

History & Background <http://www.efmi.org/efmi/default.asp>

The European Federation for Medical Informatics (EFMI) was conceived at a meeting, assisted by the Regional Office for Europe of the World Health Organisation (WHO), in Copenhagen in September 1976. The representatives of national Health / Medical Informatics societies from ten European countries signed a declaration of intent stating:

"The Federation shall be constituted as a nonprofit organisation concerned with the theory and practice of Information Science and Technology within Health and Health Science in a European context. We declare that the ten delegates here today from the ten national societies shall constitute the preliminary Council of the Federation which thus hereby exists."

Copenhagen, 11 September 1976.

The ten countries present were Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands, Italy, Norway, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. Today, the following countries are represented in the Federation - the original ten plus Austria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Eire, Israel, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, and Ukraine. There is also formal liaison with:

- WHO
- the Council of Europe,
- the International Medical Informatics Association (IMIA),
- the European Commission Research Programme.

Each European country, as defined by the WHO Region, is entitled to be represented in the Federation by a suitable Health Informatics Society. The term "health informatics" is used here to include all aspects of the use of information management and technology in the fields of health care and health promotion. The organisation operates with a minimum of bureaucratic overheads and each national society supports the Federation sending, and paying for, a representative to participate in the decisions of the Federation's

Council. This normally meets twice a year, English having been adopted as the official language for all EFMI's activities.

EFMI is probably best known for its Medical Informatics Europe, or MIE, Congresses. These take place two years in every three, in order not to clash with IMIA's three-yearly Medinfo conferences. The first such Congress, MIE 78 was held in Cambridge, England.

MIE Conferences

- 1995 Lisbon, Portugal
- 1996 Copenhagen, Denmark
- 1997 Thessaloniki, Greece.
- 1999 Ljubljana, Slovenia
- 2000 Hannover, Germany
- 2002 Budapest, Hungary
- 2003 St Malo, France
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Special Topic Conferences

Less well known but equally as important is the growing number of special topic conferences, like AMICE and the PROREC conference in often in collaboration with other organisations, and working conferences organised by EFMI's working groups.