



Phoniatics is a medical specialty focused on the study and treatment of voice, speech, language, hearing, and swallowing disorders. The [Union of the European Phoniaticians \(UEP\)](#) serves as a platform for the exchange of expert knowledge, clinical experience, and scientific advancements in these areas. Founded in 1971, the UEP promotes collaboration among phoniaticians across Europe, neighboring regions, and other countries adopting the European phoniatics model. **With over 700 members** from more than 60 countries, the UEP actively engages in harmonizing training programs, establishing high-quality standards, and ensuring consistent phoniatic care across Europe. Additionally, it acts as a supportive network for European phoniaticians, providing guidance and assistance on professional matters.

Since its inception, the UEP has regularly organized congresses throughout Europe to strengthen scientific relations, promote the specialty of phoniatics, and improve the professional conditions of phoniaticians. The upcoming event, the [31st Congress of the Union of European Phoniaticians, is scheduled for 2025 and will be held in Prague.](#)

The UEP collaborates closely with the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS) to develop standardized training programs, ensuring excellence in phoniatic care. It also disseminates information about relevant congresses, meetings, and educational events, fostering a continuous exchange of knowledge within the field. Among its educational initiatives, the UEP produces its **podcast**, [UEP Voice Box](#), which aims to provide the latest updates in the field of voice, curate unique conversations with global voice experts, and inspire voice professionals worldwide. Beyond these initiatives, the UEP conducts various **webinars**, including the upcoming webinar titled "[Beyond the Tube: Managing Dysphagia in Tracheostomy Patients](#)," which will be held on **December 12, 2024**, to celebrate World Swallowing Day.

The European Academy of Phoniatics (EAP) complements the efforts of the UEP by building organizational structures and setting European quality standards in medical training and practice. The EAP's primary objective is to establish the **European Board Exam for Phoniatics**, supported by a dedicated committee. Working in conjunction with the UEMS and its EACCME committee, the EAP organizes specialized training programs and courses, which are based on the UEMS-accredited phoniatic logbook. These programs aim to cover the comprehensive spectrum of phoniatics, facilitated by various committees focusing on education, practical courses, and digital learning. [The next Training Course of Phoniatics in preparation for the future Board Examination is scheduled for February 20th-22nd, 2025.](#)

Phoniatics is recognized differently across the world, ranging from a distinct specialty in some countries to an additional subject after other specialist training in others. To address the varying levels of access to training, the EAP is developing an international fellowship program and observation at highly qualified centers. These initiatives aim to support physicians in countries lacking dedicated phoniatic training, enhance professional preparedness, and strengthen networks with other healthcare specialties, ultimately ensuring that patient care standards are consistently met across the globe.