



European
Young
Family
Doctors'
Movement

The European Young Family Doctors' Movement

*European Young Doctors Movement of the
World Family Doctors Organisation (WONCA)*

BYLAWS

Accepted by EYFDM Council on 30.01.2026

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ARTICLE 1: NAME AND DEFINITION

1. The official name of the organization is 'The European Young Family Doctors' Movement' (EYFDM). This name was selected by online Council voting in May 2022
2. EYFDM is the European network for 'New and Future General Practitioners / Family Physicians' (NFGPs / FPs) under the aegis of WONCA Europe (European Region of the World Organization of Family Doctors).
3. The official logo of the Organization is displayed at the head of the EYFDM Bylaws and consists of intertwined gradient colored lines, representing youthness, innovation, sharing, connectedness, unity, equality, diversity and inclusivity. The designation European Young Family Doctors' Movement is to the right. There are other accepted versions of the logo to be used according to the needs in the Logobook.
 - 3.1. Only the following individuals may use the EYFDM logo for promotion of EYFDM in their respective countries:
 - EYFDM Executive Members.
 - EYFDM Council Members.
 - EYFDM National and Regional Exchange Coordinators for Hippokrates.
4. The name of EYFDM shall only be utilized by a national organization of NFGP / FM after acceptance from the EYFDM Executive. The organisation shall apply for the possibility to use the EYFDM name by sending a request to the EYFDM Executive. A reply regarding the acceptance or denial of the request shall be sent out in a delay of maximum two months after receipt of the request. All NMO members of WONCA for that country should be included in this organisation. If there are changes to the WONCA associate members, these changes should be reflected within 6 months of communication to EYFDM. Movements of specific national organizations are encouraged to develop their own names. Executive and council reserve the right to revoke use of the EYFDM name in exceptional circumstances.
5. The email address of EYFDM is info@eyfdm.eu.
6. The official language of EYFDM is English. All publications shall be in English and all meetings shall be conducted in English.
7. The EYFDM is governed by the Articles of Association as submitted to the Netherlands Chamber of Commerce. These articles are the primary governance document of this movement and supersede the by-laws in any dispute.

ARTICLE 2: MEMBERSHIP

1. EYFDM is a network of New and Future General Practitioners / Family Physicians and welcomes participation of anyone who wishes to be involved.

2. New and Future General Practitioners/Family Physicians (NFGPs / FPs) are defined as those who are currently undertaking or within 5 years of completion of specialist training in General Practice/Family Medicine. No age restriction is applied to this definition. For countries where there is no residency programme in family medicine, primary care doctors in their first eight years of practice may participate in EYFDM activities.

3. A member of EYFDM is defined as any New and Future General Practitioner/ Family Physician (NFGP/FP) who is a registered member of a National Member Organization within WONCA Europe.

4. There are no membership fees or dues for those NFGPs / FPs participating in EYFDM. Membership fees are paid to WONCA World by National Member Organizations. An annual grant is provided to EYFDM by WONCA Europe.

5. Only those who are within five years of completion of specialist training (from the date of awarding of a certificate of specialisation by the appropriate national awarding body) are eligible to participate in Hippokrates exchanges, enter the EYFDM Junior Research Award, apply for EYFDM Bursaries or Awards, and avail of any other similar material benefits as may be determined from time to time by the EYFDM Executive. The date of awarding of any benefit is the date on which the calculation of five year eligibility shall take place.

ARTICLE 3: PURPOSE

1. The vision of EYFDM:

1.1. EYFDM envisions a world where New and future General Practitioners and Family Physicians are empowered, connected, supported and heard; where the profession of Family Medicine is innovative, influential & academically robust; where family doctors and our speciality are recognised and respected as an essential component of Primary Care, sustainable health systems and achieving health for all.

2. The mission statement of EYFDM:

2.1. *Purpose:* EYFDM aims to promote the profession of Family Medicine and the voice of European new and future General Practitioners and Family Physicians, expanding their opportunities in education, research, policy, leadership and international collaboration.

2.2. *Activities:* We do this through advocacy, representation and the development of relationships, networks, exchanges and events at national and international levels.

2.3. *Values:* EYFDM believes that new and future General Practitioners and Family Physicians have an unique insight and vital role to play in achieving equitable health for all, today as much as for tomorrow.

3. The aims of EYFDM are to:

- 3.1. Provide opportunities for all European NFGPs / FPs to meet, learn from each other, and gain collegiate support.
- 3.2. Be the voice of European NFGPs / FPs.
- 3.3. Improve education and research opportunities for NFGPs / FPs in Europe.
- 3.4. Promote the discipline of general practice / family medicine (GP/FM) and to enhance the position of NFGPs / FPs in the medical world.

4. The objectives of EYFDM are to:

4.1. Organize or co-organize meetings including:

- A EYFDM Preconference meeting which takes place immediately prior to each WONCA Europe regional conference.
- An annual EYFDM Forum.

4.2. Provide a communications framework to support European NFGPs / FPs with the purposes of:

- Facilitating the identification of their concerns, doubts and needs.
- Helping address those identified concerns, doubts and needs.

4.3. Publish newsletters and other articles and materials in various media formats about EYFDM.

4.4. Collaborate with:

- National Colleges and Associations of GP/FM.
- International GP / FM organizations.
- Student organizations.

4.5. Promote, encourage and facilitate the formation of national representative structures for NFGPs/FPs.

4.6. Raise the profile of EYFDM and be represented at international meetings.

4.7. Evaluate and encourage improvement in quality standards and the overall quality of training programmes for GP/FM.

4.8. Gather and disseminate information on training programmes, research opportunities and other activities for NFGPs/FPs.

ARTICLE 4: COUNCIL

1. General Powers and Responsibilities

The EYFDM Council is the governing body of EYFDM. It makes decisions about strategy, policy and Bylaws. It also gives direction to the Executive and holds it accountable for acting in the best interests of EYFDM.

2. Composition

• Voting Members of Council

2.1. Each country shall have one (1) vote at Council.

2.2. The Voting Members of Council shall consist of one (1) delegate per full member organisation of WONCA Europe. The National Delegates represent the young doctors who are members of the national organization(s). Where the Articles of Association refer to Delegates, this refers to National Delegates as defined here.

2.3. Each country will have a board of delegates. This board will bring together delegates of full and associate Member Organizations in WONCA Europe. The delegates are appointed or elected by the respective Member Organization(s). Where more than one (>1) National Member Organization is present in a country, the delegates for these member organisations will need to discuss and agree on votes in council. The board would need to agree on a named country representative to vote at council meetings. The delegates from associate Member Organizations do not have a vote, however, they will still form part of their country's board and will, in the board be welcome to share their views on any discussions or upcoming council votes.

2.4. The National Member Organization (NMO) holds the autonomy to appoint the National Delegate according to the National Member Organization's terms of office. During the term of office, the National Delegate must be a part of the NMO and must be either a trainee or within their first five years of completing their family medicine training (exceptions can be made to this latter criteria for countries with very few EYFDM members). National Delegates must live and work within the country they represent. National Member Organizations are encouraged to respect EYFDM's preference for duration of terms in Article 6.1.

• Non-Voting Members of Council

2.5. The EYFDM Executive officers, EYFDM delegates from WONCA Europe associate Member Organizations, EYFDM appointed Liaisons to Networks and Collaborations and Leads of EYFDM Special Interest Groups may attend meetings of Council, and have the privileges of the floor, but shall not have the right to vote.

• Observers

2.6. Observers are welcome in Council meetings at the invitation of Executive or President:

- Official Observers
 - Executive members of WONCA World and WONCA Europe.
 - Chair, President, Convener or official representative of each WONCA Working Party, Young Doctors' Movement, Network, SIG, Committee and Organization in Collaborative Relations.
 - President or official representative of a Member Organization.
 - The Editor of any journal, newsletter or other regular publication produced under the auspices of WONCA.
- Other Observers
 - WONCA Individual Members at the discretion and invitation of EYFDM Executive.
 - Other individuals invited by the EYFDM Executive for part or whole meeting.

2.7. All observers to Council shall have, at the discretion of the chair of the meeting (usually the President), the privileges of the floor, but shall not have the right to vote.

ARTICLE 5: EXECUTIVE BOARD

1. General Powers and Responsibilities

The EYFDM Executive Board is the body tasked with day to day running of EYFDM and is charged with responsibility for:

- 1.1. Enacting decisions of the EYFDM Council.
- 1.2. Upholding the EYFDM Bylaws.
- 1.3. Fulfilling the aims and objectives of EYFDM including arranging and preparing Executive and Council meetings, supporting the local Host Organizing Committees (HOCs) of Pre-conferences and Forums, and ensuring that Special Interest Groups are supported and encouraged.
- 1.4. Engaging with external bodies in the interests of EYFDM.
- 1.5. Providing regular reports to the EYFDM Council.

2. Composition

- Core

2.1. The EYFDM Executive shall consist of:

- The President.
- A President Elect or Immediate Past President.
- The Secretary.
- The Treasurer.
- A maximum of six (6) other Members at Large to be defined in accordance with the needs of the organization, but which shall include at all times a EYFDM–Appointed Member at Large in the WONCA Europe Executive Board (EYFDM–WONCA Europe Liaison).
- Other non–voting members that the Executive may from time to time invite to join the Executive in an advisory capacity or in relation to managing meetings.

2.2. Members of the EYFDM Executive shall communicate with each other in a timely and efficient manner.

- **Executive Working Groups**

2.3. Executive members have the right to establish and maintain Executive Working Groups which at all times will include a Working Group on Exchanges.

2.4. Working Groups should support the enactment of essential core functions of the Executive Group which require additional assistance from our members. As such they should be in line with our core aims and objectives as outlined in Article 3.

2.5. Participation in Executive Working Groups is open to any member of EYFDM who may be interested, at the discretion of the Executive member leading that group.

2.6. Each Executive Working Group will be led by the Executive Group Member responsible for the associated area of work.

- **Special Interest Groups**

2.7. Special Interest Groups may be created and dissolved by a simple majority vote of the EYFDM Executive during any Executive Meeting.

2.8. To foster international and inter–regional collaboration, participation in Special Interest Groups is open to all young family doctors who may be interested. Each Special Interest Group will have one or more co–leads that must be EYFDM member(s), with a suggested term of 2–3 years. The election of the co–lead(s) and the membership status shall be decided in an autonomous manner by each SIG as they see fit. If in doubt, assistance can be requested from the EYFDM Executive.

2.9. Each Special Interest Group will have a lead who will provide a written report once a year to the EYFDM Council and will be invited to attend EYFDM Council as a non-voting member in accordance with Article 4 (Clause 2.6).

2.10. SIGs are encouraged to send abstracts to conferences organized by WONCA Europe, its member organizations and networks.

2.11. SIGs are encouraged to communicate, engage and collaborate with WONCA Europe and WONCA World Networks, SIGs and Working Parties of relevance to their topic of interest.

- Collaborative Liaisons

2.12. EYFDM shall endeavour at all times to have a formal Liaison with all WONCA Europe Networks, whose role it is to report on the activities of the Network. Liaisons are encouraged to attend meetings, and develop collaborations.

2.13. Liaisons may be appointed to other external bodies at the discretion of the Executive.

- Committees

2.14 A Good Governance Committee is instituted to ensure our Articles and Bylaws are upheld as well as providing advice on any required amendments.

2.15 A Finance Committee is instituted to complete the tasks of the cash control committee as required by the articles of association.

ARTICLE 6: TERMS OF OFFICE

1. For elected or appointed representatives of EYFDM, including but not limited to members of the EYFDM Executive and Council, National Exchange Coordinators (NECs) and Regional Exchange Coordinators (RECs), and the 'EYFDM-Appointed Member at Large in the WONCA Europe Executive Board' (EYFDM-WONCA Europe Liaison), but excluding the office of President, a standard term of appointment is for a three (3) year period.

2. At the end of a National Delegate's term of appointment in the Council, the EYFDM Secretary will contact the National Member Organization (NMO) to assess whether the delegate continues his/her activity (although EYFDM recommends that there is a new National Delegate every 3 years). After 6 years, the EYFDM Secretary will contact the NMO again in order to renew the information. If no answer from the NMO is provided within 6 months, then the seat is considered to be vacant. All EYFDM Council members have the responsibility to ensure the continuity of the representation.

3. All those representing EYFDM in an official capacity, including but not limited to members of the EYFDM Executive and Council, NECs, RECs and the EYFDM-WONCA

Europe Liaison, must, on the date of their election or appointment, be within five (5) years of completion of specialist training calculated from the date of awarding of a certificate of specialisation by the appropriate national awarding body.

ARTICLE 7: MEETINGS

● EYFDM Council Meetings

1. Meeting Types

1.1. Ordinary Council Meetings shall be held annually.

1.2. Extraordinary Council Meetings may be called by the President with the concurrence of the Executive Group by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of members of the Executive, or upon the written request of not less than one-tenth of the Voting Members of Council.

2. Notification

2.1. A notification will be sent ahead of the meeting:

- For Ordinary Council Meetings, a minimum of ninety (90) days notice will be given in writing to Council Members.

- For Extraordinary Council Meetings, a minimum of 4 weeks notice will be given in writing to Council Members.

3. Agenda

3.1. The secretary is responsible for arranging the council meeting as well as preparing the agenda.

3.2. Matters for the agenda provided by Council members must be received in writing by the Secretary not less than thirty (30) days prior to any Ordinary Council Meeting, and fifteen (15) days prior to any Extraordinary Council Meeting.

3.3. The final agenda shall be circulated in writing to Council Members not less than fourteen (14) days before any Ordinary Council Meeting, and seven (7) days before any Extraordinary Council Meeting.

3.4. The President of EYFDM assumes the role of Chair of the Council.

3.5. In the event of the President not being able to chair a specific Council meeting (or part thereof), then this role should fall to the President-Elect, or another member of the executive as selected by the President. Should no arrangements be in place, then the council must appoint someone, either from Executive or another observer.

3.6. The Chair has control of the agenda, as well as the order of procedure and the order of speaking.

4. Quorum & voting

4.1. For Ordinary Council Meetings, a quorum for the transaction of business of Council shall consist of an absolute majority of the Voting Members of Council representing Member Organizations in person or by proxy.

4.2. For Extraordinary Council Meetings, a quorum for the transaction of business of Council shall consist of an absolute majority of the Voting Members of Council representing Member Organizations in person or by proxy.

4.3. In the event of a quorum of Voting Members not present at the scheduled time of the Council Meeting, the Chair shall adjourn proceedings for thirty (30) minutes before reconvening. If after this adjournment a quorum is not present, then no binding votes can be held during this meeting, unless a quorum is reached later during the meeting, after which time binding votes may be taken.

4.4. In the event of an Ordinary Council Meeting abandoned as a consequence of a quorum not being present, the Executive may at its discretion arrange for electronic voting to be held for the purposes of electing new Members to the Executive or transacting any other items from the agenda which would otherwise necessitate the calling of an Extraordinary Council Meeting.

4.5. In the event of an Extraordinary Council Meeting abandoned as consequence of a quorum not being present, the Executive may collectively act as it believes to be in the best interests of EYFDM, provided that any action taken is both undertaken with the unanimous agreement of all Executive Members and Council Members are informed in writing by email of any such actions within seven (7) days. This may include arranging a secure electronic vote amongst Council members. In this case, a quorum of an absolute majority of the total number of Council Members is required for a vote to be valid.

4.6. Except for a vote on the dissolution of EYFDM, where a two-thirds (2/3) majority is required (Article 11), all matters shall be decided by an absolute majority vote of voting members of Council present in person, those for whom a proxy has been granted and, if in place, those who have cast their vote in advance by writing. An absolute majority is defined as 50%+1 votes of the group defined above. In the event of a tied vote, a repeat round of voting will be held after the opportunity for further questions and discussion. If a second round of voting still results in a tie, the EYFDM Executive will hold a separate vote. If the result is still a tie, the President will have the casting vote. A motion will be proposed to the Council to ratify each of these votes should they be needed.

5. Proxies

- Authorize, in writing, another member of their Member Organization to represent it temporarily, provided that:

- A notification is sent by email to the EYFDM Secretary no less than twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the beginning of the Council Meeting, detailing the name and email address of the replacement person and certifying her/his credentials. In exceptional circumstances a later notification may be accepted at the discretion of the president and secretary.
- The appointee is, on the date of the appointment, within five (5) years of completion of specialist training calculated from the date of awarding of a certificate of specialization by the appropriate national awarding body.

- Authorize, in writing, another member of EYFDM Council to represent them temporarily, as long as:

- A notification is sent by email to the EYFDM Secretary no less than twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the beginning of the Council Meeting, detailing the name and email address of the replacement person and certifying her/his credentials. In exceptional circumstances a later notification may be accepted at the discretion of the president and secretary.
- Circumstances render it unrealistic to participate via telepresence or videoconference.
- The appointed Council Member has not received any other similar authorization (a Council Member can only be proxy for 1 single other Council Member, so a maximum of 2 votes).
- The National Organization's interests are respected by the proxy.

6. Minutes

6.1. The minutes shall be transmitted to each Council Member no later than thirty (30) days following a Council Meeting.

7. Executive Group Meetings

7.1. The Executive will hold regular remote meetings during the year.

7.2. The Executive will endeavor to meet in person at least twice a year.

ARTICLE 8: FINANCIAL RECORDS AND REPORTS

1. The Treasurer shall be responsible for maintaining in good order all financial affairs, accurate records and accounts of EYFDM.
2. The EYFDM Executive shall be collectively responsible for decisions regarding financial affairs.
3. Accepting or raising funds in the name of EYFDM from or by third parties will not be allowed without prior approval of the Executive Group.
4. The report of the Treasurer will be approved by EYFDM Council at the ordinary meeting.

ARTICLE 9: PUBLICATIONS

1. Books, manuscripts, publications, letters and audiovisual material or computer material to be published and/ or distributed in the name of EYFDM in any manner whatsoever require prior approval of the EYFDM Executive.
2. Except where otherwise noted, all materials distributed by EYFDM (including but not limited to documents, texts, images, photos, audio and video) shall be licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial-Share Alike 4.0 International License.

ARTICLE 10: BYLAWS AMENDMENTS AND ADOPTION

1. Proposed revision(s) to or amendment(s) of the EYFDM Bylaws must be submitted in writing by email to the Secretary a minimum of sixty (60) days in advance of any Council Meeting.
2. Council members must be notified in writing by email of the final text of any proposed revision(s) of or amendment(s) to the EYFDM Bylaws by the Secretary a minimum of thirty (30) days in advance of the Council Meeting at which any proposed revision(s) or amendment(s) will be voted upon.
3. An absolute majority vote in favor of adoption of any proposed revision(s) of or amendment(s) to the EYFDM Bylaws and Organization Policies by Council members in attendance at a properly constituted Council meeting is required for adoption of any proposed Amendment(s).

ARTICLE 11: DISSOLUTION

1. A decision to dissolve the Organization shall require a two-thirds majority decision of all voting members of Council at an Extraordinary Council Meeting convened for the sole purpose of voting on the dissolution of EYFDM.

2. Following the dissolution of EYFDM, the Treasurer shall discharge any and all outstanding liabilities. Any surplus assets shall be returned to the WONCA Europe Executive with an express provision that the surplus funds so returned shall be used for the support and advancement of scientific and educational activities of European NFGPs / FPs.

