
Highlight country / regional issues by creating a brief written overview twice a year, sent to the Secretary-General with the Central Office in copy three weeks in advance of the meeting. This overview may be presented on the meetings annually.

The responsibilities of the Pan-European Executive member support the duties of the Officers.

Endorsements

Endorsement provides those who commission educational programmes or activities, as well as those engaging in learning, assurance that programmes offer relevant, significant and sustained quality learning. Such experiences develop depth of professional learning, knowledge, skills and understanding which ultimately impacts patient care and outcomes.

Council members are encouraged to request endorsement from the Secretary-General for the events of their national society or other relevant societies. When endorsement is agreed the course organisers may use the EBCOG logo and the event will be listed on the EBCOG website. When the course has prior approval from UEMS EACCME program, both UEMS and EBCOG logos may be used.

The full endorsement policy can be viewed [here](#).

Officers

There are four Officers. Officers are elected by the Council.

Rights and responsibilities of each Officer

1. **President:** The President represents the federation in Europe and beyond and advocates women's health. He/she provides strategic leadership and chairs the Council and the Executive Committee.



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2. **President-Elect:** The President-Elect assists the President in his/her work and at the request of the President takes responsibility of delegated operational and strategic work. He/she uses his/her time on the Council prior to assuming the Presidency to prepare for assuming the Presidential role.
3. **Secretary-General:** The Secretary-General is responsible for the constitutional matters of EBCOG and accordingly advises the President. He/she is also responsible for conduction of Executive and Officers' election and ensures that the process is fair and transparent.
4. **Treasurer:** The Treasurer is responsible for ensuring financial governance in respect to revenue and expenses. He/she may advise the President on financial expenditure and maintain regular contact with UEMS to comply with Belgian law.

The Officers meet on a regular basis to discuss urgent matters which needs to be resolved as a priority, rather than waiting for the meetings of the executive and council.

The Officers sets the agenda for the Council and Executive meetings. Based on the written report provided by the Executives, Chair of Committees and contemporary issues, the Officer group will decide the agenda items for discussion in the Council. The Officers are responsible for presenting their reports during Executive and Council meetings.

Elections

In addition to the member countries, each Officer and each elected Executive member has full voting rights. The Chairs of the Standing Committees also have full voting rights. EBCOG recognises four subspeciality organisations - EAPM, ESHRE, ESGO, EUGA, which each have the right to nominate a delegate who shall have a substantive vote. The European Network of Trainees in Obstetrics and Gynaecology (ENTOG) has the right to nominate an O & G delegate who shall have a substantive vote.

Voting is confidential and elections are by simple majority.

Any Officer of EBCOG must have been an elected member of the Executive or a national representative to the Council or have worked for EBCOG as a member of a Standing Committee. The Candidate should come from a country that is a full member of UEMS. All nomination(s) must be supported by their national society and submitted to the Secretary-General of EBCOG. For all positions nominations must be in the hands of the Secretary-General three months before the election. The term of Officers and Executive members is three years.

All Standing Committee posts are nominated by the Officers, reviewed by the Executive, and approved by Council. Chairs have a term of three years.



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For the full election procedure, please refer to the Constitution of EBCOG:

<https://ebcog.eu/constitution/>

Committees

Standing Committees are a permanent structure designed to achieve the strategic and operational objectives of EBCOG. There are four Standing Committees:

1. Standing Committee on Examinations (SCE)
 - a. Since 2016, EBCOG has been conducting a final summative examination for specialty trainee doctors for the award of “European Fellowship in Obstetrics and Gynaecology – EFOG-EBCOG”. The exam consists of 2 parts – a written exam and an OSCE.
2. Standing Committee on Training and Assessment (SCTA)
 - a. The SCTA has produced the European Curriculum PACT I 2018 with revisions in 2024-25 and logbooks for both specialist and subspecialist training as well as recommendations for ‘Training the Trainers (TTT)’. EBCOG runs regular TTT courses. The implementation of a pan European curriculum will create a workforce with comparable skills and training to ensure patient safety.
3. Standing Committee on Training Recognition (SCTR)
 - a. To quality assure postgraduate training programmes in obstetrics & gynaecology in Europe at the highest possible standard in order to provide optimal care for women and the unborn babies. Organises and carries out visits to ensure the quality assurance of teaching and training and centre recognition for standards of training. Currently more than 200 training units in 23 countries have been accredited.
4. Standing Committee on Standards of Care and Position Statements (SCSCPS)
 - a. One important mission for EBCOG is to publish documents relating to Standards of Care. These cover several key areas related to obstetrics and gynaecology and Women’s Health. We aim to improve the health of women and unborn and newborn babies by promoting the highest possible standards of care.

For more information on the current Committee Chairs and members, please visit:

<https://ebcog.eu/committees/>

The Chair of the Committee is responsible for producing an annual report of their work and reports to the Officers. The Committee Chairs are appointed by the President and the term is usually for a maximum of 6 years.

How to join a committee



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Council members may wish to join a particular committee based on their specific area of interest. Depending on the availability they may be asked to produce a personal statement highlighting their area of interest. Membership is usually for the duration of three years. The Chair along with the President or his/her nominated deputy is responsible for selecting a member of the committee. In doing so he/she may take account of seniority and regional representation.

Working Groups

Working groups are formed to complete a defined task. There are three working groups at present:

1. Standards of Care
 - a. One important mission for EBCOG is to publish documents relating to Standards of Care. These cover several key areas related to obstetrics and gynaecology and Women's Health. As part of our focus on quality assurance and patient safety, EBCOG has produced two sets of Standards of Care for Women's Health; one for Obstetric and Neonatal Services and one for Gynaecology Services. These documents were officially launched in the European Parliament in November 2014. These documents are currently being updated to reflect current best practices by the working group.
2. Consortium of Evidence Review for Guideline Development in Obstetrics and Gynaecology (CERG-DOG)
 - a. CERG-DOG aims to promote the collaboration between national and international scientific societies in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, leading to the joint production of systematic reviews and grading of topics, which will result in the individual development of clinical guidelines by its member Societies.
3. Travelling Fellowship for doctors in training
 - a. EBCOG and ENTOG award three individual fellowships per year to trainees currently training in Europe. This allows them to spend a three-month period in a foreign training centre which has been recognised by EBCOG.

How to join a Working Group

Council members may wish to join a particular working group based on their specific area of interest. Depending on the availability they may be asked to produce a personal statement highlighting their area of interest. Membership is usually for the duration of a project. The Chair along with the President or his/her nominated deputy is responsible for selecting a member of the group. In doing so he/she may take account of seniority and regional representation.



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Subspecialties and Special Interest Societies

There are four subspecialty societies officially recognised by EBCOG.

1. European Association of Perinatal Medicine (EAPM)
2. European Society of Gynaecological Oncology (ESGO)
3. European Society for Human Reproduction & Embryology (ESHRE)
4. European Urogynaecology Association (EUGA)

Each have the right to nominate a delegate who shall have a substantive vote.

The European Network of Trainees in Obstetrics and Gynaecology (ENTOG) has the right to nominate an O & G delegate who shall have a substantive vote.

Information on their representatives to EBCOG can be found here: <https://ebcog.eu/executive/>

EBCOG has also developed close working relationships with other relevant special interest societies:

- European Society of Gynaecological Surgery (ESGE)
- European Association of Paediatric and Adolescent Gynaecology (EURAPAG)
- European Midwives Association (EMA)
- European Society of Contraception and Reproductive Health (ESCRH)
- European Federation for Colposcopy (EFC)
- International Society of Psychosomatic Obstetrics and Gynaecology (ISPOG)
- International Society for the Vulvovaginal Disease (ISSVD)

Questions? Please contact the Central Office at centraloffice@ebcog.eu



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Appendix

Glossary of Acronyms in alphabetical order

- CESMA – Council of European Specialists Medical Assessment
- CME – Continuing Medical Education
- COST – European Cooperation in Science and Technology
- CPD – Continuing Professional Development
- DG Grow – Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs
- EACCME – European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education
- EAPM – European Association of Perinatal Medicine
- EBCOG – European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology
- EDI – Equality, diversity, and inclusion
- EFC – European Federation for Colposcopy
- EFCNI – European Foundation for the Care of Newborn Infants
- EFOG – European Fellowship in Obstetrics and Gynaecology
- EJD – European Junior Doctors
- EJOG – European Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Reproductive Biology
- EMA – European Medicines Agency
- EMA – European Midwives Association
- EMAS – European Menopause and Andropause Society
- ENTOG – European Network of Trainees in Obstetrics and Gynaecology
- ESC(RH) – European Society of Contraception and Reproductive Health
- ESGE – European Society of Gynaecological Endoscopy
- ESGO – European Society of Gynaecological Oncology
- ESHRE – European Society for Human Reproduction and Embryology
- ESSM – European Society for Sexual Medicine
- ETR – European Training Requirement
- EU – European Union
- EUGA – European Urogynaecology Association
- EURAPAG – European Association of Paediatric and Adolescent Gynaecology
- FIGO – International Federation of Gynaecology and Obstetrics
- GESEA - Gynaecological Endoscopic Surgical Education and Assessment
- HOTs – Hands on Training Courses
- ICI – International Childbirth Initiative
- IPVS – International Papillomavirus Society
- ISOUG – International Society of Ultrasound in Obstetrics & Gynaecology



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- ISPOG – International Society of Psychosomatics in Obstetrics and Gynaecology
- ISSVD – International Society for the Study of Vulvovaginal Disease
- KBA – Knowledge Based Assessment
- MEPs – Members of the European Parliament
- MC – masterclass
- MJC – Multidisciplinary Joint Committee
- MoU – Memorandum of Understanding
- OSCE – Objective Structured Clinical Examinations
- PACT – Project for Achieving Consensus in Training
- PCO – Professional Congress Organizer
- PICO – Patient/Population/Problem, Intervention, Comparison, Outcome
- QAG – Quality Assurance Group
- RUD – Rare and Undiagnosed Diseases
- SCE – Standing Committee on Examinations
- SCSCPS – Standing Committee on Standards of Care and Position Statements
- SCTA – Standing Committee on Training and Assessment
- SCTR – Standing Committee on Training Recognition
- SRH – Sexual and Reproductive Health
- TF – Thematic Federation
- TTT – Training the Trainers
- TTV – Training the Visitors
- TWTE – Talk With The Experts
- UEMS – Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes / European Union of Medical Specialists
- UNFPA – United Nations Population Fund
- WATOG – World Association of Trainees in Obstetrics & Gynaecology
- WG – Working Group
- WHO – World Health Organization

Link to statutes

<https://ebcog.eu/constitution/>