



EUROPEAN UNION OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

Alment Praktiserende Lægers Europæiske Organisation – UEMO
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Slovenian National report 2003

There are several legal changes in Slovenia from the beginning of year 2003, since Slovenia enters EU in May 2004. This paper is dealing only with the most important ones for medical profession.

The law on all public sectors has been accepted and doctors who are employed in public sectors are recognised as public workers.

The law on payment is in process of negotiation with trade unions. There was an idea to make a system of all profession in public sector to have their wages calculated the same way. The Government has hired professionalists who made a methodology of calculation. And there it was a cache! Up to this methodology medical doctors would have the highest wages then any other profession even higher than judges and politicians and would go higher than it is even possible. So they had to »adopt a variation« to squeeze the profession into the system! Lower salaries to doctors than to judges and politicians, of course!

At the end of June there was first national call of application for specialisations. Medical Chamber of Slovenia has a duty and responsibility to create a network for stable education system for all types of vocational trainees. Family medicine has around 1/5 of all posts. At August 18, 2003 all applications will be opened and applicants selected up to score. All of them will also have to pass an interview with at least two colleagues.

We are proud to state that Slovene GPs successfully organized Wonca – Europe conference in June, hosting 1600 participants from 34 states. Professional level was very satisfactory and organisation was excellent, so participants stated.

The specialisation on family medicine (lasting 4 years, half of it in GP settings) is proceeding successfully after several problems in past year. But at the moment we are, again, facing the problem of how to nominate the examination board, since Slovene Medical Chamber (Department for education) would like to have different not GP specialist in examination board. We luckily have UEMO paper on evaluation of specific training, stating that only peers in GP should evaluate the trainees' knowledge and skills.

UEMO – PRESIDENCY

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In July, Primary Health Committee managed after several years, to make an agreement with National Pension Fond and National Health Service (NHS) on the process of patient's working ability. Till this agreement o lot of referrals to clinical specialists were needed just for this purpose- to asset patient's working ability. Knowing that Slovenia is facing the transition, creating several insolvent firms, the pressure to become a disabled worker was mostly on GPs and PHC, increasing the costs of NHS; since many diagnostic procedures were not scientifically indicated, but only socialy!

Ministry of health realised at the and of July the new Reform of health service in Slovenia. Document is opened for discussion and a lot of interest is already focused on it. By it self it is a good move, but knowing next year, when it should be adopted is an election year, we fear that no realistic improvements are to come, since it is . It is mainly populisticy written. And it also has a »Troyan horse«! - money from NHS found would be transferred to state budget!!

An important paper was elaborated also by National Insurance Institute on costs decreasing policy in NHS. A big burden of saving costs is placed on GPs, since we prescribe most of the medicaments and deal with sick leaves, too. We understand it necessary to lower costs, but we do not agree to have most pressure of “cutting the patients' rights down” is put on GPs, since the doctor – patient relationship might become endangered.