

Capitation

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Final Conference of the Project "Support to the Implementation of Capitation Payment in Primary Health Care in Serbia"

The final conference of the joint project of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Serbia and the European Union „**Support to the Implementation of Capitation Payment in Primary Health Care in Serbia**” was held on 8th December 2010 at the Sava Center, in Belgrade. The Conference Title was „**Challenges of modern primary health care**” and was organized on the occasion of the presentation of the results of the three-year project, with special emphasis on new financing methods of primary health care in Serbia.

The welcoming speech by Prof. Dr. Tomica Milosavljevic, Minister of Health of Serbia, was followed by HE Ambassador Vincent Degert; Head of Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Serbia, HE Kari Veijalainen, Ambassador of Finland in Serbia, Prof. Dr Aleksandar Vuksanovic, Director of the Health Insurance Fund (HIF) and Dr. Slobodanka Gajic, Assistant Director of the Institute of Public Health „Dr Milan Jovanovic Batut“ all gave addresses to the conference.

The Serbian Minister of Health Prof. Dr Tomica Milosavljevic said that one of the biggest challenges for Serbia in 2011 will be changes in the Law on salaries in the public sector in order to enable the implementation of capitation - the new way of financing of the health system. The Minister said that key changes in the health system are ongoing and one of the most important is the introduction of capitation in primary care. He explained that the capitation payment is a new model of payment in which doctors in Dom zdravlja will be paid depending on the number of patients they have, in hospitals they will be paid by diagnostic related groups. The Minister stated that the goal of these changes is to increase the quality and efficiency of health care.

He added that the reorganization of Dom zdravlja means that patients now have the opportunity to choose a doctor who will treat them. He added that the other important change is the introduction of information technology for the new system of collecting and analyzing data from facilitates about the work of employees in health institutions.



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The Head of the Delegation of the European Union in Serbia, Ambassador Vincent Degert said that the EU has invested 4.5 million euros in the project. He added that all project activities were focused on patients and on improving the quality in health services.

Ambassador Degert said that the reform of payment system in health is very important, but challenging. He added that Serbia has the full support of the European Union in this work. In the last ten years the EU has invested about 150 million euros in the health system of Serbia.

Representatives from all Dom zdravlja's in Serbia attended the Conference. The guest international speaker was Professor David Weller, Professor of Primary Health Care and Community Services within the School of Medicine in Edinburgh. He stressed that modern health care systems are more efficient and effective when they are focused on Primary Care.

Presentations at the conference were given by Dr Brian Potter, Project Team leader, Dr Bojana Milosevic, Project National Coordinator, George

Boulton, Finance Expert, Prof. Dr Vesna Bjegovic-Mikanovic, Expert for training in Management, Prof. Dr David Weller, Professor of primary health care and community services within the School of Medicine in Edinburgh, Dr Päivi Hämäläinen, THL Expert, Vukasin Radulovic, Executive Director HIF and Dr Milos Bozickovic, Director DZ Sombor. Mr Timo Sorsa, Project Director from THL was present at the Conference.



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Dr Päivi Hämäläinen stated that the Serbian Health Information system was amazingly good and many countries would give a lot to have such a system. She had studied the system and made several proposals to even further enhance it. Serbia should be proud of its information system and with some adjustments could be even better.

The project „Support to the Implementation of Capitation Payment in Primary Health Care in Serbia” is funded by the European Union. **The value of the project is 4,5 million euros of which 2 million were secured for the procurement of IT equipment for Dom zdravlja's involved in the project.** The Project's activities were launched in September 2007 and will finish in December 2010.

There were **28 Dom Zdravlja's** who participated in the Project - Subotica, Kikinda, Pancevo, Sombor, Novi Sad, Sremska Mitrovica, Šabac, Požarevac, Kragujevac, Cuprija, Zajecar, Užice, Cacak,

Kruševac, Niš, Piroć, Leskovac, Novi Beograd, Zemun, Palilula, Voždovac, Zvezdara, Smederevo, Savski Venac, Vracar, Kraljevo, Valjevo and Vranje. The DZs were each presented with a framed certificate in recognition of their participation and acknowledgement of the gratitude from the project team members.

The National partners of the Project were the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Serbia, the Serbian Health Insurance Fund and Public Health Institute of Serbia „Dr Milan Jovanovic Batut“.

The main goal of the Project was to provide technical and expert support to the reorganisation and improvement of services provided by Dom Zdravljas (DZ) so as to deliver efficient, effective and high quality health services. The plan for the reorganisation of the DZs is based on a formula of patients registering with a chosen doctor. This new form of financing the primary healthcare system (capitation) will facilitate this reform and reinforce the major foundation of Primary Care, the relationship between patient and chosen doctor.



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Professor David Weller, School of Medicine in Edinburgh



Prof. Dr Vesna Bjegovic-Mikanovic, Expert for training in Management



George Boulton, finance Expert



Dr Bojana Milosevic, Project National Coordinator



Dr Brian Potter, Project Team leader



Prof. Dr Aleksandar Vuksanovic, Director of the HIF



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Vukasin Radulovic, Executive Director of the HIF



Dr Päivi Hämäläinen, THL Expert



Dr Milos Bozickovic, Director DZ Sombor



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The project team with Project Team leader Dr Brian Potter had successful cooperation with all partners included in the project activities. Coordination and planning of all activities within Ministry of Health of the Republic of Serbia, Serbian Health Insurance Fund and Public Health Institute of Serbia was important and essential for the successful completion of the project activities. However the most crucial, active and successful cooperation were conducted with all 28 management teams from Dom zdravlja's included in the Project and the project recognises the great amount of work and enthusiasm invested by these management teams.



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Subotica Sombor
Kikinda Novi Sad
Srem. Mitrovica Pančevo
Šabac Valjevo
Smederevo Požarevac
Užice Čačak
Kraljevo Kragujevac
Kruševac Čuprija
Zaječar Niš
Piot Leskovac
Vranje Vračar
Zemun Zvezdara
Voždovac Palilula
Savski Venac Novi Beograd

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