

**Unser korrespondierendes Mitglied Prof. Dr. med. Giuseppe Ciccone hat uns die folgende Mitteilung gesandt:**

**The emergency departments organization models: results of a European survey**

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**Introduction:** While in Europe there is an evident and inevitable movement towards the uniformity of Emergency care, the Emergency Departments (ED) among the European Countries are organized in very different ways, due to the different cultural traditions and roots that Emergency Medicine has in the different realities. The Italian Society of Emergency Medicine (SIMEU) has conducted a survey in Europe to make a picture of the current organization of the EDs.

**Methods:** A form to be filled was sent to the ED directors of many European countries, trying to obtain the answers from many of the principal hospitals of each country. The form contained the questions regarding the presence of the ED, the number of physicians working, the existence of the specialty in EM and if the ED staff is autonomous, the number of nurses, the number of patients, the presence of autonomous personnel, the presence of an intermediate care unit and an observation unit, the pre-hospital system, the management of mass casualties and the presence of local or national clinical guidelines for Emergency care. Results: We obtained results from 15 European countries: The specialty in EM is recognized so far in Ireland, UK, Poland, Czech Republic, Estonia, Malta, Hungary and is being activated in Spain and Italy. The only countries where the ED staff is made completely by emergency physicians are Ireland and UK while France, Italy, Belgium, Hungary, Spain and Czech Republic the EDs are organizing in this sense. While almost in all EDs there is an Observation Unit for an average of 24 hours, in few realities there are beds for critical patients for the intermediate care. In every country there is a national universal number for pre-hospital system but only in some it is integrated with the EDs.

**Conclusions:** At the moment there are big differences in the organization and structure of the Emergency Department among Europe, while there is a diffuse request for uniformity and professionalism.

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