

Introduction

The European Diploma in Radiology (EDiR) stands for excellence. Throughout its ten years of experience, the diploma has become a European benchmark for general radiology with increasing relevance in the certification process of European radiologists.

A large number of professionals have been involved in the birth and ongoing supervision of this initiative, playing a critical role in the examination process (management, preparation, quality control and execution). It is thanks to their commitment that we are able and proud to present the EDiR as the best medical specialty diploma in Europe and we must acknowledge their efforts.

The initial project has matured and expanded since its inception, and it has been definitively empowered. Now, the EDiR has become an asset of paramount importance to the European Society of Radiology (ESR).

EDiR is certainly an added value to the young radiologists' CV, since it is a symbol of distinction, which contributes to enhancing their opportunities for professional development in Europe.

Despite all the difficulties we have faced this year, the diploma has managed to maintain its high standards and has continued to grow not only in Europe but throughout the world. Moreover, we have a database containing questions, which have been rigorously classified with a standard methodology that defines their degree of difficulty. This has been made possible thanks to the work and dedication of all EDiR committee members and has allowed the EBR to create homogeneous and unique exams.

Evolution of the EDiR in 2020 – Maturity in numbers

Since 2016, the number of candidates per year had been consolidated to around 800, establishing EDiR as a benchmark for medical specialities in Europe. **For 2020, the EBR had initially set a goal of 900 candidates.**

This new milestone of 900 candidates was based on the growing interest of national societies from Europe, Middle East, Asia and Latin America in the EDiR, and from a growing number of heads of training who considered the suitability of the EDiR as their certificate of completion of training. In fact, before the outbreak of the pandemic, applications for the EDiR were endorsing this goal. Over 350 candidates had already applied in 2019 and almost 200 applications had been received by February 15, 2020.

Now, having closed the application process period, **we are proud and happy to announce that 881 candidates applied for the EDiR in 2020.** Although the figures have been once again been a positive indicator of EDiR's growing

popularity, we would like to share with you some internal information, so that you better understand the significant challenges we have faced this year:

- Although 8 exams were originally planned for 2020, the EBR was eventually able to conduct **19 exams in 23 different locations**.
- The EBR has allowed and **managed 669 reassignments**, out of these, 227 candidates chose to take the examination in 2021.

The EDiR examination has been adapting to the ever-changing circumstances, such as specific national and regional policies issued due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Multiple local examinations with fewer candidates replaced larger EDiR examinations, such as the one that used to take place during the ECR. This new organisational strategy guaranteed access to the examination to those who were affected by travel restrictions.

A total of 19 EDiR examinations with an average of 28 candidates each were scheduled in 2020 (see figures below). By contrast, eight to ten EDiR exams with an average of 73 candidates each were conducted in 2019.

Examination	Date	Number of candidates
Ghent	March 12	9
Florence and Malta*	July 14	22
Warsaw (first day)	July 17	76
Warsaw (second day)	July 18	18
Cairo	August 15	15
Barcelona	September 5	29
Rome and Milan*	September 7	25
Ljubjana, Malta, Örebro and Rijeka*	September 14	27
Warsaw (morning shift)	September 19	38
Warsaw (evening shift)	September 19	38
Paris (first day)	October 14	7
Paris (second day)	October 15	6
Paris and Leuven*	October 16	26
Islamabad and Hannover*	November 8	55
New Delhi	November 28	21
New Delhi	November 29	32
Warsaw and Buenos Aires*	December 3	30
New Delhi	December 12	21
New Delhi	December 13	35

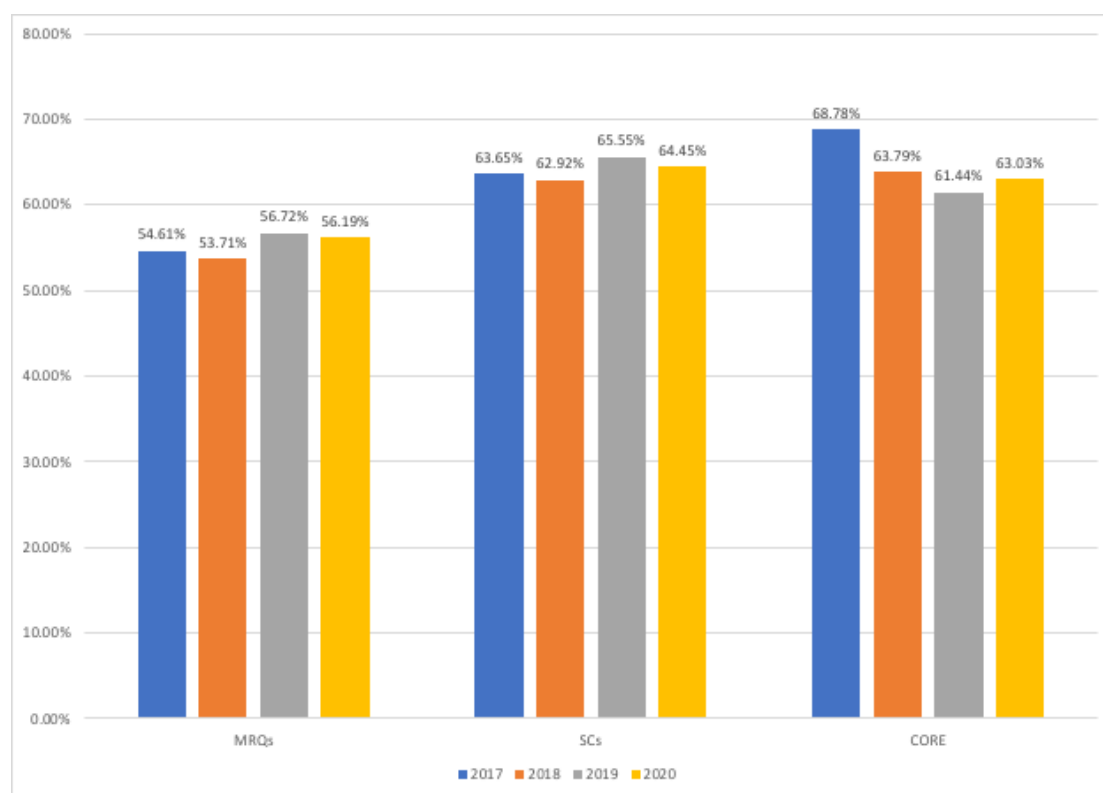
**Simultaneous examinations*

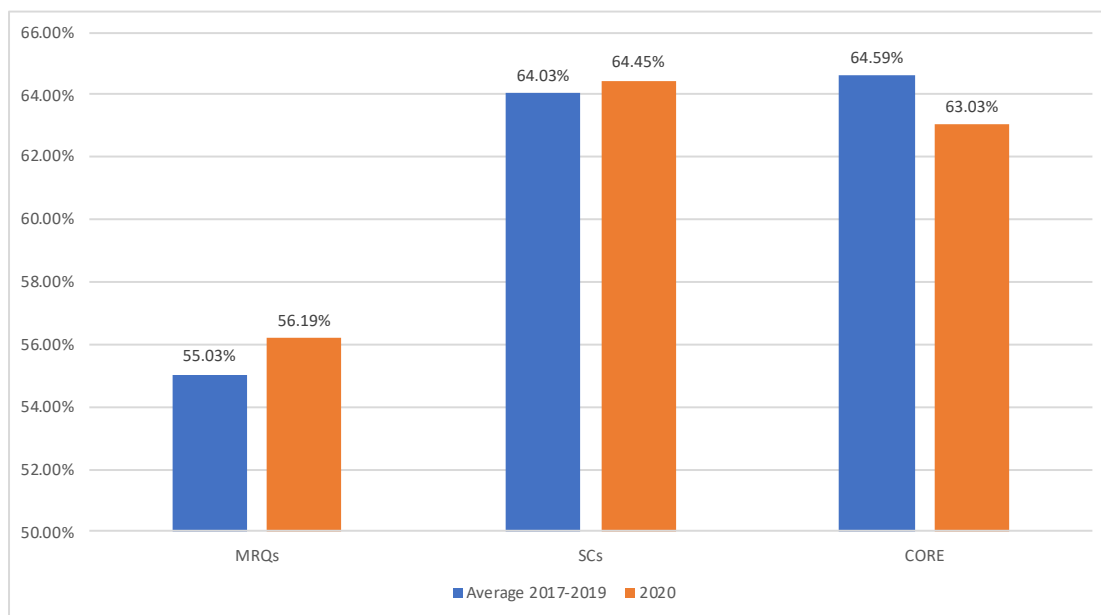
EDiR as a standard of excellence in 2020

Due to this new organisational approach, there were some concerns whether this new system would affect the quality and standards of the EDiR examination and its results. In light of the above, a comparison (2017-2020) between the previous examinations and the EDiR e-examinations held in 2020 was carried out (see figures below).

The EDiR examination consists of three sections: the Multiple Response Questions (MRQs), the Short Cases (SCs) and the Clinically Oriented Reasoning Evaluation (CORE) and a score for each part of the examination is calculated for each candidate.

	2017	2018	2019	2020
MRQs	54.61%	53.71%	56.72%	56.19%
SCs	63.65%	62.92%	65.55%	64.45%
CORE	68.78%	63.79%	61.44%	63.03%





It can be seen that the average score for all three parts of the EDiR e-examination in 2020 is consistent with the average score in previous years.

The pass rate, which is the percentage of candidates who pass the examination, is also calculated for each examination. Additionally, there is a standard minimum pass mark for the MRQs and SCs sections (50%) and for the CORE (55%). In 2020, there has been a slight increase of 2-3% compared with previous years (see figures below). However, since the number of candidates was smaller than usual this year, this percentage (2-3%) corresponds to having fewer candidates (10-15).

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Pass rate	67.00%	66.11%	65.57%	69.05%

This new e-examination approach has also led to a different demographic distribution of candidates taking the EDiR. Between 2017 and 2019, 61% of candidates were ESR corresponding members and 39% were ESR full members. Conversely, in 2020, more than 90% of the candidates were ESR corresponding members and 4% were ESR full members. The number of different nationalities that have sat the EDiR has also changed from 45 in 2019 to less than half (23) in 2020.