

# Testimonies by colleagues who passed the European Assessment in Occupational Medicine

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*'Taking the UEMS-OM exam was a challenging opportunity to test and validate my expertise and experience in an all-round assessment. It was a most correct, very kind and fulfilling experience and a perfect moment for networking. I consider the certificate as an international acknowledgement to boost my career.'*

Dr. Frederik Coppens

Occupational Practitioner Liantis

Belgium (Flanders and Brussels)

*"The main motive for taking European Exam during my final year of residency was desire to challenge myself, estimate acquired knowledge and find out what more should I learn in order achieve full competencies in Occupational Medicine.*

*It took certain amount of will, focus, time and dedication to gain this mark of excellence, but it resulted with a sense of professional achievement and valuable addition to my CV. This journey was also a great opportunity to meet and spend time with colleagues from other countries, making it once-in-a-lifetime experience that I would highly recommend to everyone having doubts about applying."*

Karmen Bradvica-Kelava, MD

Specialist in Occupational and Sports Medicine

Croatia

*"Passing the European Postgraduate Assessment in Occupational Medicine is a significant personal achievement as it requires demonstrating proficiency in an international context. Preparation presents an excellent chance to enhance fundamental knowledge of occupational medicine and develop additional skills. Furthermore, passing the exam is also proof of active knowledge of the English language and professional terminology in the field of occupational medicine."*

Nastja Svetina, MD

specialist in occupational, traffic and sports medicine

Slovenia

*"In January 2020, I took part in the first European specialist exam in occupational medicine within the framework of UEMS. My colleagues and I are the first in our generation to take the exam and successfully pass it. Of course, a lot of effort had to be invested, intensive preparations started about two months before the scheduled date. However, the decision to take the European exam was one of the better ones. Thanks goes first and foremost to the UEMS President, who inspired us and encouraged us to take on the challenge. The European exam definitely confirmed that we can compete with our European colleagues in terms of knowledge, a reward for hard work during the entire specialization and an excellent journey on the further professional path."*

Niša Zupan, MD

specialist in occupational traffic and sports medicine

Slovenia

*"I fondly remember my experience with the European exam. I see several benefits of taking the European exam in occupational medicine, which I would like to highlight:*

*1: Recognition and Credibility: Successfully passing the European exam at an international level demonstrates the appropriate knowledge and skills in occupational medicine. This brings recognition and trust from colleagues, employers, and even employees.*

*2: Professional Development: The European exam for occupational medicine requires a lot of effort and time for preparation or study, resulting in enriched knowledge in the field.*

*3: Better Quality of Work: Successfully passing the European exam for occupational medicine contributes to better quality of work and care for patients (working population). With acquired knowledge and skills, I can better understand and address the health problems that employees experience in the workplace.*

*4: Opportunity to Work in an International Environment: The European exam for occupational medicine is valid in several countries throughout Europe. This means potential new opportunities for career and personal development.*

*5: Personal Triumph: In addition to everything mentioned above, perhaps the most important thing for me personally is that the exam represents a difficult but successfully accomplished task. Also, the experiences of hard study and fond memories that remain after successfully passing the exam forever bond us with colleagues who took the exam together."*

Petra Cestnik Čokl, MD

specialist in occupational, traffic and sports medicine

Slovenia

*“The exam covered topics ranging from occupational pathology and toxicology, fitness for work, health promotion, emergencies in occupational health, to European legislation, ethics in occupational medicine, finance and many others, which presented me with a great deal of difficulty and caused me quite a bit of stress in learning them all. The breadth of knowledge I gained by studying for the exam is an indispensable foundation when faced with everyday dilemmas in occupational and even traffic and sports medicine. In a broader context my experience with the exam consists of long hours of study, solving problems with my fellow co-participants, deepening existing friendships and forming new (international) alliances. I can not belittle the fact that the exam in my country is recognized as the theoretical part of the national specialist exam in occupational medicine.”*

Viktor Strauch, MD

graduating trainee of occupational, traffic and sport medicine

Slovenia

*“The successful completion of the European exam in October 2022 represents a significant milestone in my professional career. It confirms the knowledge and skills I have acquired so far in occupational medicine and motivates me to pursue further personal development in this field.*

*The exam’s success can be attributed to the years of education and training that I have received as a young doctor. In the months leading up to the exam, I underwent intensive directed preparation.*

*Additionally, participation in the exam provided an opportunity to establish new collegial relationships with foreign experts and strengthen existing ones.*

*I am grateful to the past UEMSOM President, who effectively conveyed the importance of the European exam and encouraged us to apply. I also extend my appreciation to the other UEMSA experts for their exceptional organization and preparation of the exam. I highly recommend this exam to colleagues who have yet to take it.”*

Ajda Erzar, MD

graduating trainee of occupational, traffic and sport medicine

Slovenia

*“I took part in the third European Assessment in Occupational Medicine in October 2022 in Brussels. The examination was perfectly coordinated and organized by the UEMS Occupational Medicine section. The exam itself is quite challenging as it requires a thorough understanding of all areas of competency in Occupational Medicine, as can be appreciated by the recommended literature, procedure, and European Training Requirements.*

*In my opinion, this is an invaluable experience that most, if not all, specialists would benefit from, first because it encourages to study and update the knowledge in an area of medicine*

*which is constantly evolving due to the ever-changing world of work. This is particularly true for those of us that are already working as Occupational Physicians in a specific occupational and productive sector, where routine daily practice on one hand reinforces our focus to that specific work environment, while limiting on the other our expertise solely to what we encounter directly. Furthermore, the presence of multinational companies and industries in our Region, often with operational branches and plants in neighbouring Countries, creates the need for awareness of European realities, with similarities and differences between Countries, both from a legislative and a medical practice standpoint. In this regard, the Assessment presents also a unique venue for meeting and confronting with colleagues from other Nations.*

*From this perspective, the European Assessment can be seen as a benchmark for those Occupational Physicians who want to enhance their professional competencies and skills, while at the same time creating the opportunity of linking Specialists between different Countries.”*

Dr. Alborz Rahmani

Specialist in Occupational Medicine

Italy