

[Home](#) > [Journal of Public Health](#) > [Article](#)

Postgraduate medical training and migration in Europe: a survey of financial and labour conditions

| [Comment](#) | Published: 28 August 2009| Volume 18, pages 53–57, (2010) [Cite this article](#)[Save article](#) [View saved research](#) >[Journal of Public Health](#)[Aims and scope](#) →[Submit manuscript](#) →[Francesco Corea](#) ^{1,2,3} & [Marco Bacigaluppi](#)^{1,2} **293** Accesses  **6** Citations  **1** Altmetric [Explore all metrics](#) →

Abstract

Background and introduction

Resident medical training following medical school is a period of great importance in the instruction and education of young physicians, but also the first step into the labour market for doctors. Unfortunately, the long educational curricula as well as the low economic remuneration render medical training attractive only in some European countries: often low salaries accompany endless weekly working hours with a wide range of differences among the European countries. The aim of this study was to analyse the different economic conditions for resident trainees by reporting the different salaries and the weekly burden of working hours, and

also comparing the different costs of living in eight European countries and in Israel.

Materials and methods

A questionnaire was sent to resident medical doctors working in large university hospitals in eight European countries (Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Spain, Switzerland and the UK) and Israel, and data on the monthly salary, number of weekly working hours and general satisfaction were collected. Purchase power parity (PPP) in US dollar (USD) adjustment was calculated according to the latest Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) tables.

Results

Among the different countries, working hours per week ranged from 37 to 56. The net pay report had a median value of 2,000€ per month. The net monthly wage ranged between 1,000 and 3,000€. Power purchase parity in USD-corrected salaries varied from 1,388.80 (Greece) to 5,788.30 (UK), mean 2,562.30.

Conclusions

Taking into account PPP-adjusted wages, France, Greece and Italy are below the median continental values. The trend of migration of medical trainees to countries where the economic situation is more favourable seems reasonable. Because of both the high salary and the language, the UK represents the most attractive training destination.

 This is a preview of subscription content, [log in via an institution](#)  to check access.

Access this article

Log in via an institution →

Subscribe and save

- Starting from 10 chapters or articles per month
- Access and download chapters and articles from more than 300k books and 2,500 journals
- Cancel anytime

[View plans](#) →

Buy Now

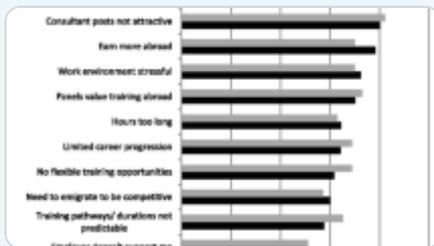
Buy article PDF 39,95 €

Price includes VAT (Poland)

Instant access to the full article PDF.

[Institutional subscriptions](#) →

Similar content being viewed by others



Factors influencing trainee doctor emigration in a high income country: a mixed methods study

Article | Open access

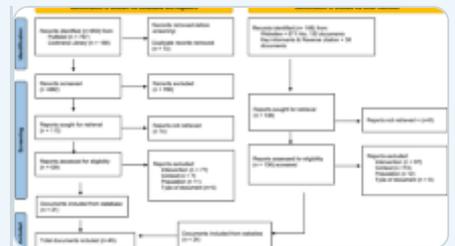
25 September 2017



Emergency physician personnel crisis: a survey on attitudes of new generations in Slovenia

Article | Open access

14 February 2024



Interventions to attract medical students to a career in primary health care services in the European Union and...

Article | Open access

10 October 2024

Explore related subjects

Discover the latest articles, books and news in related subjects, suggested using machine learning.

[European Fundamental Rights and Freedoms](#)

[European Economic Law](#)

[European Economics](#)

[Medical Education](#)

[European Economic Integration](#)

References

(1998) Big Mac index, which seeks to make exchange-rate theory a bit more digestible. *The Economist*

(2006) Istituto Nazionale di Statistica. www.istat.it

(2009) European Central Bank.

<http://www.ecb.int/stats/exchange/eurofxref/html/index.en.html>

(2009) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

www.oecd.org

Bartos AP, Kalvach P et al (2001) Postgraduate education in neurology in Central and Eastern Europe. *Eur J Neurol* 8(6):551-558

[Article](#) [CAS](#) [PubMed](#) [Google Scholar](#)

Bonifati DM, Scaravilli T et al (2003) Quality of neurology residency programmes: an Italian survey. *Eur J Neurol* 10(3):301-306

[Article](#) [CAS](#) [PubMed](#) [Google Scholar](#)

Capobianco MM, Mancuso M et al (2003) The quality of neurology residency programmes in Italy. *Lancet Neurol* 2(10):594; discussion 594

[Article](#) [CAS](#) [PubMed](#) [Google Scholar](#)

Clark X, Hatton TJ, Williamson J (2002) Where do US immigrants come from and why? National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper 8998

Corea F, Gunther A et al (2006) Educational approach on stroke training in Europe. Clin Exp Hypertens 28(3-4):433-437

[Article](#) [CAS](#) [PubMed](#) [Google Scholar](#)

Facheris M, Mancuso M et al (2005) Neurology residency training in Europe: an Italian perspective. Lancet Neurol 4(4):258-262

[Article](#) [PubMed](#) [Google Scholar](#)

Hooker J, Eccher M et al (2003) Neurology training around the world. Lancet Neurol 2(9):572-579

[Article](#) [PubMed](#) [Google Scholar](#)

Parsi K (2008) International medical graduates and global migration of physicians: fairness, equity, and justice. Medscape J Med 10(12):284

[PubMed](#) [Google Scholar](#)

Vujicic M, Zurn P et al (2004) The role of wages in the migration of health care professionals from developing countries. Hum Resour Health 2(1):3

[Article](#) [PubMed](#) [Google Scholar](#)

Conflict of interest

The authors disclose any relevant association that might pose a conflict of interest.

Author information

Authors and Affiliations

Department of Neurology, University Hospital San Raffaele Milan, Milan, Italy

Francesco Corea & Marco Bacigaluppi

Institute of Experimental Neurology, IRCCS San Raffaele Hospital, Milan, Italy

Francesco Corea & Marco Bacigaluppi

Dip. Riabilitazione, UO Gravi Cerebrolesioni Acquisite, Nuovo Ospedale San Giovanni Battista, Foligno, Italy

Francesco Corea

Corresponding author

Correspondence to [Francesco Corea](#).

Additional information

The data available were calculated on end of November 2008 thereby can't take into account of any further change in national wages.

Rights and permissions

[Reprints and permissions](#)

About this article

Cite this article

Corea, F., Bacigaluppi, M. Postgraduate medical training and migration in Europe: a survey of financial and labour conditions. *J Public Health* **18**, 53–57 (2010). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10389-009-0281-6>

Received

18 December 2008

Issue date

February 2010

DOI

Accepted

02 June 2009

Published

28 August 2009

Keywords

[Salary.](#)

[Medical trainees](#)

[Survey.](#)

Profiles

1. Marco Bacigaluppi



[View author profile](#)

Search

Search by keyword or author



Navigation

[Find a journal](#)

[Publish with us](#)

[Track your research](#)