

DR. AFERDITA ADEMI-OSMANI

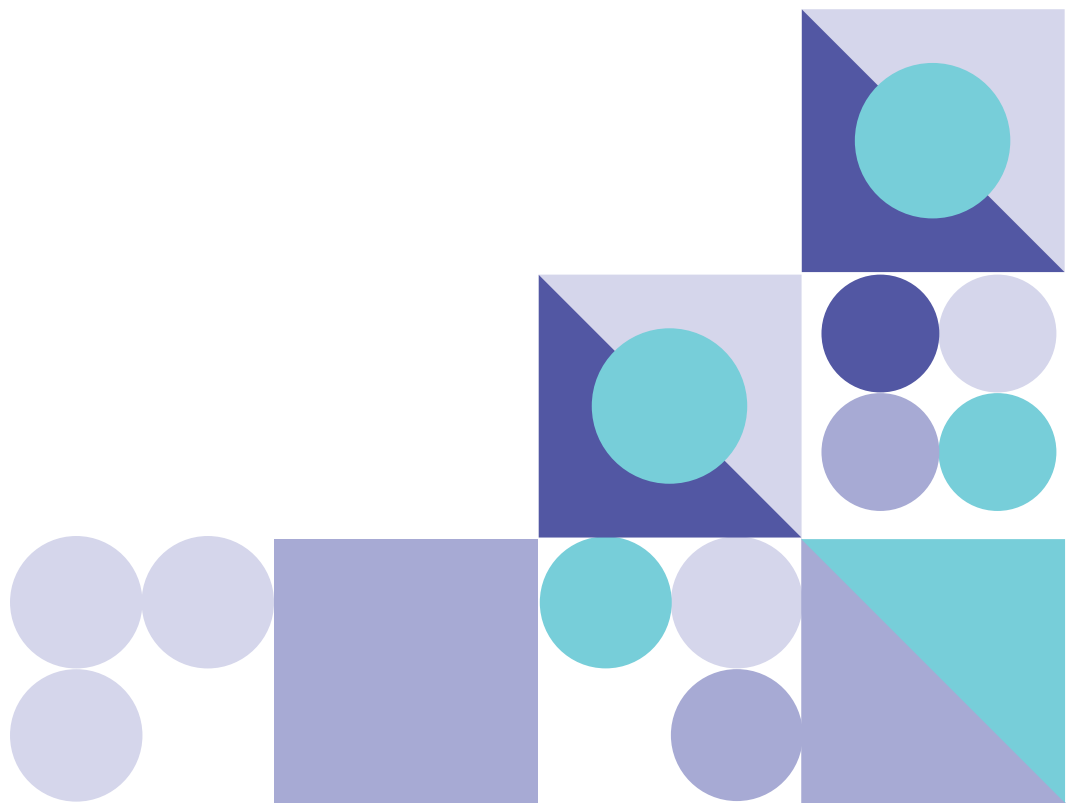
Lux-Development



Aferdita Ademi-Osmani is a medical doctor specializing in family medicine and has vast experience in strengthening the capacity of public health authorities and institutions. Having a deep understanding of the healthcare sector in the region and Kosovo, Afërdita has long been involved in coordinating programs and projects with results-based management approaches and addressing healthcare reform. Since the year 2000, she has managed international projects in Kosovo.

For the past decade, she has been a key Technical Advisor within the LuxDex team, leading complex projects in the healthcare sector in Kosovo. She has supported the Ministry of Health in designing and implementing healthcare reform, including the reorganization of the Ministry of Health, establishment of professional medical chambers, establishment of the Health Insurance Fund, and the establishment of the Kosovo Hospital and University Clinical Services (KHUCS).

She coordinates various capacity-building activities in various healthcare and non-governmental organizations. Furthermore, she has assisted institutions in developing standard operating procedures, clinical guidelines, and protocols at the primary and secondary levels of care.



AFERDITA HOXHA

Master of legal sciences/
Ministry of Health



Aferdita Hoxha is a graduate jurist dedicated to the development and implementation of the legal framework within the healthcare sector. Currently, she is engaged in the Legal Department at the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kosovo.

She completed her undergraduate studies at the Faculty of Law of the University of Pristina 'Hasan Prishtina,' where she also successfully completed her master's studies in legal sciences.

With over fourteen years of experience in the field of justice, Aferdita has held significant positions within the Ministry of Health, including acting director of the legal department for over seven years.

She is well-versed in the implementation of the legal framework in the healthcare sector in Kosovo, consistently advancing and expanding her expertise in her field.



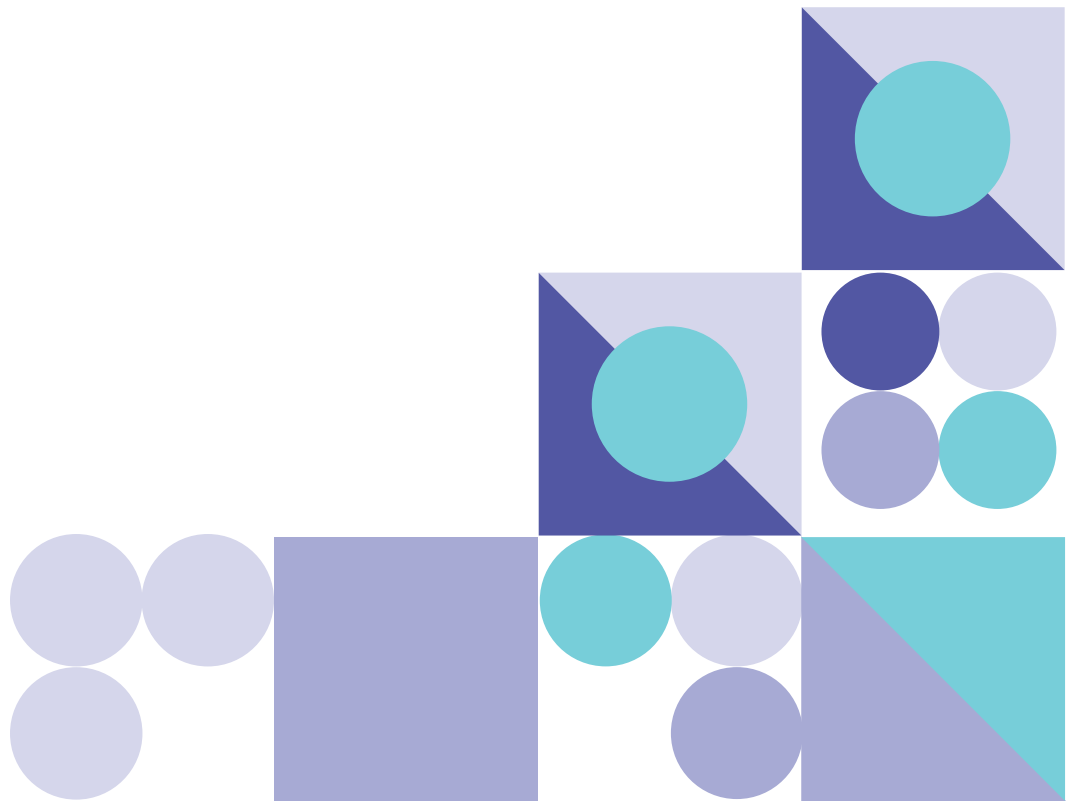
DR. AGIM KRASNIQI

Director of MFMC Lipjan



Agim Krasniqi is a family doctor, lecturer, and health manager with extensive experience in family medicine. He has been the director of the Main Center of Family Medicine (KKMF) in Lipjan since July 2010. Additionally, he serves as a trainer/examiner at the Center for the Development of Family Medicine in Kosovo. He is also a lecturer and examiner in the specialization of family medicine at the Department of Family Medicine at the Ministry of Health.

Since October 2018, he has been a lecturer at UBT College, actively involved in healthcare infrastructure improvement projects, collaborating with both governmental donors and non-governmental organizations. He's also dedicated to advancing adolescent healthcare as a trainer for the Orientation Program for Adolescent Health Care Providers.



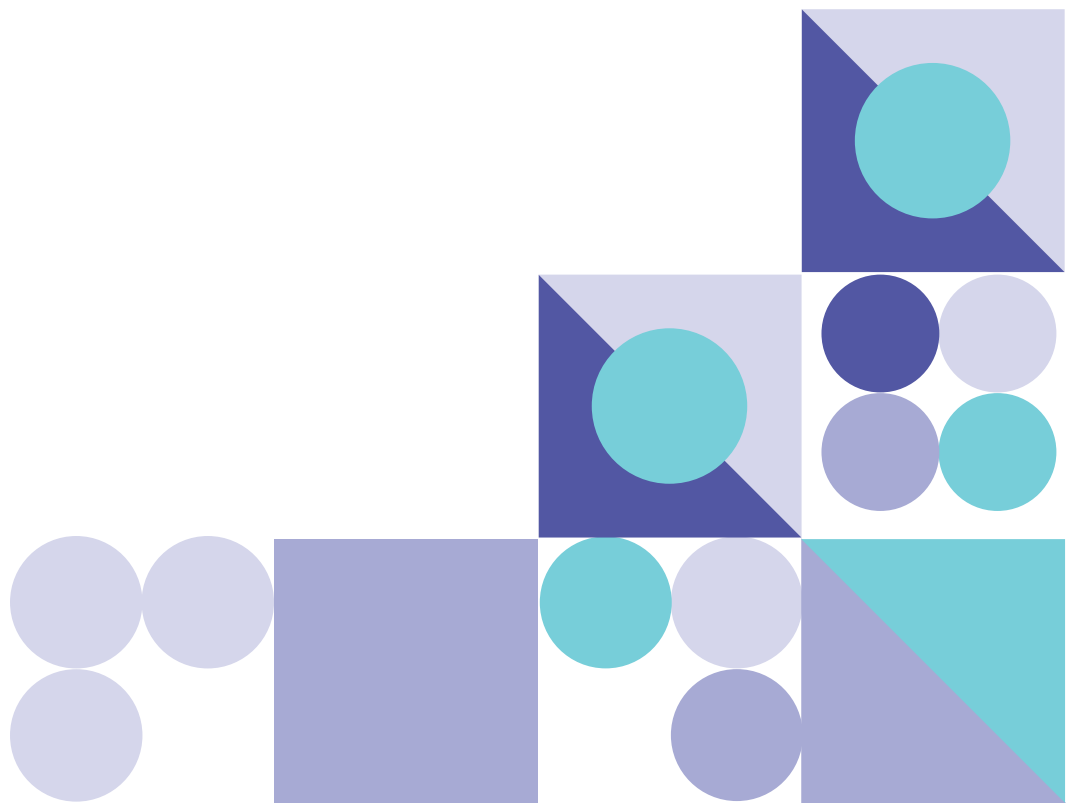
AGRON BYTYQI

Association of Patient's Rights
in Kosovo



Agron Bytyqi, an expert in public health management and a nursing lecturer, currently serves as the Chairman of the Board of the Association of Patients' Rights in Kosovo (PRAK). With over two decades of experience in the healthcare field, he has held significant roles, including board member of the Chamber of Nurses of Kosovo and coordination of the Center for Continuing Professional Education at Prizren General Hospital. Additionally, he has contributed as a researcher at the Professional Health Association (PHA), focusing on pain management and research.

His enduring commitment to analyzing healthcare systems, both domestically and internationally, with a particular emphasis on patients' rights and pain management, has earned him recognition and gratitude in the field of patients' rights.



DR. ALA CURTEANU

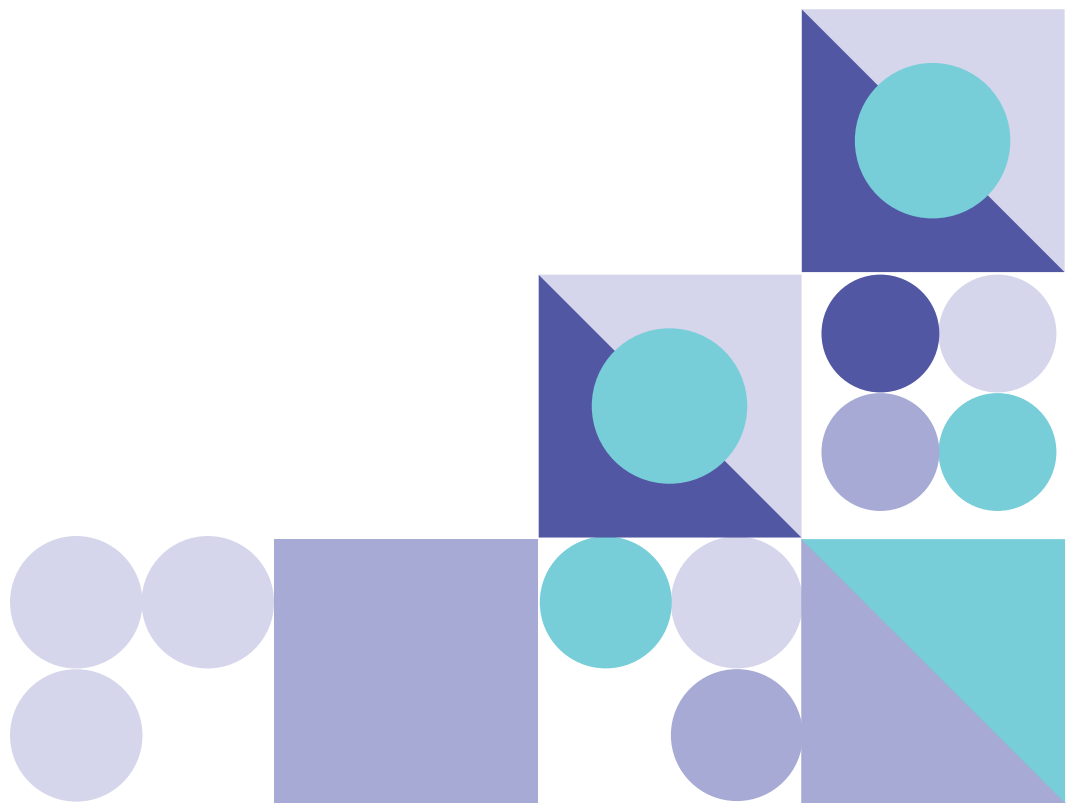
Swiss TPH, Moldova



Ms. Ala Curteanu is a Moldovan Medical Doctor with a specialization in pediatrics and a public health expert with more than 25 years experience working in the health sector in Moldova. She has gained more than 20 years of experience in project/ programme management, including senior project management positions, for national institutions, bilateral cooperation and multilateral organisations, including project planning, budgeting, human resource management, leadership and governance and financial management.

Since 2017, Ms. Ala Curteanu holds the position of team leader of the Healthy Life: Reducing the Burden of Non-Communicable Diseases Project Facilitation Unit, implemented by the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute in the Republic of Moldova.

Ms. Ala Curteanu is a recognised public health expert in the CIS region and contributed to regional progress through a number of teaching interventions and international consultancies.



ALISON COX

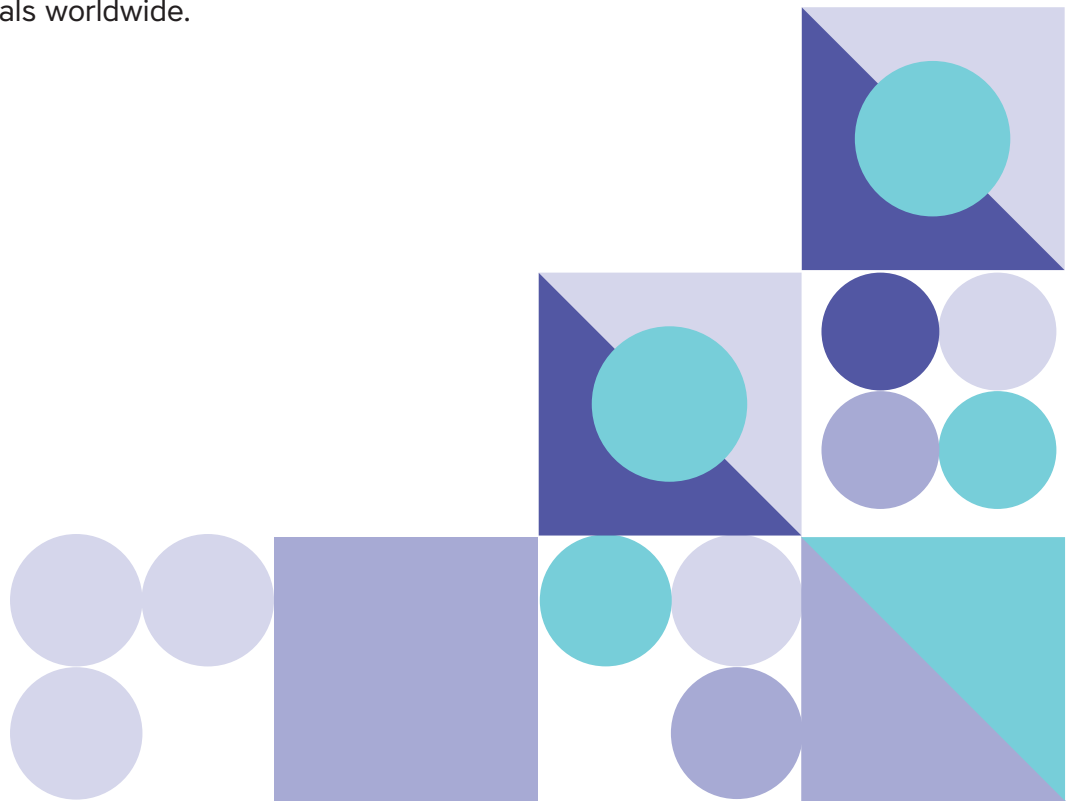
Policy and Advocacy Director at
the NCD Alliance



Alison Cox holds the position of Policy and Advocacy Director at the Noncommunicable Disease Alliance (NCD Alliance), where she is responsible for shaping and implementing policy strategies that align with the organization's strategic impact objectives: prevention, care, and financing.

Having begun her career with environmental campaigning organizations including 'Greenpeace International', Alison went on to lead strategy development and direct advocacy for global public health alliances: for the Framework Convention Alliance, bringing the civil society to voice the WHO treaty on tobacco control, and in the early years of the NCD Alliance (2011-12) leading on Rio+20 advocacy to ensure NCDs were recognized in what became the SDGs, and on developing Alliance's first strategy. As Prevention Director at Cancer Research UK (2013-21), she led successful national campaigns for restrictions on tobacco and junk food marketing and built an international program to support tobacco control advocacy in LMICs.

In 2021 as Policy & Research Director for the Global Climate & Health Alliance, she coordinated the delivery to the global climate summit, COP26, of the Healthy Climate Prescription from organizations representing 46 million health professionals worldwide.



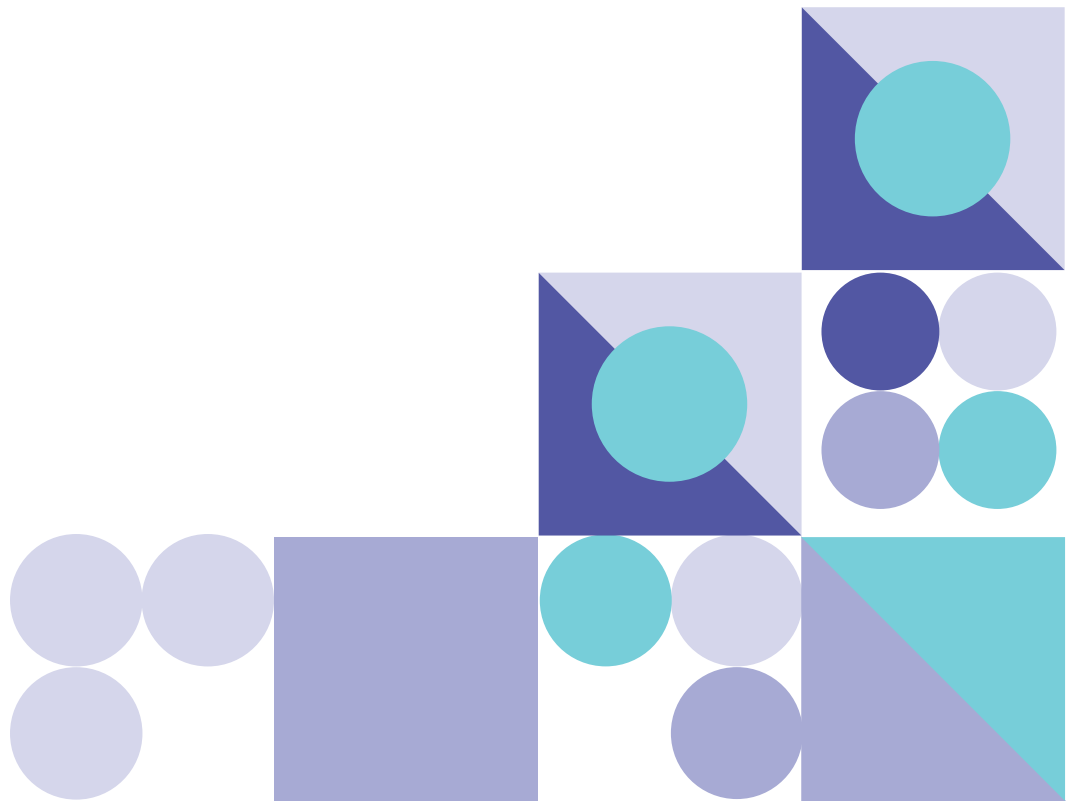
ALUSH BIKLIQI

Patient Council, Lipjan



Alush Bikliqi is a professor who currently serves as the chairman of the Patients' Council in the Municipality of Lipjan. The Patient Councils service is located within the Main Centers of Family Medicine and helps patients with various concerns, from doctor behavior issues to long wait times for check-ups or medication refills. Lipjan and Rahovec are the first municipalities to have Patient Councils in Kosovo.

Bikliqi studied at the Philological Faculty of the University of Pristina and worked as a teacher for a long time. He has also held public positions such as a senior logistics officer at the Central Electoral Council and a senior human rights officer at the Ministry of Public Administration. Additionally, Bikliqi has experience in the private banking sector.



DR. ANASTASIYA DUMCHEVA

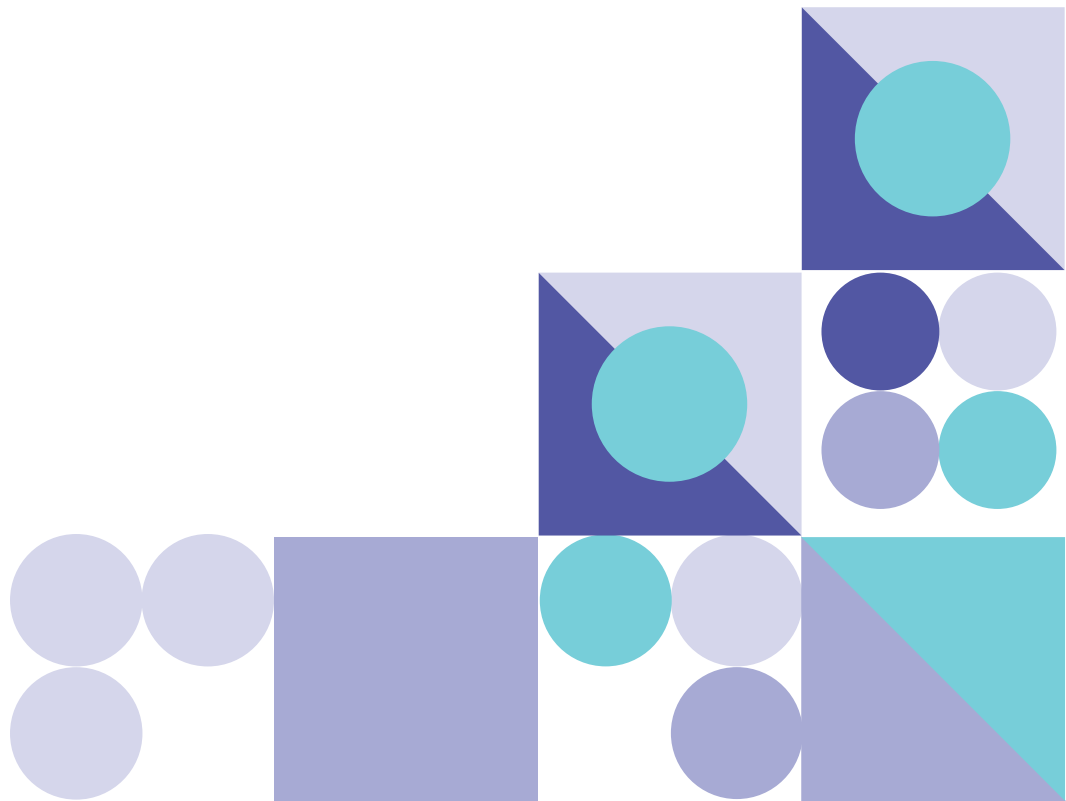
Consultant, WHO



Dr. Anastasiya Dumcheva is a public health leader, medical doctor and researcher from Ukraine. Currently, Dr. Dumcheva holds the pivotal role of Technical Director for USAID's "Public Health System Resilience and Recovery Initiative in Ukraine." She is also engaged in doctoral research at Tampere University in Finland.

Throughout her illustrious career, Dr. Dumcheva has honed her expertise in spearheading, coordinating, and executing evidence-based intersectoral interventions. Her focus extends beyond noncommunicable diseases to encompass a diverse spectrum of public health domains. These include policy development, advocacy, surveillance, clinical interventions, health promotion, and effective communication strategies.

She holds degrees in Medicine, Public Health, and Law.



PROF. ASOC. ANTIGONA UKËHAXHAJ

Human Ecology Specialist, NIPH

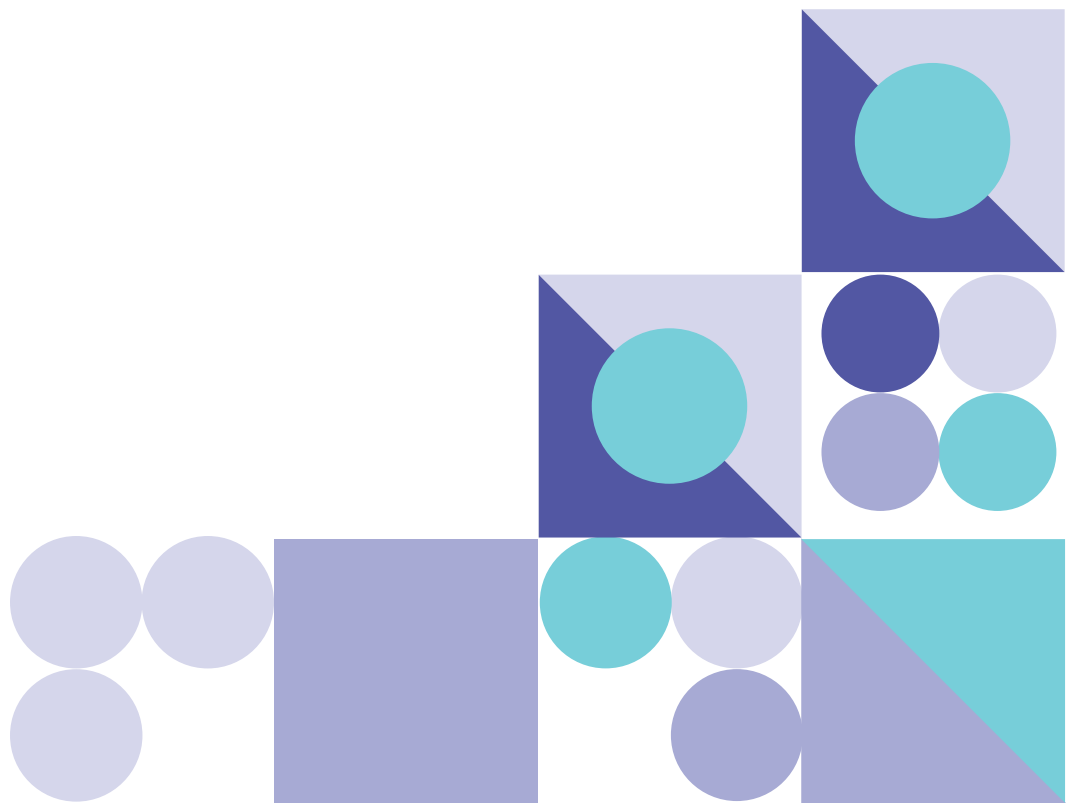


Dr. Antigona Ukehaxhaj is a specialist in human ecology. Her area of expertise is monitoring and quality of drinking water in Kosovo, food quality and safety, prevention of intra-hospital infections, and environmental pollution with special emphasis on outdoor and indoor air pollution. Her academic journey includes completing master's studies at the University of Pristina and doctoral studies at the "Kirij i Metodij" University in Macedonia.

She has been a lecturer and teaching assistant at the University of Gjakova since 2010. In 2021, she assumed the esteemed position of dean at the Faculty of Medicine, "Fehmi Agani" University of Gjakova.

For over two decades, she has been a vital contributor to the Laboratory Testing Center at the National Institute of Public Health in Pristina. Currently, she spearheads the laboratory at the Center for Environment and Health at NIPH.

She has actively participated in numerous local projects, training sessions, and workshops. Additionally, she has lent her expertise as a member of working groups tasked with shaping strategic health documents.



DR. ARIANA BYTYÇI-KATANOLLI

PhD in Epidemiology and
Public Health



Dr. Ariana Bytyçi-Katanolli holds a PhD in Epidemiology and Public Health from the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute/ University of Basel. During her doctoral studies, she was awarded the Swiss Government Excellence Scholarship and the SSPH+ Global PhD Fellowship Program in Public Health Sciences, which was funded by Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions. In the United States of America (USA), she pursued her university degree and actively participated in various research projects conducted by the New York University (NYU) Department of Epidemiology and Health Promotion. Dr. Bytyçi-Katanolli has contributed to the implementation of several public health initiatives in Kosovo, gaining valuable experience in interventions aimed at strengthening healthcare systems with a particular emphasis on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Currently, she serves as a Scientific Research Consultant at the Accessible Quality Healthcare (AQH) project in Kosovo, where she conducts both quantitative and qualitative research studies. Her research interests revolve around lifestyle behaviors and the epidemiology of NCDs.



BASRI KASTRATI

Deputy Ombudsperson in Kosovo



Basri Kastrati is an expert in legal sciences, currently serving as the Deputy Ombudsman in Kosovo, a constitutional institution for the protection, monitoring, and promotion of fundamental rights and freedoms with a special focus on the Republic of Kosovo. He completed his doctoral studies in Tetovo, while his bachelor's and master's degrees were obtained from the University of Prishtina.

He has contributed to the drafting of important national laws and strategies for protection against domestic violence, compensation for crime victims, prevention and combat of human trafficking, and more. He is a co-author of Minimum Standards of Care for Trafficking Victims and the author and co-author of five scientific works in the field of human rights and victim protection.

He was a coordinator for training in the Unit for Performance Assessment of Prosecutors in the Prosecutorial Council of Kosovo, and from 2013-2022, he led the Office for Victim Protection and Assistance within the Office of the State Prosecutor. He has been engaged as a lecturer/trainer by the Justice Academy and the Academy for Public Security in Kosovo. In the realm of victims' rights and human rights, he holds over 50 certificates of recognition.



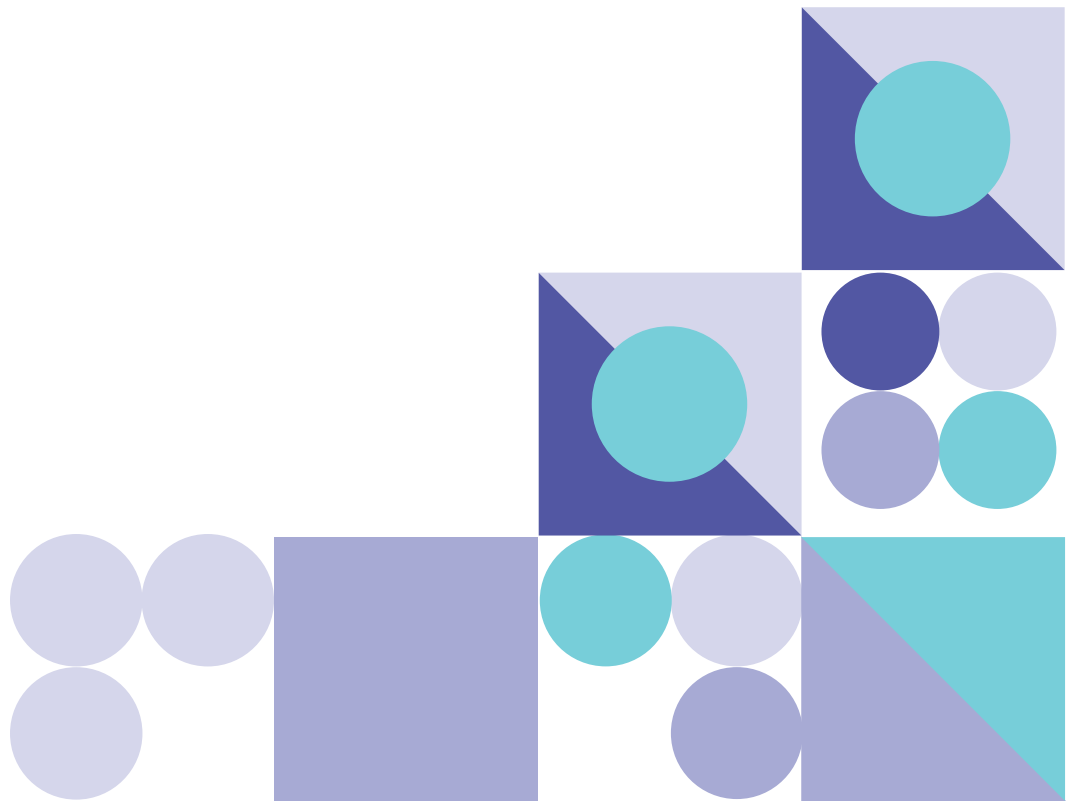
ASS. DR. BESIM MORINA

Pulmonology Specialist



Dr. Besim Morina is a pulmonology specialist, currently engaged in several important public positions. He is the Head of the Invasive Diagnostics Department at the Pulmonology Clinic, Executive Director of the Association of Pulmonologists of Kosovo, as well as an assistant at the Faculty of Medicine. He completed his studies at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Pristina, and in 2013, he finalized his specialization in internal medicine. Furthermore, he completed a subspecialization in pulmonology.

In 2013, he began his doctoral studies at the University of Pristina and Napier University in Edinburgh, United Kingdom. Dr. Besim Morina has expanded his knowledge by participating in significant activities within his field of expertise, including the 'Salzburg Columbia University Seminar' in Internal Medicine, organized by the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, where he received an award for the best presentation. In 2019, he participated in the 'Salzburg Columbia University Seminar' in pulmonology, organized by Weill Cornell Medicine-NYP. He is a member of the European Respiratory Society (ERS) and serves as the Executive Director of the Association of Pulmonologists of Kosovo.



DR. BESIM NURI

HAP Project, Albania



Dr. Besim Nuri is a dedicated specialist in public health. Since 2017, he has held the position of project manager for the “Health for All” project (HAP). He graduated from the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Tirana in 1984 and completed his master’s studies in public health at the University of Montreal in Canada. From 1992 to 1994, he contributed to the advancement of health policies by serving as Deputy Minister of Health in Albania. He also worked in the Virology section of the Institute of Public Health. Throughout his career, he has been engaged in various international organizations such as the World Bank, the World Health Organization, UNFPA, the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, and the Swiss Cooperation Office. Dr. Nuri has worked for the Unité de Santé Internationale (International Health Unit) of the Faculty of Medicine and later at the School of Public Health at the University of Montreal in Canada as a coordinator of development projects and training activities in various countries around the world, including Albania, Kosovo, Haiti, Gabon, Burkina Faso, Benin, Kazakhstan, Republic of the Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Morocco, and Lebanon. His areas of expertise include health systems and health policies, strategic health planning, development of training programs, human resources and continuing education, as well as project management.



DR. BUJAR GASHI

Director, MFMC Prishtina

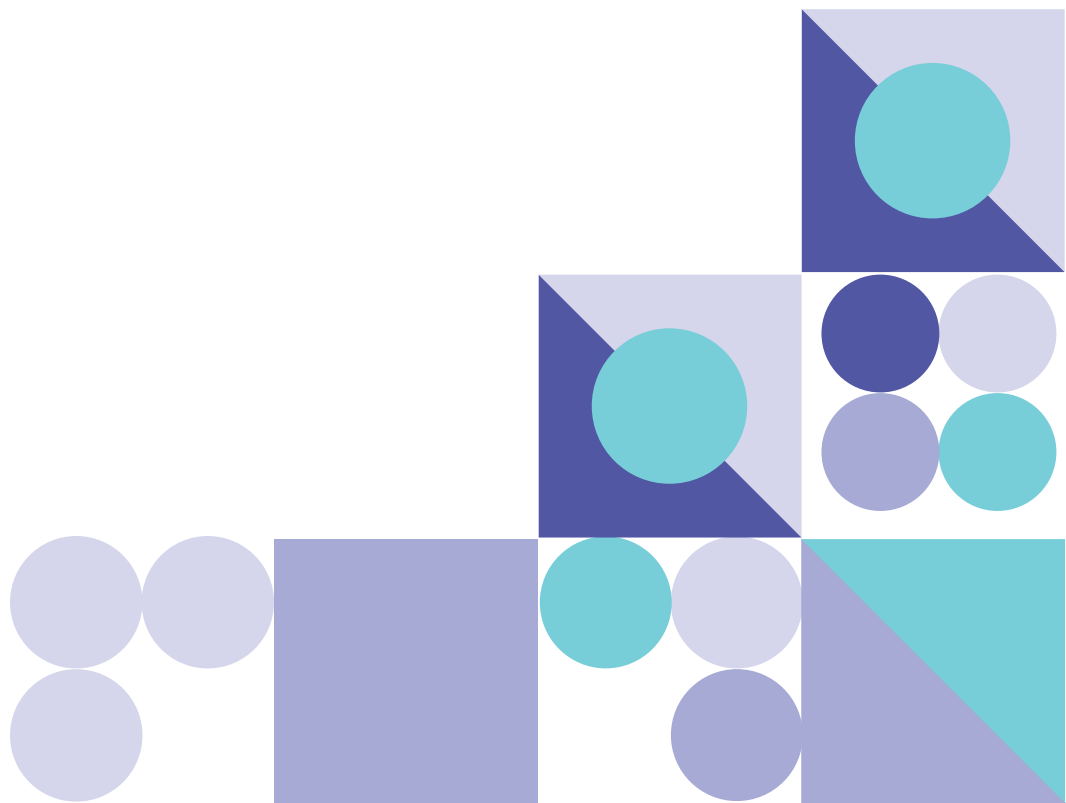


Dr. Bujar Gashi is a dedicated Family Medicine Specialist committed to implementing the concept of family medicine in the capital and beyond. He studied at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Pristina, where he specialized in his field of expertise.

He continued his studies in the field of family medicine curriculum as a certified trainer accredited by the RCPG-London in the accredited family medicine program. He serves as a mentor to groups of family medicine trainees. He completed his master's studies in healthcare management at the 'Iliria' college.

With over 24 years of work experience, he has held important public positions, including Director of the Emergency Medicine Center, Director of the Health Directorate in the Municipality of Pristina, and Director of the Main Family Medicine Center in Pristina.

He is the author of the research paper titled 'Seroprevalence of SARS-CoV-2 among healthcare workers in the Municipality of Pristina.'



DR. DAFINA GEXHA-BUNJAKU

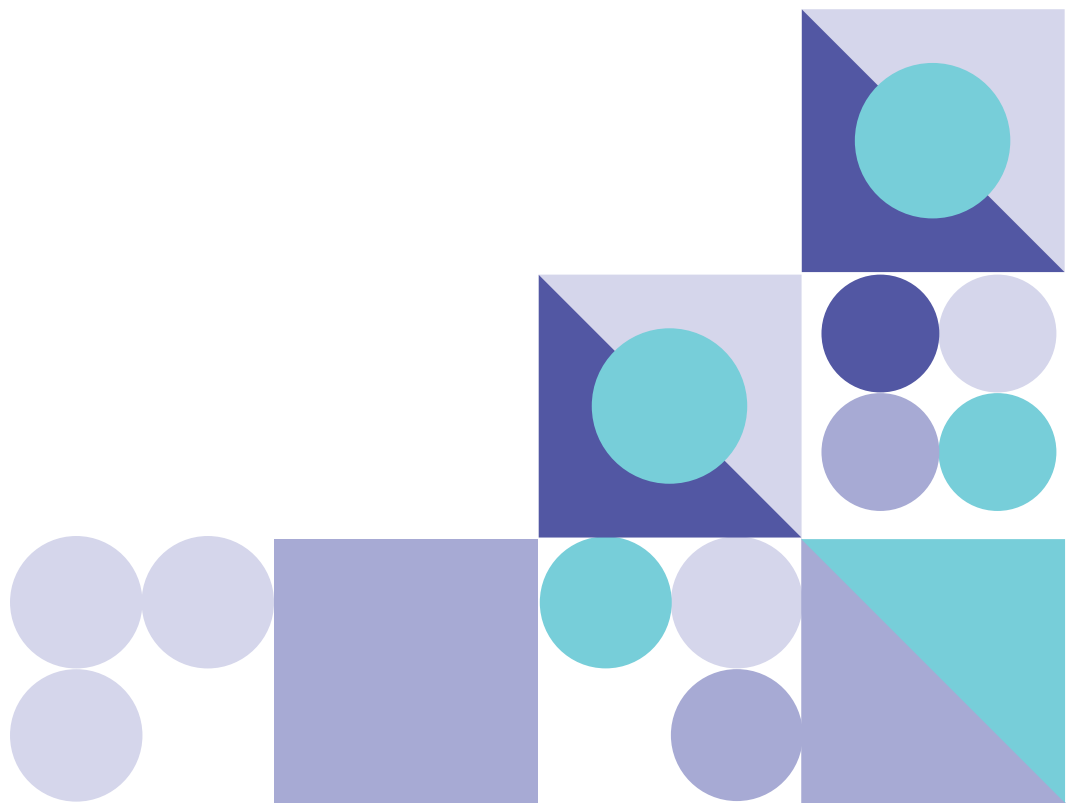
Deputy Minister of Health in Kosovo



Dr. Dafina Gexha-Bunjaku is an epidemiologist who currently holds the position of Deputy Minister of Health in the Republic of Kosovo. For several years, she has worked at the National Institute of Public Health of Kosovo in the epidemiology department. She was part of the NIPH's team for the preparatory and management phase of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Graduated from the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Pristina, she continued her postgraduate studies in the field of healthcare management, a joint program between the University of Pristina and the Vienna University, Austria.

Her professional experience includes engagement with the World Health Organization, as well as with the Global Fund for Community Development (CDF). She is author of research papers on HIV and COVID-19.



DR. DARDAN ASLLANI

Digital Clinic



Dr. Dardan Asllani is co-founding Klinika Digjitale, a pioneering platform for faster and more accessible healthcare. A graduate of the University of Prishtina, Dr. Dardan Asllani completed his medical journey with a thesis on Digital Pathology. He is also a community advocate, currently as President of Rotary Club Peja. Dr. Asllani, a Top 50 Global Leader in Digital Health, has elevated Kosovo's potential for digital healthcare transformation. His achievements span Rotary International, where he received the Paul Harris Fellow award. As an Honorary Citizen of North Ridgeville, Ohio, USA, his dedicated community work is celebrated annually on November 16th.

He leads impactful projects, like the Digital Clinic for Ukraine and e-Health Tourism. His involvement extends to international collaborations, including the Erasmus+ CBHE project and the "Innovation, Care and Robots" initiative. As a sought-after speaker at international conferences, such as the Digital Therapeutics Startup Congress in Brussels and the International Conference Latest Trends in Digital Health, Dardan Asllani's insights resonate with audiences worldwide. He also shares his knowledge through publications, like "Digital Transformation of Healthcare in Kosovo," featured in HORIZON Magazine, where he highlights the significance of digital health development during the pandemic.



DR. EDIS DEMIRI

Specialist of Cardiology



Dr. Edis Demiri is a cardiology specialist who currently leads the Cardiology Department at the 'United Hospital' in Pristina. He completed his undergraduate studies at the Faculty of Medicine at Ankara University in Turkey, while he pursued his specialization in cardiology at 'Hacettepe University' in the same city.

With over 15 years of experience in the field of medicine, Dr. Demiri has held significant positions in well-known institutions, including the Head of the Coronary Unit at the Cardiology Clinic at the University Clinical Center of Kosovo. Since 2007, when he began his specialization in cardiology, Dr. Demiri has been actively involved in conducting scientific research related to hypertension. His work has been published in reputable journals such as 'Blood Pressure Monitoring.'



ASS. DR. EDMOND HALITI

Cardiologist



Dr. Edmond Haliti is a dedicated cardiologist who currently holds the position of Chief of the Cardiac Electrostimulation and Electrophysiology Service at the Cardiology Clinic of the University Clinical Center of Kosovo. He is also an assistant professor in the Department of Internal Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Prishtina.

He is the vice-chair of the Specialist Education Committee at the Kosovo Medical Chamber and the chairman of the Central Board for Specialist Training at the Ministry of Health. Dr. Haliti is a fellow of the European Society of Cardiology (FESC). He is also the author and co-author of several scientific papers published in internationally reviewed journals, as well as a co-author of three university textbooks.

He completed his medical studies at the University of Tirana, specializing in Internal Medicine and Cardiology in Prishtina. He further pursued narrow specializations in the field of Cardiac Imaging and Clinical Arrhythmology at AKH University Hospital, Eihelminenspital, and Kaiser Franz Joseph Spital in Vienna. He also undertook specializations in the field of Cardiac Electrostimulation at the Hospital Center for Advanced Specializations in Ankara, the National Institute for Cardiovascular Diseases in Bratislava, and finally, specializations in the field of Cardiac Electrophysiology at Tokuda-AciBadem University Hospital in Sofia and SKL Klinikum am Platenwald Hospital in Heilbronn.



DR. ELFETE KUTLLOVCI

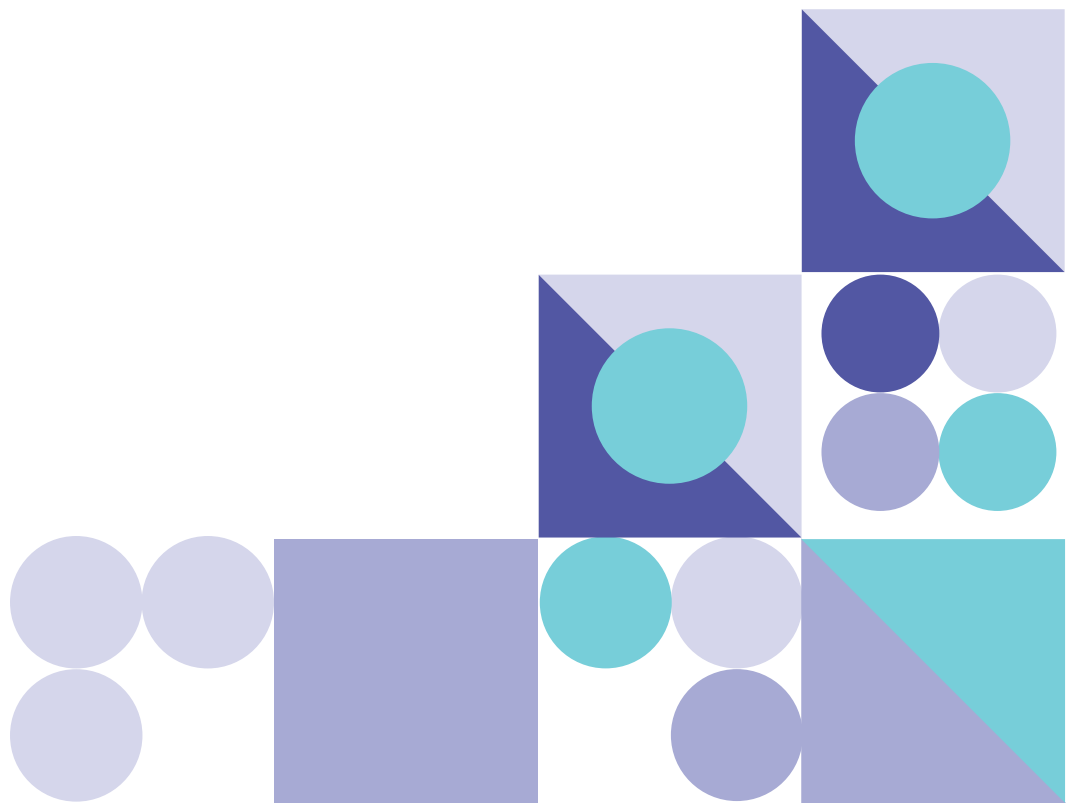
Specialist of Family Medicine



Dr. Elfete Kutllovci is a dedicated family medicine specialist. She holds a medical degree from the University of Pristina and a Master of Medical Sciences degree. She sharpened her expertise by participating in the “International Family Medicine Development Days” in the UK and completing a 3-month training program in the Netherlands.

Currently, Dr. Elfete serves as a family medicine specialist at a Family Medicine Center in Prishtina and plays a key role in coordinating the Family Medicine Training Center.

She is passionate about improving healthcare quality and has conducted research on topics like “Parenteral therapy” and antibiotic usage. Dr. Elfete’s primary focus is elevating the knowledge and skills of healthcare professionals in Family Medicine and promoting the importance of Clinical Guidelines and Protocols for better patient ca



DR. ERNESA XHAFA HAMITI

Oncology specialist



Dr Ernesa Xhafa-Hamiti is a Medical Oncology Consultant managing Breast and lung malignancies, and Acute Oncology at Mount Vernon Cancer Centre (London). She graduated Medicine in from the University of Prishtina in 2004 and completed her BSc in Podiatry in London. All her postgraduate training granted her membership in the Royal College of Physicians (RCP) in 2010. Since then, she rotated and gained experience in Oncology in both Academic centers and District General hospitals, such as UCLH, Imperial, and St Bartholomew's Hospital (the first hospital in the UK since 1123), where she completed Oncology specialty training and became a Medical Oncologist.

Dr Ernesa is an author and co-author of numerous publications in her field and a participant in national and international meetings. She is a member of RCP, UKBCG, ACP and ESMO. She has been heavily involved in teaching junior doctors and students and initiated the creation of a professional charity organization- UK Albanian Medical Society (UKAMS) in London. Dr. Xhafa has been honored 'First Humanitarian Award' from HCA International, funding received was donated to kids of Kosova, suffering from cancer. Recently, the President of Kosova, Vjosa Osmani awarded her with Presidential Medal 'St Teresa'.



DR. EVAN BLECHER

Consultant, World Bank



Dr Evan Blecher is currently an Economist in the Global Tax Program at the World Bank headquarters in Washington DC. Prior to joining the Bank, he was an Economist in the Fiscal Policies for Health unit at the World Health Organization headquarters in Geneva. Prior appointments include the University of Illinois at Chicago; American Cancer Society and the University of Cape Town where he remains an Honorary Professor in the School of Economics.

He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Cape Town, an M.A. in Economics with Distinction from the University of the West of England, Bristol and a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Cape Town.

Dr Blecher's work focuses on tax policy and its influence on health behaviors, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, and covers issues including the design, implementation and evaluation of tobacco, alcohol, and sugar-sweetened beverage tax policies.

His research has been an influence on global policy trends, including the popularization of benchmarking the affordability of tobacco, alcohol, and sugar-sweetened beverage over time. He has published articles in numerous journals including 'Tobacco Control', 'Addiction', 'South African Journal of Economics', 'South African Medical Journal', 'Journal of Health Economics', 'Social Science and Medicine' ect.

He was a member of the expert group for the IARC Handbook on the Effectiveness of Tax and Price Policies for Tobacco Control and is a co-author of the NCI Monograph on the Economics of Tobacco Control.



PROF. ASOC. FABIAN CENKO

IHS Project, Kosovo

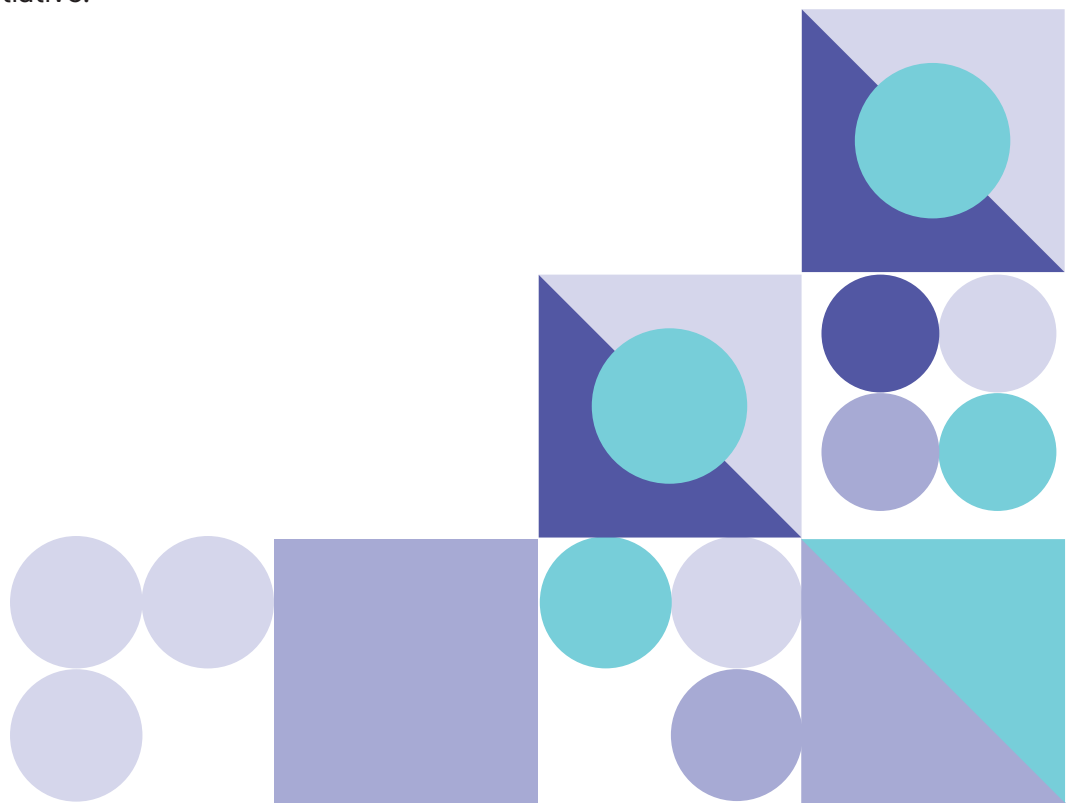


Prof. Fabian Cenko, an epidemiologist, is a distinguished leader in health management and a passionate advocate for health policies. With over 28 years of experience, he has expertise in diverse healthcare areas, from immunization programs to maternal and child health and professional development for healthcare practitioners.

Throughout his career, Prof. Cenko has made significant contributions to medical sciences, publishing 40 scientific articles, including 26 in indexed journals. His H-Index of 10 on Scopus reflects his substantial impact in healthcare research.

Prof. Cenko's academic journey includes earning an MD degree from Tirana Medical University, specializing in Public Health at Tor Vergata University in Rome and completing his PhD in epidemiology and public health at the same institution in 2013.

Currently, as the Team Leader for the Integrated Health Services (IHS) Project, Prof. Cenko leads efforts to enhance healthcare services. He has also served as a temporary advisor to the World Health Organization (WHO), focusing on improving vaccination programs through the Effective Vaccine Management Initiative.



DR. FAIK HOTI

Public Health Specialist, NIPH



Dr. Faik Hoti is a specialist in public health, currently engaged in the Department of Epidemiology at the National Institute of Public Health of Kosovo. His area of expertise lies in health education and promotion, public communication, as well as engagement in the development and implementation of the legal framework for tobacco control.

Dr. Hoti completed his studies at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Prishtina, while his specialization in public health was conducted at the National Institute of Public Health of Kosovo. He has made an outstanding contribution as the Director of the Department of Public Communication at the Ministry of Health. He has also served as the Director of the Department of Strategic Development in this institution for a period. He held the position of the national coordinator for tobacco control and worked as a journalist and health editor for the newspaper 'Zeri'. For his contributions to the field of medicine, he has been recognized with appreciation for his achievements in the Tobacco Control Law, as well as for his efforts in drafting the Essential Drug List. Dedicated to advancing his field of expertise, Dr. Hoti has pursued various training opportunities within and outside the country organized by supporters of the health sector in Kosovo, including the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and others.



DR. FATMIRE MULHAXHA KOLLÇAKU

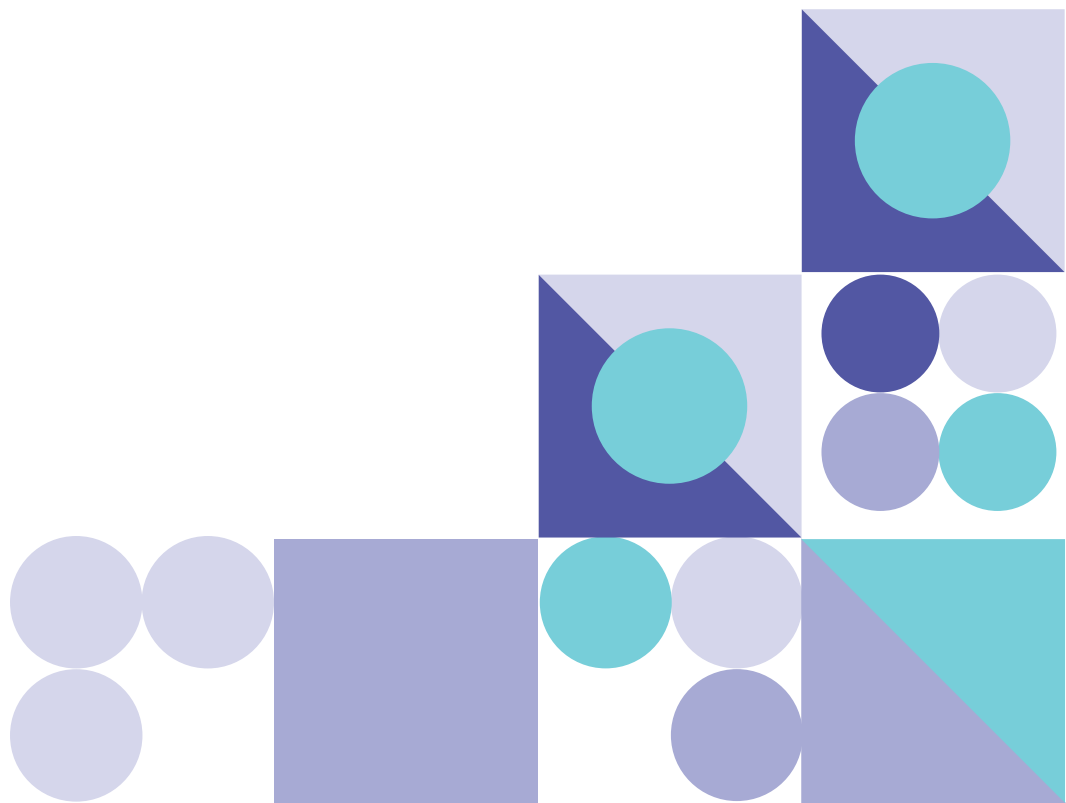
Chair of the Parliamentary Committee
for Health and Social Welfare



Fatmire Mulhaxha Kollçaku is an epidemiology specialist, currently serving as a deputy in the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo. She is the Chairwoman of the Parliamentary Committee for Health and Social Welfare, as well as the Head of the National Council for Sustainable Development. This is her fourth mandate as a deputy. She has studied medicine, and her expertise lies in the field of epidemiology.

She has pursued postgraduate studies in Healthcare Management and has undergone numerous training programs related to the healthcare sector.

Since the year 2000, she has been actively involved with the National Institute of Public Health, Peje branch.



DR. FLORIE MIFTARI-BASHOLLI

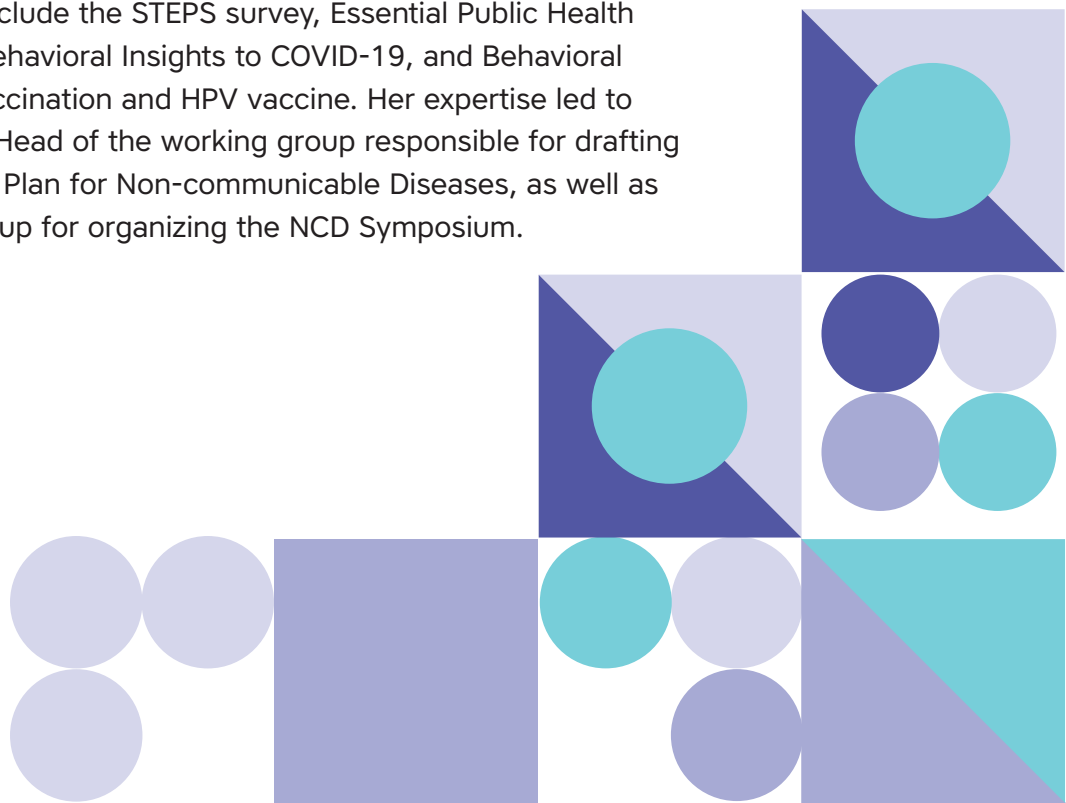
Public Health Specialist, NIPH



Dr. Florie-Miftari Basholli is a dedicated public health specialist committed to advancing the health and wellbeing of the population in Kosovo. She earned her MD degree from the University of Prishtina Faculty of Medicine, where she also completed her specialization in Public Health. Currently, Dr. Miftari-Basholli is pursuing her PhD at the University of Prishtina, Faculty of Medicine, and attending a two-years fellowship, “The Mediterranean and Black Sea Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (MediPIET),” at the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control in Stockholm.

Having more than 10 years of experience in public health, Dr. Miftari-Basholli has made a significant impact in promoting and advancing public health among the population. Her work includes efforts in adolescent and youth reproductive health, training healthcare staff on the prevention of communicable diseases through childhood vaccination home visits programs, and providing motivational counseling training for healthcare professionals. Additionally, she serves as a teaching assistant at the Social Medicine Cathedrae, Faculty of Medicine.

Dr. Miftari-Basholli is an essential team member involved in conducting important research within the country. Some of the notable research projects she is part of include the STEPS survey, Essential Public Health Operations in Kosovo, Behavioral Insights to COVID-19, and Behavioral Insights to childhood vaccination and HPV vaccine. Her expertise led to her appointment as the Head of the working group responsible for drafting and finalizing the Action Plan for Non-communicable Diseases, as well as chairing the working group for organizing the NCD Symposium.



PROF. FLORIAN TOTI

Endocrinologist, Medical University,
Tirana

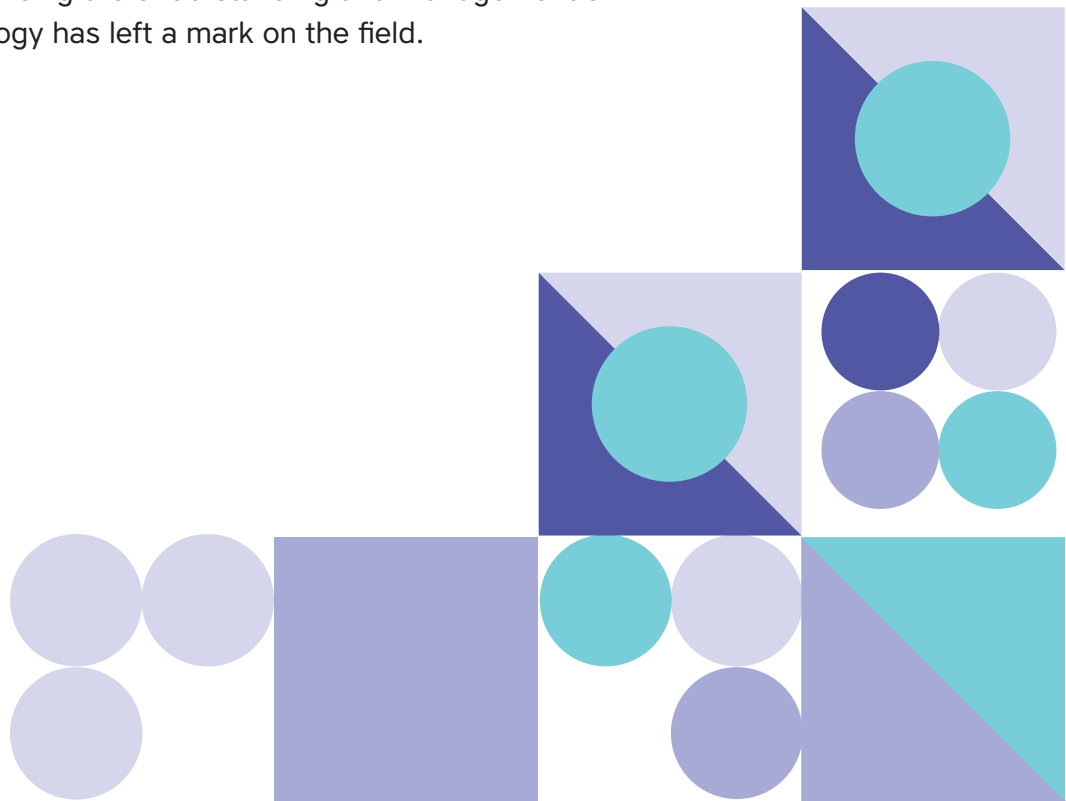


Dr. Florian Toti is a prominent figure in the field of diabetes and endocrinology, currently serving as a Lecturer at the Faculty of Medicine at Tirana University of Medicine. With a career marked by excellence and leadership, he has made significant contributions to diabetes education, prevention, and the understanding of diabetes complications.

He has held key positions, including Past Chair of the DESG – EASD Study Group and the role of President of the Albanian Diabetes Association. His journey in endocrinology and diabetology began with his Diploma of Specialist in Endocrinology-Diabetology and Metabolic Diseases in 2001. He further distinguished himself by earning the academic title of Professor of Medicine at Tirana University of Medicine in 2015.

Dr. Toti's passion for improving diabetes care is evident through his involvement in various national and international programs, including ALBDIAB, Screening for Diabetic Retinopathy, and EU-funded projects like IMAGE and DIGICARE4YOU.

With over 50 articles published in peer-reviewed journals and more than 100 oral presentations at national and international conferences, Dr. Florian Toti's dedication to advancing the understanding and management of diabetes and endocrinology has left a mark on the field.



PROF. DR. FLORIM CUCULI

Head of Cardiology, Heart Centre,
Luzern, Switzerland

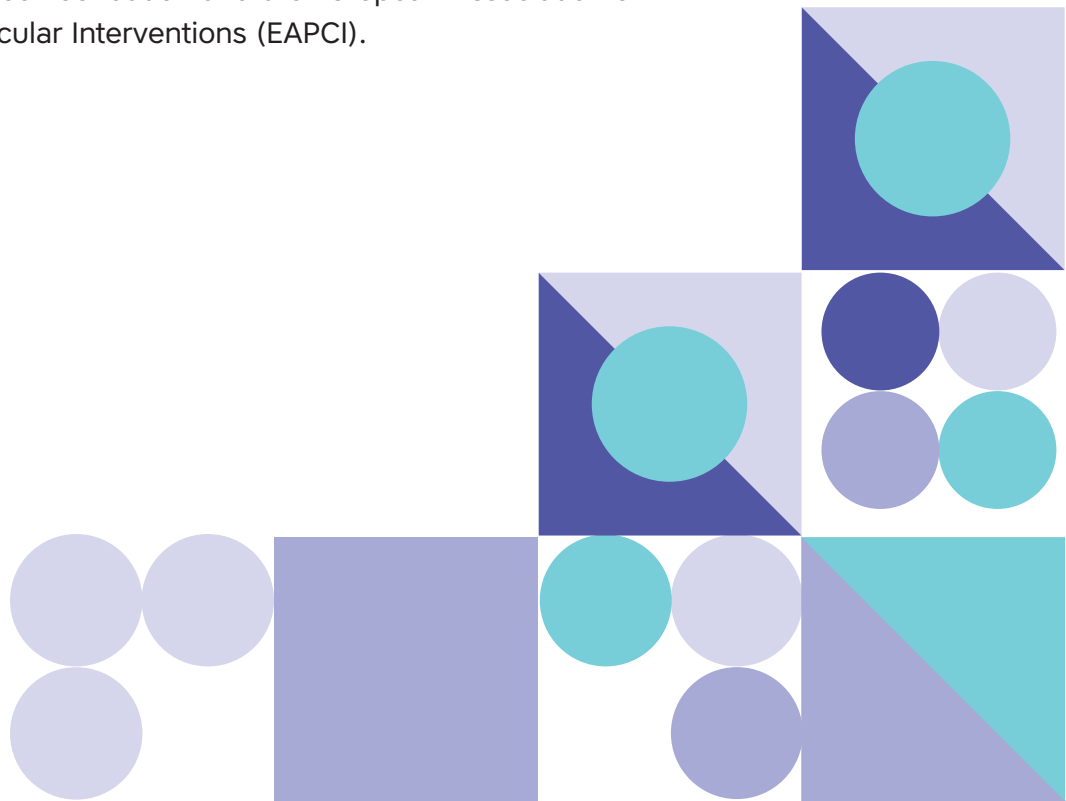


Dr. Florim Cuculi is a renowned figure in the field of cardiology, currently holding the position of Head of the Department of Cardiology at the Heart Center Lucerne in Switzerland.

Dr. Cuculi's journey began at the University of Basel, where he graduated in 2004. His pursuit of excellence led him to Lucerne, where he undertook his Internal Medicine training before specializing in cardiology, completing his cardiology training in both Lucerne and Berne. In 2009, he ventured abroad to the Oxford University Hospitals for a combined research and interventional fellowship.

Returning to Switzerland in 2012, Dr. Cuculi joined the Luzerner Kantonsspital as an interventional cardiologist. His dedication to the field earned him the Venia Docendi from the University of Basel in 2016. Since 2018, he has served as the Co-Chief of Cardiology at the Heart Center Lucerne and, in 2019, assumed the role of Director of Cardio Center Luzern.

Dr. Cuculi's research interests revolve around coronary disease. His extensive work in clinical trials and as a principal investigator has garnered recognition, and he has secured grants from esteemed institutions like the Swiss National Science Foundation and the European Association of Percutaneous Cardiovascular Interventions (EAPCI).



PROF. DR. GAZMEND ZHURI

Specialist in pulmonology



Dr. Gazmend Zhuri is a specialist in pulmonology and public health. He has completed postgraduate studies in the field of oncology as well as a specialization in pulmonology at the University of Zagreb in Croatia. Dr. Zhuri has 38 years of experience as a pulmonologist and 25 years as a bronchologist.

Throughout his career, he has led projects and held significant positions. He was the director of the Pulmonology Clinic at the University Clinical Center of Kosovo, where he also founded the Bronchoscopy Unit. He is a professional trainer in this field. Until 2021, he was the executive director of the Kosovo Association of Pulmonologists. From 2000 to 2003, he was the director of the DOTS Implementation Project in Kosovo, and he continued as an international consultant for this project in Romania. For five years, he was engaged as a consultant in the DOTS program 'Implementation and Training of Tuberculosis in Kosovo,' implemented by the WHO. He participated in the development of a project on the impact of environmental pollution on respiratory diseases in Kosovo. The results of this study, co-authored by Dr. Zhuri, were presented at the World Bank Conference in Washington DC. Always seeking to expand his knowledge, he has participated in numerous training programs abroad. For his contribution and professional assistance, he has been recognized with appreciation by the National Tuberculosis Program in Kosovo.



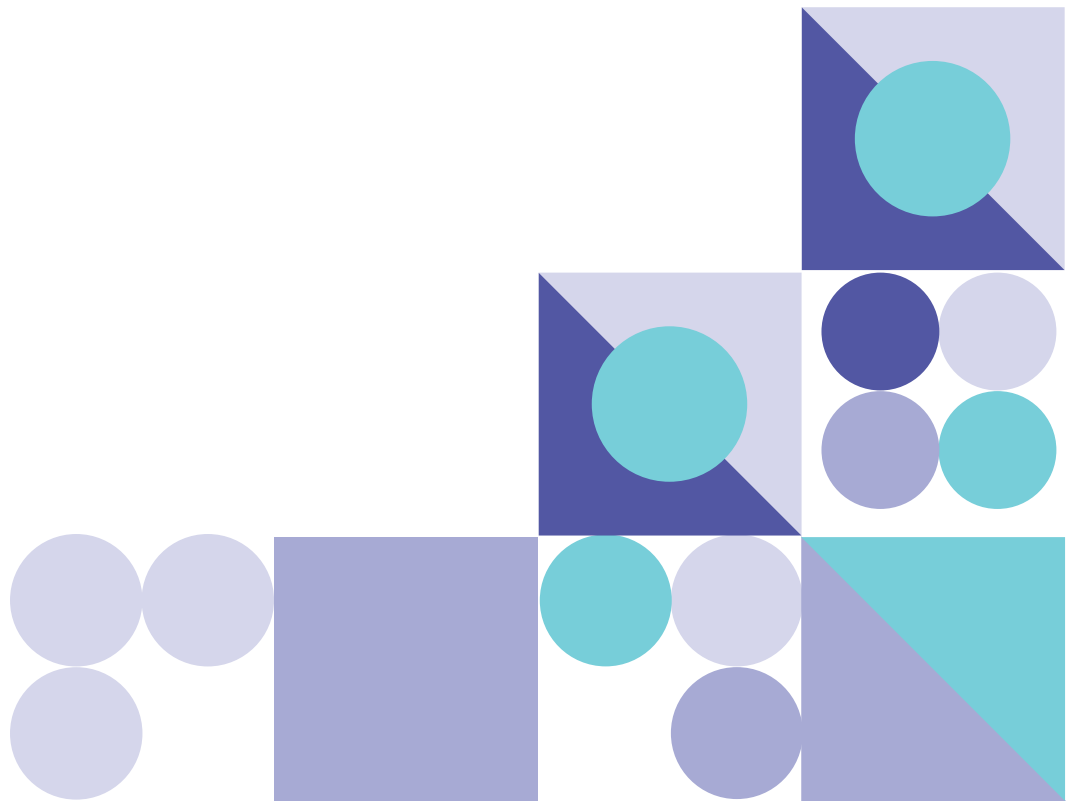
DR. GIORGIO TAMBURLINI

Maternal and Child Health expert,
UNICEF



Dr. Giorgio Tamburlini is a distinguished figure in the field of maternal and child health, currently serving as the President and CEO of the 'Centro per la Salute del Bambino' (Center of Child Health) in Italy. He holds an MD from the University of Trieste and a PhD from the University of Padua, complemented by coursework at renowned institutions like Oxford, Harvard School of Public Health, and Erasmus University Rotterdam. With a career marked by significant roles, including membership in Italy's National Institute of Health Scientific Committee, Dr. Tamburlini has offered extensive consultancy to international organizations such as WHO, UNICEF, and the World Bank. He's a vital member of the ECD Advisory Committee for WHO and UNICEF Europe. Currently, as the leader of Centro per la Salute del Bambino, Dr. Tamburlini coordinates crucial Early Child Development programs. Moreover, he advises Italy's Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, actively shaping policies that enhance child welfare.

Dr. Tamburlini's pivotal work extends to the development of WHO tools for assessing maternal, newborn, and pediatric care quality, garnering special recognition from the International Pediatric Association, where he's served on the standing committee for three mandates.



MR.PH. GRANIT ÇEKU

Pharmacist, Kosovo Chamber
of Pharmacists



Granit Ceku is a pharmacist and lecturer who directly contributes to the advancement of patient care, primarily focusing on drug administration. He completed his studies at the University of Prishtina where he obtained the title of Master of Pharmacy. He pursued postgraduate studies at the 'Haxhi Zeka University' - Faculty of Business, earning a title of MSc in Business Administration. Last year, he also completed postgraduate studies at the University of Prishtina - Faculty of Education, obtaining a Master's degree in Pedagogy for Vocational Schools. Currently, he is pursuing master's studies at the 'Haxhi Zeka University Faculty of Agribusiness, in Sustainable Food Production Systems.

His dedication to research, mainly in the field of pharmacy, led to his recognition as one of the best authors at the first Congress organized by the Chamber of Pharmacists of Kosovo in 2019. He also presented this work at the Integrative Medicine Conference in Tirana.

He has presented his research findings at both local and international conferences, covering areas such as medicine, pharmaceutical promotion, and pedagogy. He shares his experience primarily related to the role of the pharmacist in the treatment and prevention of common diseases, as well as the sources of information for medicines from various perspectives.



DR. HA THI HONG NGUYEN

Senior Health Economist,
World Bank

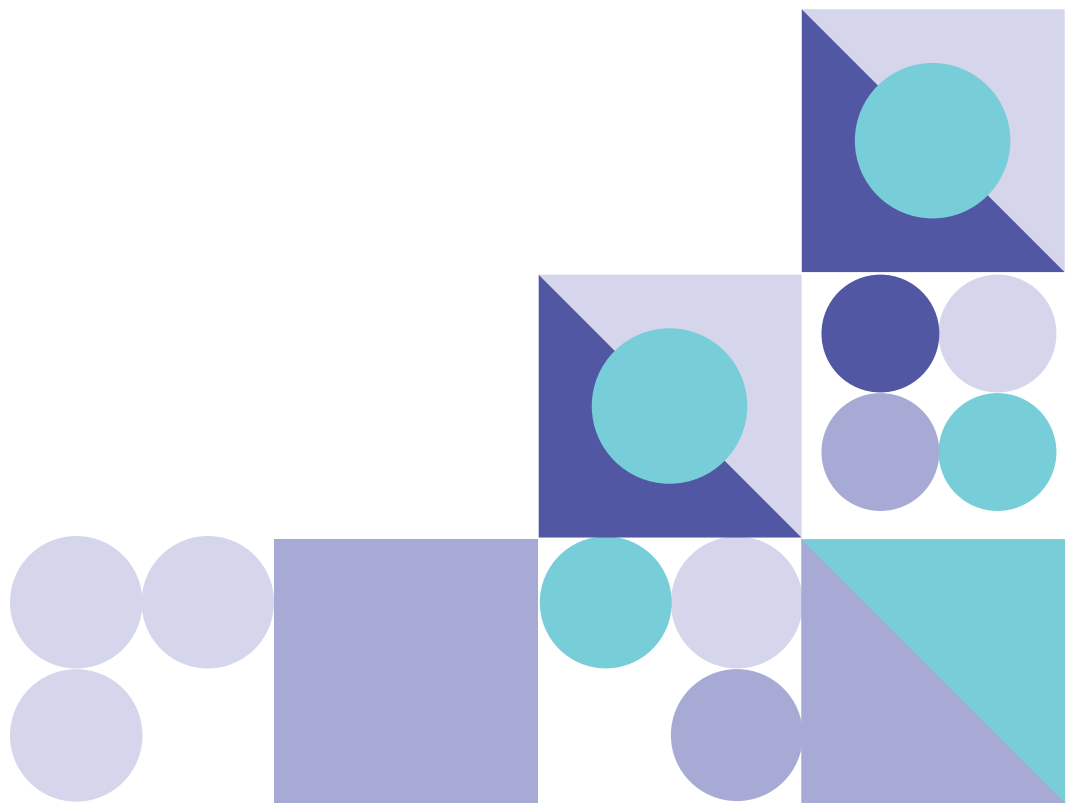


Ms. Ha Thi Nguyen is a Senior Health Economist who has more than 20 years of experience working in global health of which nearly 12 years are with the World Bank Group.

Ms. Nguyen's main areas of expertise include health systems, health financing and insurance, provider payment, and performance-based financing.

She has conducted extensive work in policy analysis, program and impact evaluation, and economic evaluation and authored numerous articles in peer-reviewed journals. During her tenure with the World Bank Group, Ms. Nguyen contributed to the global works on universal health coverage and result-based financing as well as country engagement in East Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia.

Ms. Nguyen has a Master's degree in population and international health from Harvard University and Ph.D. in health economics from the University of California Berkeley.



DR. IBADETE BYTYÇI

Specialist of cardiology

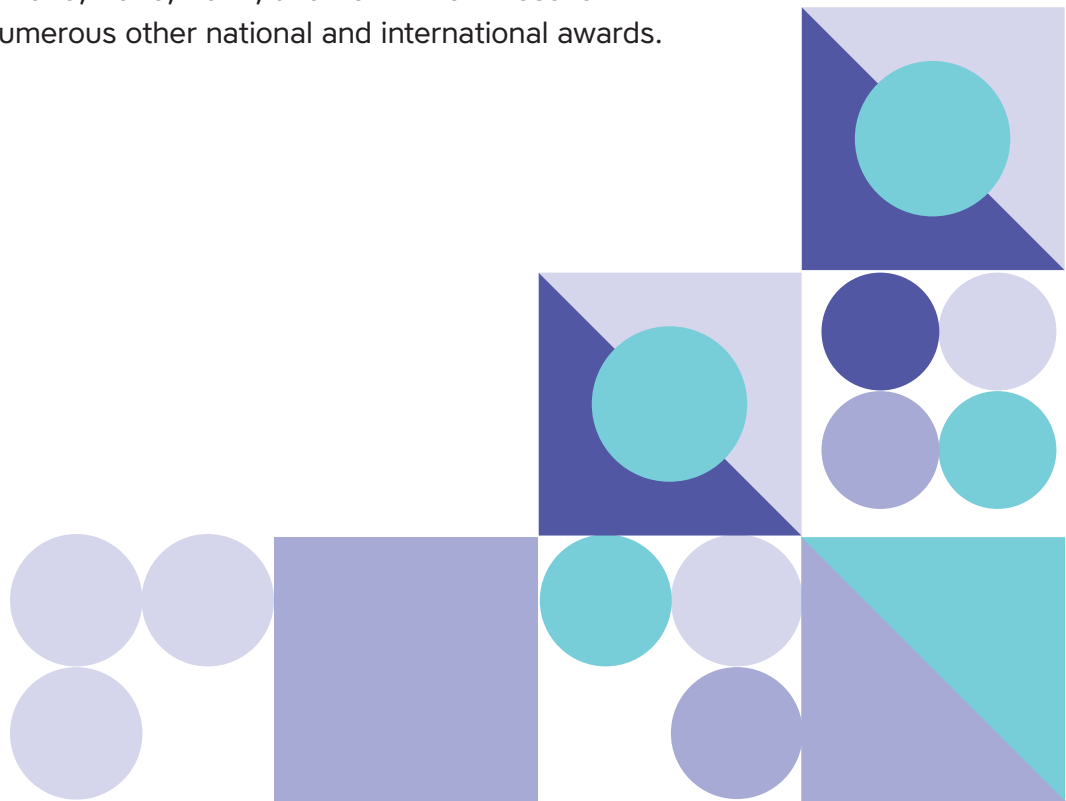


Dr. Bytyçi has completed the specialization in Internal Medicine and Cardiology at the University Clinical Centre of Kosovo and doctoral studies at Umeå University in Sweden. Currently, she is a Research Fellow at Umeå University, leading WG for Preventive Cardiology and Lipidology in Kosovo, and involved in over 20 scientific research groups within the European Society of Cardiology.

Dr. Bytyçi has published over 60 papers and presented more than 100 presentations, including at the most important international events in the field of cardiology, such as the American College of Cardiology; American Heart Association; American Society of Echocardiography European Society of Cardiology etc.

Dr. Bytyçi was honored as the “Scientist of the Year 2021” by the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology, “Fellow of the European Society of Cardiology for scientific excellence” for scientific achievements by the European Society of Cardiology for the years 2019 - 2023.

She also gained recognition for “Abstract of the day: How common is statin intolerance” by the European Society of Cardiology and “The best scientific paper in Kosovo for Year 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022” from Kosovo Doctors Chamber, and numerous other national and international awards.

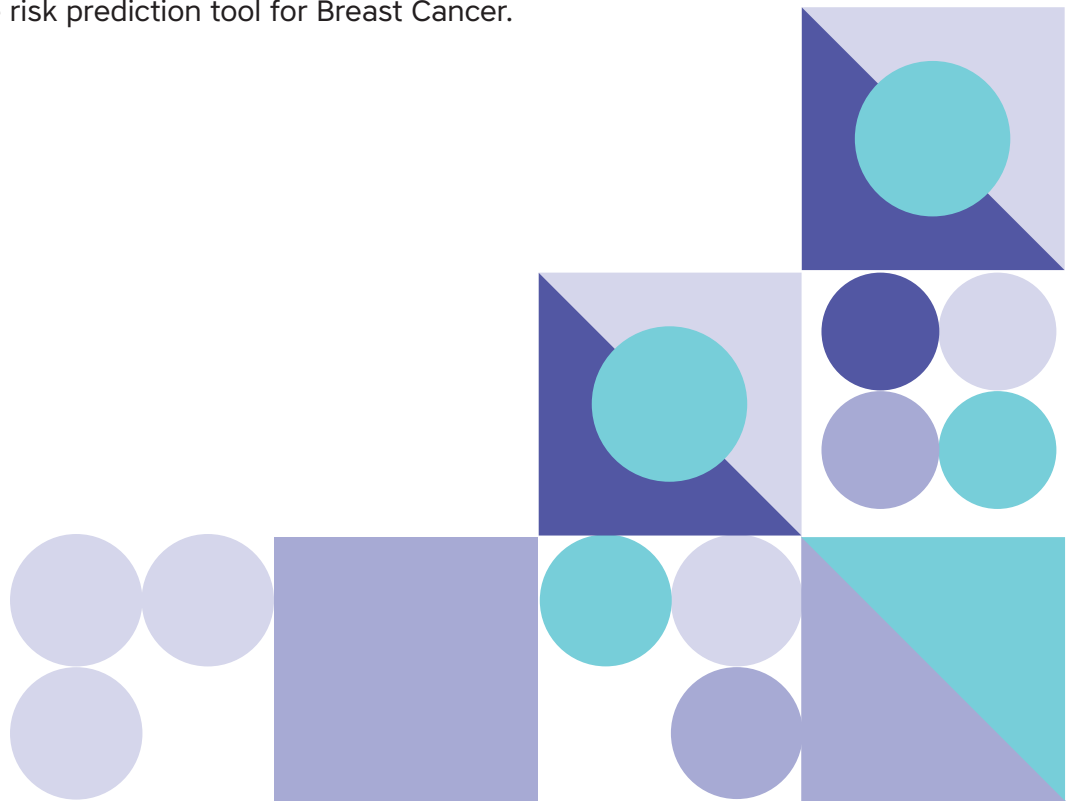


PROF.DR. ILIR HOXHA

Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy
and Clinical Practice



Ilir Hoxha is a public health specialist and health services researcher with a longstanding interest in the role of health systems factors in the provision of health care. With a profound educational background, he earned his MD from the University of Prishtina, an MS from the esteemed London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and further pursued a Ph.D. from the University of Bern. He has finished his residency in Public Health at the National Institute of Public Health of Kosova. Since 2002, Dr. Ilir has been actively engaged in both advisory and research capacities. His commitment to education is reflected in his teaching affiliations with the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth and Heimerer College in Prishtina. In 2018, he took a significant step by establishing LifestylediagnostiX, a venture dedicated to the development of innovative prediction tools. Subsequently, in 2020, he founded the Evidence Synthesis Group, an institution dedicated to academic and applied research. His impactful research has gained recognition on a global scale. His work has been prominently featured in renowned publications such as the BMJ, NEJM, and the New York Times. In the current year alone, he has published over 10 influential articles, with a primary focus on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and cancer care. In 2022, he received the award for the best concept from the Innovation Center of Kosovo for the risk prediction tool for Breast Cancer.



DR. ILIR KURTISHI

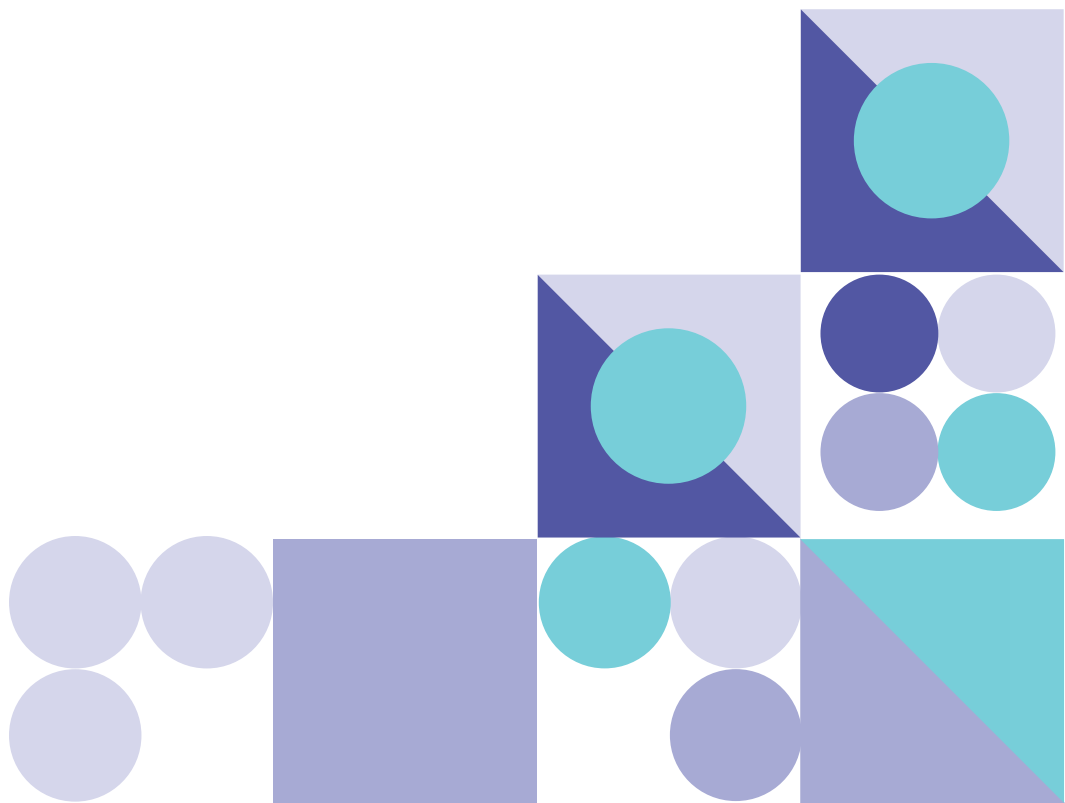
Oncologist



Dr. Ilir Kurtishi, PHDc., is a renowned oncologist who currently holds the position of Director of the Oncology Clinic. He is a candidate for a doctoral degree in the third year of his studies at St. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje. He has made an exceptional contribution through participation in educational, awareness-raising, and professional lectures at symposiums and scientific conferences. He graduated from the Faculty of Medicine as a general practitioner in 2004. Since 2005, he has been working as an Assistant in the field of Medical Physiology at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Prishtina, providing outstanding contributions to the education of young students in all medical disciplines.

He continued his professional development by pursuing specialized postgraduate studies in Oncology and obtained the title of oncologist in 2010. Since then, he has been employed at the Clinical Center of Kosovo, in the Oncology Clinic. Since 2005 and onwards, he has completed a series of specialized training courses in the field of oncology in various countries.

He is a member of the European School of Oncology as well as several European medical oncology associations.



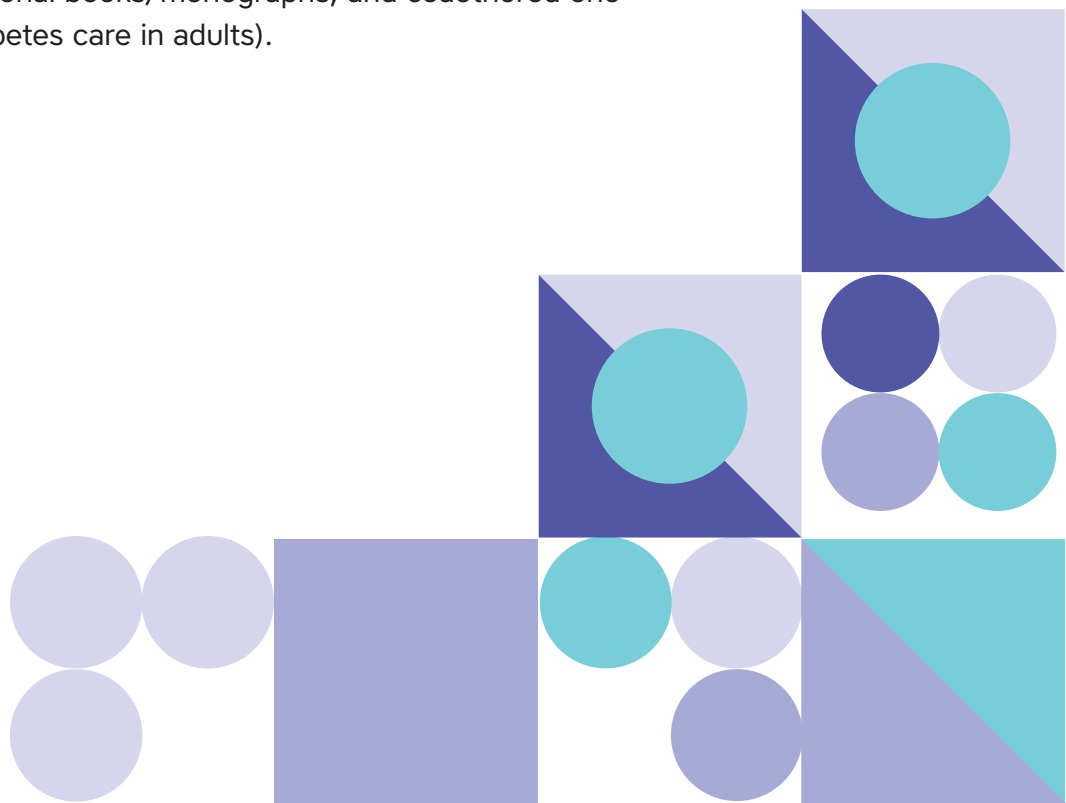
PROF. DR. IVANA PAVLIĆ-RENAR

University of Zagreb



Ivana Pavlić-Renar, MD, PhD is a retired internist and diabetologist/ endocrinologist, professor of internal medicine. Currently, she works for a couple of private clinics occasionally. She is a member of the Multidisciplinary International Association for Chronic Diseases. Dr. Pavlić-Renar obtained her MD degree in 1977 at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Zagreb. At the same Faculty, she had her postgraduate education, obtaining her M.Sc. degree in 1988. and Ph.D. in 2000. After the internship, she joined Vuk Vrhovac Institute in 1979 and worked there in various positions until 2007 when she moved to the Endocrinology Department of Internal Medicine Clinic at Zagreb Clinical Centre and worked there until retirement in 2018. She was involved in the education of medical students at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Zagreb since 1986 and became a faculty member in 1996. One of the students to whom she mentored the Ph.D. thesis was a Kosova colleague who was one of the first two who have completed a Ph.D. program in English when it had been established at Zagreb Faculty of Medicine.

During her career, Dr. Pavlić-Renar was involved in various aspects of diabetes care. She published more than 100 papers, 7 chapters in international and 26 national books/monographs, and coauthored one book (a textbook on diabetes care in adults).



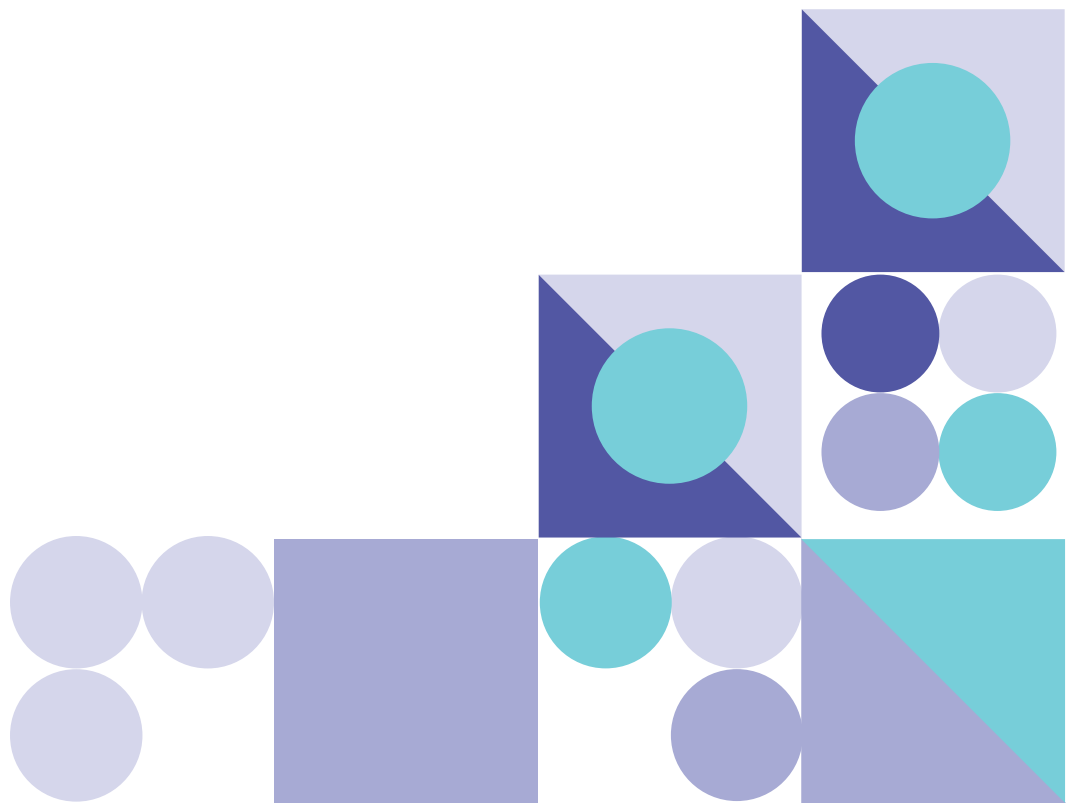
DR. JOËLLE SCHWARZ

University of Lausanne



Joëlle Schwarz is an accomplished epidemiologist and sociologist based in Lausanne, Switzerland. Since 2017, she has been a dedicated member of the Unisanté - University Center for Primary Care and Public Health, where she co-leads the Health and Gender Unit. Joëlle's expertise extends to teaching at the Faculty of Biology and Medicine, University of Lausanne, where she imparts knowledge on gender medicine and research methodologies. She leads research projects that explore the impact of gender as a social determinant of health, with a particular focus on uncovering and addressing gender bias within healthcare systems.

Previously she worked at the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute in Basel, Switzerland. In this role, she actively contributed to the implementation and evaluation of health initiatives in Eastern Europe and Central Africa, with a strong emphasis on health systems and sexual and reproductive health.

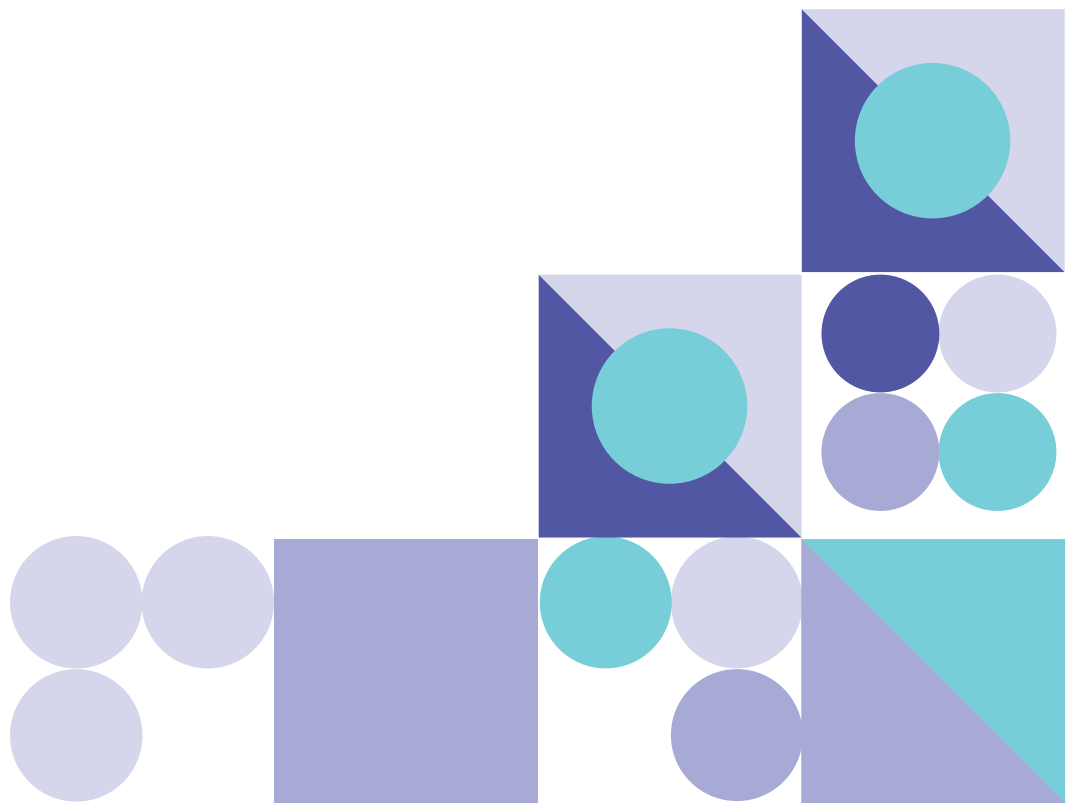


PROF. KASPAR WYSS

Swiss TPH, Switzerland



Kaspar Wyss is a Professor at the University of Basel. He is trained in Epidemiology (PhD) and holds an MPH and a MBA. He acts as deputy director of the Swiss TPH and heads the Swiss Centre for International Health, one of five departments at the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute. Kaspar Wyss is in charge of managing transnational research and implementation projects in Eastern Europe and the Balkans, Africa, and Switzerland, funded by various agencies, such as the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation or the European Commission under Horizon. Research interests pertain to health systems governance, human resource development, successful approaches to strengthening health service delivery, and the role and importance of managerial and policy processes. His career underlines how research evidence on disease systems and health systems translates into concrete action on health/disease and social systems and in finding solutions to the benefit of population health and marginalised groups within the framework of public health programs. He acts as the director of the SDC-funded Health for All Project in Albania improving access to Primary Health Care and home care.



DR. LINDA ÇARKAXHIU

Family Physician, Diabetes specialist



Associate Professor Linda Çarkaxhiu is a specialist in family medicine with over 15 years of expertise in diabetology. Currently, she is the head of the Diabetes Center within the Primary Health Care in Gilan. She completed her doctoral studies at the University of Zagreb in Croatia, while her master's and bachelor's degrees were obtained from the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Prishtina.

Alongside her experience as a specialist in family medicine, she has also been involved in the academic world. Dr. Linda is an assistant professor in the bachelor's program for nursing at UBT University. She has also served as an assistant at the Faculty of Medicine at UP. She is a trainer and a member of the 'Exam Board' for postgraduate studies in the field of family medicine at the Center for Family Medicine Development.

Throughout her career, Dr. Linda has held leadership positions in several institutions, including: head of the Department of Family Medicine, as well as head of the Diabetes Center at the Main Center for Family Medicine in Gjilan. She is a co-author of guidelines and clinical protocols for non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, asthma, and hypertension. She has also been engaged as a local mentor in the training for quality management in PHC, as part of the AQH Project.



PROF. DR. MARIJA VRCA BOTICA

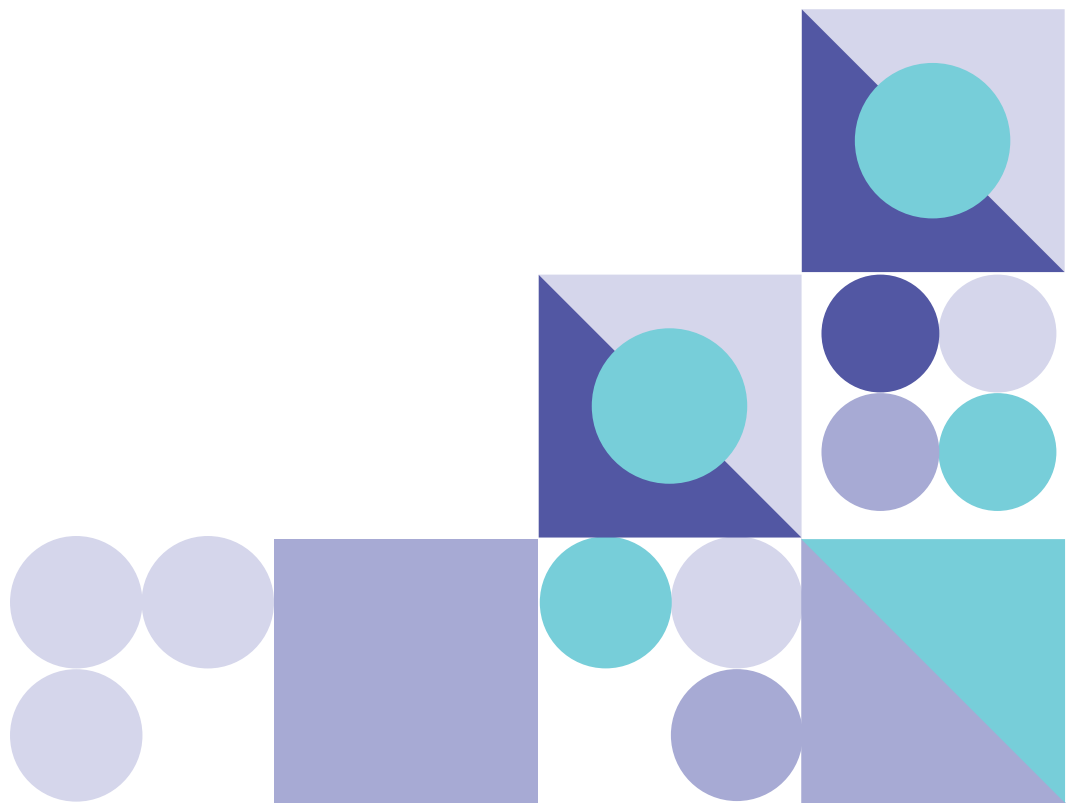
University of Zagreb



Marija Vrca Botica achieved her MD degree in 1976, followed by an MS in 1991 and a PhD in 2001, all from the University of Zagreb Medical School. She holds certifications in family medicine, which she obtained in 1993. During her career, she served as the chief editor of the national journal 'Medicina Familiaris Croatica' from 1993 to 2000. Additionally, she assumed the role of one of two chief editors for two University textbooks focused on diabetes.

Throughout her distinguished career, Marija Vrca Botica has authored approximately 70 papers, including 18 in prestigious journals. Her research areas encompass topics such as diabetes, frequent patient visits in family medicine, antibiotic prescription practices in primary care, the development and validation of morbidity indices, the creation of the International Classification of Disease 11 (ICD 11), the establishment of the International Classification of Primary Care 2/3 (ICPC 2/3), and the promotion of quaternary prevention.

Furthermore, Marija Vrca Botica holds prominent roles as the national representative in 'Primary Care Diabetes Europe' (PCD) and as a member of the Wonca International Classification Committee (WICC).



DR. MARILYS ANNE CORBEX

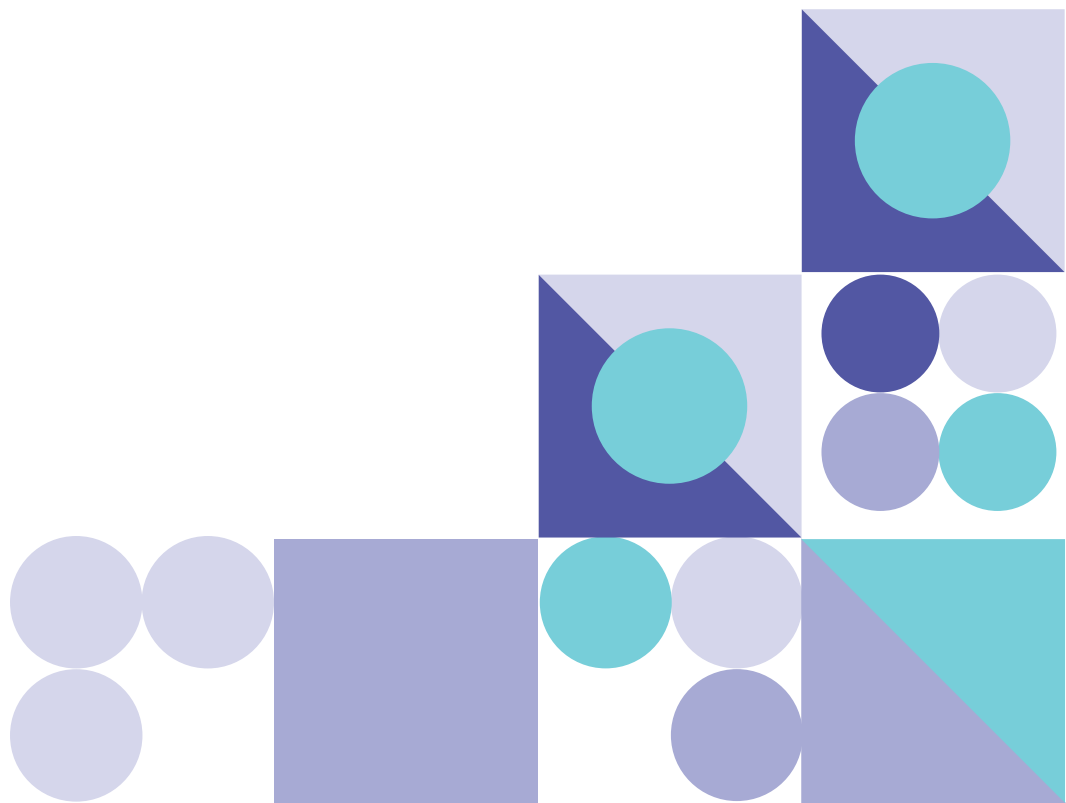
Senior Technical Officer, WHO
Regional Office for Europe



Dr. Marilys Corbex serves as the Senior Technical Officer and leads the cancer control team at the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe. Possessing both French and Belgian nationalities, she boasts 25 years of extensive international experience in cancer epidemiology and control.

In 1994, Dr. Corbex graduated from the esteemed French institution, "Ecole Normale Superieure," and achieved her Ph.D. in Epidemiology and Public Health at an impressive age of 25.

She is a public health expert with extensive academic experience (she published more than 50 articles in peer-reviewed scientific journals), as well as field experience, notably in Eastern Europe, Asia, and North Africa. She has been working for WHO for more than 15 years, as scientist at the International Agency for Research on Cancer and as technical officer at WHO headquarters and at regional offices for the Eastern Mediterranean region and for the Europe region.



DR. MARIUS FILIP

Healthcare expert, East European Institute for Reproductive Health



Dr. Marius Filip is a distinguished healthcare expert and consultant with a wealth of experience in developing healthcare standards and accreditation for providers. His professional journey has been marked by impactful roles and contributions to the healthcare industry.

Dr. Filip's career trajectory includes leading the Standards Development Unit at the Romanian National Authority of Quality Management in Health (ANMCS). Before this, he served as the Chief Physician of the Romanian National Insurance House (CNAS), where he played a pivotal role in spearheading the development of the Electronic Prescription system. This groundbreaking project earned recognition as the winner in the Enterprise Solution of the Year category at the European IT & Software Excellence Awards in London in 2014.

Dr. Filip's commitment to enhancing the healthcare system and medical practices is evident through his consultancy work on the Electronic Patient Healthcare Dossier (DES) project for CNAS. His overarching goal has always been to elevate the quality of medical services, implement effective healthcare management practices, and integrate cutting-edge medical IT solutions, thus contributing significantly to the advancement of healthcare services and standards.



METTE SKAR

Senior Programme Manager at the World Diabetes Foundation



Mette Skar is Senior Programme Manager at the World Diabetes Foundation where she is leading the team responsible for partnerships in Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. She has been working closely with partners in the region since 2014 to strengthen diabetes prevention and care.

She is the lead of World Diabetes Foundation's strategic focus area 'Care' and is experienced in programme management, partnership development and stakeholder engagement.

Mette has previously been working with prison health in the region at Dignity, Danish Institute Against Torture.

Mette holds a Master's degree in Public Health from the University of Copenhagen.



DR. MIMOZA RAMADANI PIRAJ

Endocrinology specialist

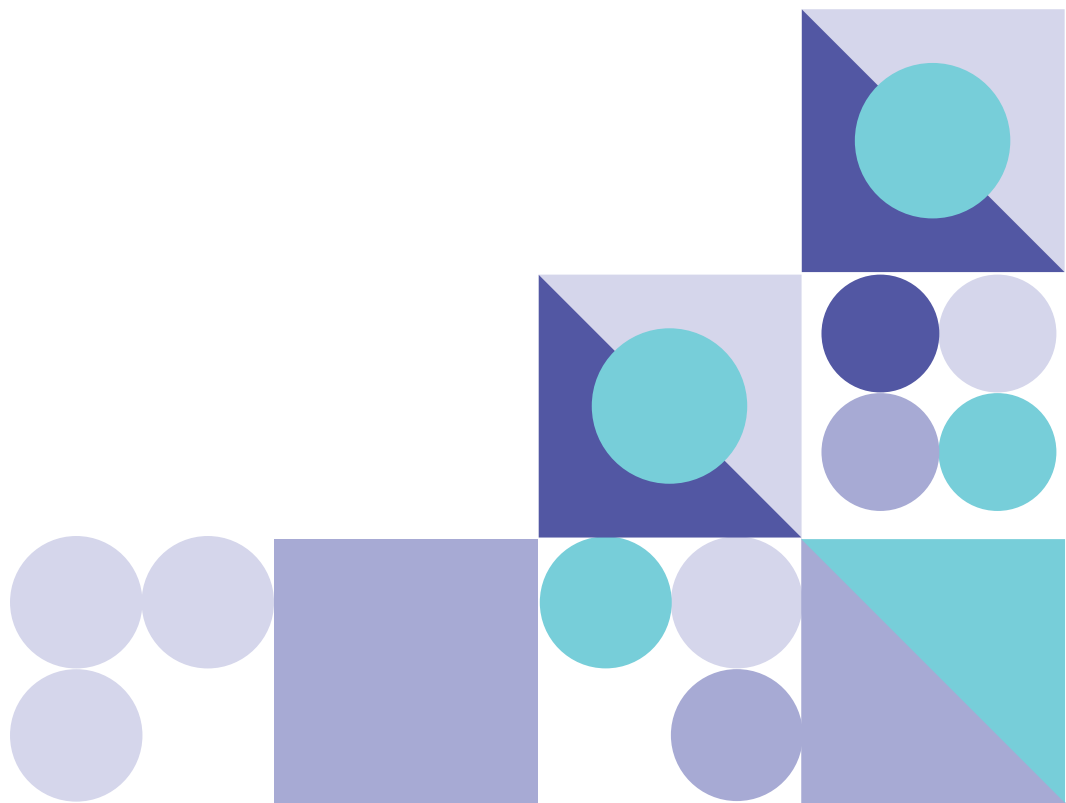


Dr. Mimoza Ramadani Piraj is a distinguished specialist in endocrinology, dedicated to the advancement of health care through innovative research with the patient at the center. She completed her bachelor's studies at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Tirana - Albania, while Dr. Ramadani Piraj has continued and completed an endocrinology fellowship at the Clinic of Endocrinology within the University Clinical Center of Kosovo, through the program and public competition of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kosova.

With more than 15 years of experience in the field of medicine, Dr. Ramadani Piraj has served as a doctor and later as an Endocrinology specialist at the University Clinical Center of Kosovo.

Ramadani Piraj's dedication to research has resulted in innovative studies in the field of endocrinology.

As a leading expert in endocrinology, Dr. Ramadani Piraj has presented her research findings at several local and international conferences, sharing her perspective on the latest updates in the personalized treatment approach for patients with endocrinological diseases.



DR. MIRELINDA HATASHI

Public Health Specialist, NIPH

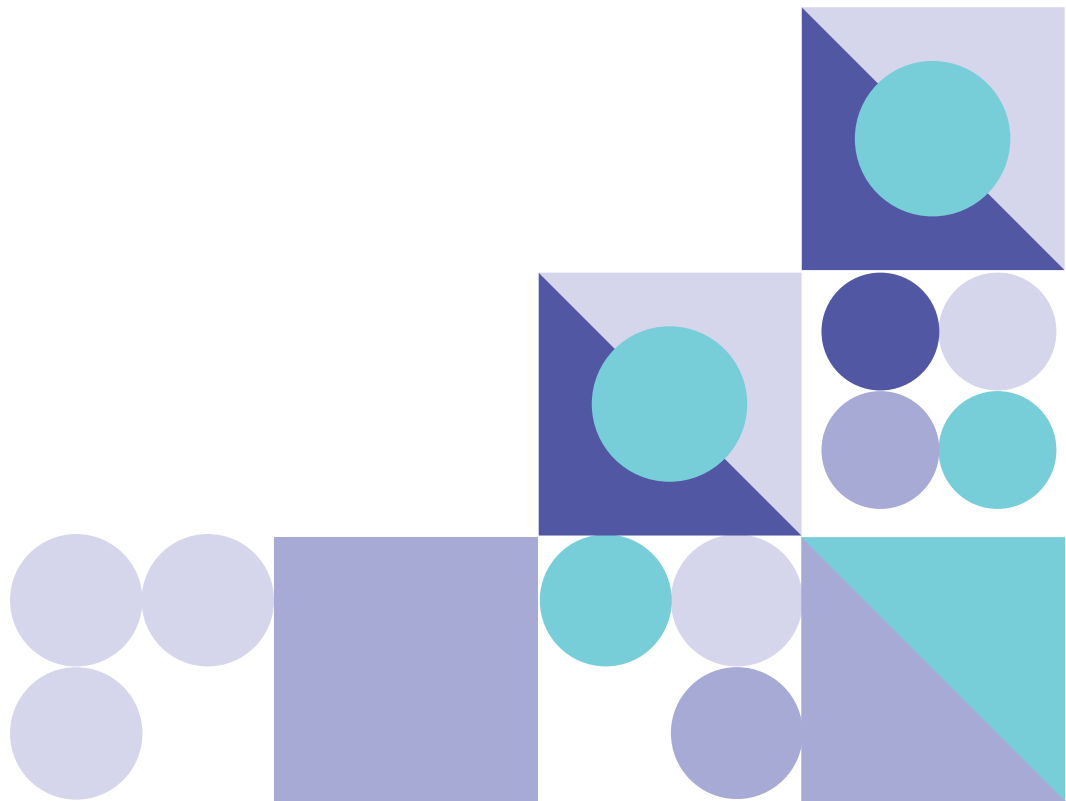


Dr. Mirelinda Hatashi is a specialist in public health, currently engaged as a physician in the Department of Health Statistics at the National Institute of Public Health in Kosovo (NIPH).

She completed her bachelor's studies at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Pristina, and she also pursued a specialization in public health at the National Institute of Public Health in Kosovo from 2002 to 2007.

In her role as a specialist in the Department of Health Statistics at NIPH, Dr. Mirelinda is responsible for the population-based registration of communicable diseases and non-communicable mass diseases since 2012.

Dedicated to continuously advancing in her field of expertise, Dr. Mirelinda consistently participates in local and international congresses and conferences focused on public health. With a full commitment to the development of the department where she works, Dr. Mirelinda also contributes to the preparation of the Annual Report on Communicable Diseases and the Annual Report on Non-Communicable Mass Diseases at the national level.



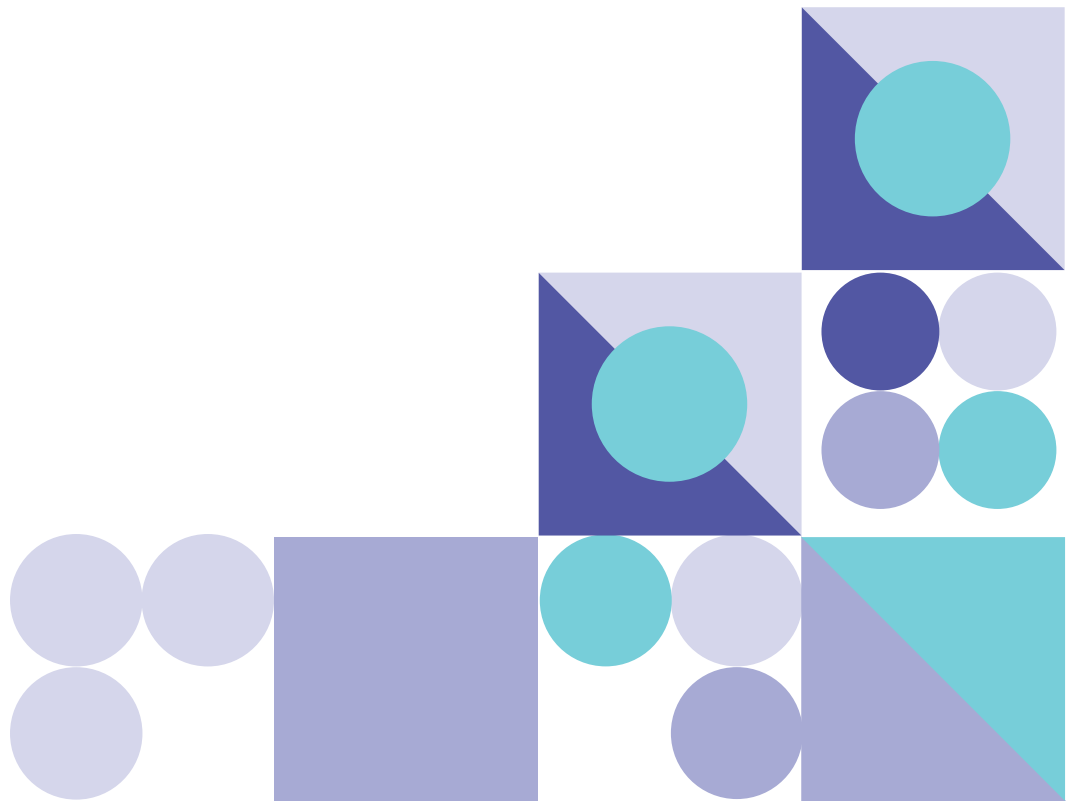
MRIKA ALIU, MPH

Human Development Specialist,
World Bank



Ms. Mrika Aliu is a Human Development Specialist at the World Bank, within Health, Nutrition and Population Global Practice in Europe and Central Asia. She specializes in areas of human development, particularly in maternal and child health, quality improvement for healthcare, social service delivery design and management, and early childhood development. She earned her MPH degree at Dartmouth College – the Dartmouth Medical School – specializing in health policy and clinical practice.

With more than 10 years of experience in public health research, policy reforms, and leadership, Ms. Aliu is currently co-leading the portfolios in health, education, and social protection in Kosovo. She also leads an enriched analytical work program related to human development areas in Kosovo. Mrika also works in the health portfolio in Albania and Montenegro. Ms. Aliu has co-authored several publications on cesarean section rates, non-communicable diseases, COVID-19 vaccine acceptance among Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities, and early childhood development in Kosovo.



NICU FOTA, MPH

AQH Project, Kosovo



Nicu has managed a variety of programs and projects in health sectors for 15 years before joining the AQH Project Phase II as Team Leader. He has also technically contributed to the first phase of the project during 2015-2019. He is an economist and mathematician with a MPH on Health Services Management.

Having worked in East European countries and in the Balkans, in most of the cases for SDC, WB, EU funded projects, he has developed his expertise in capacity building and health sector strengthening amongst others in the following domains: quality management and quality of care, guideline development and implementation, regionalisation of services, procurement programs, community integrated care, economic assessments, continuing medical education, health promotion campaigns, organisational development.



NORA NAMANI, MSC

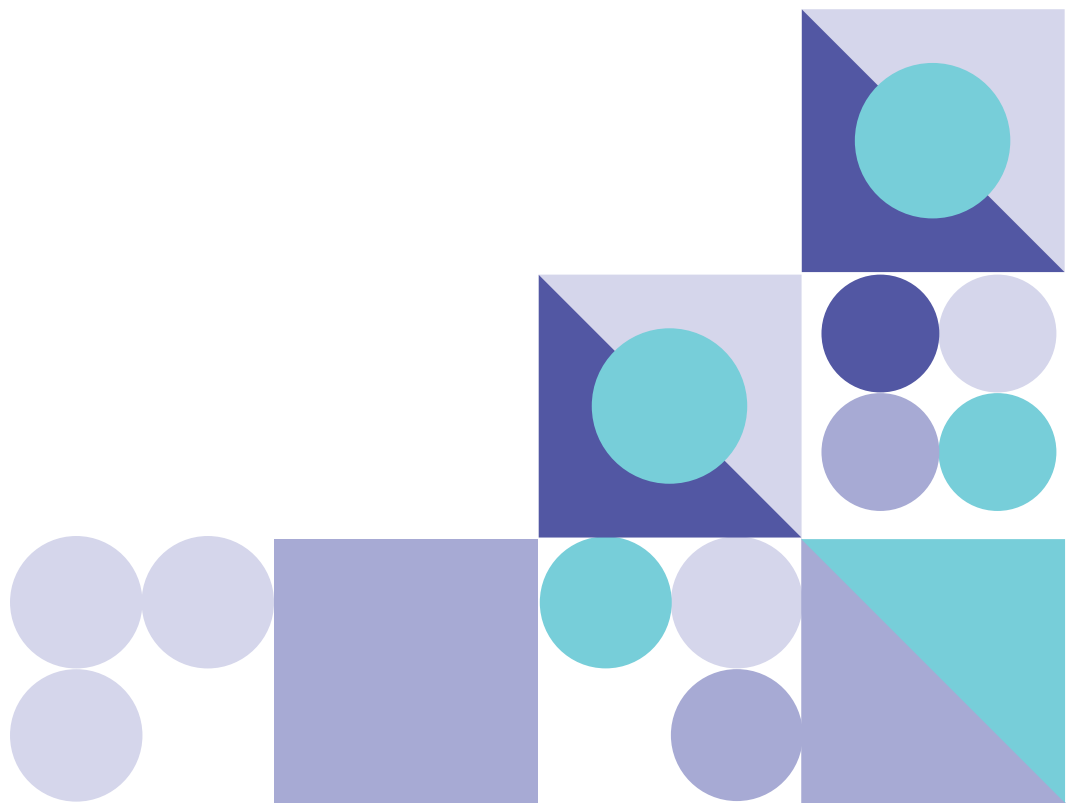
Nurse, MFMC Fushe Kosova



Nora Namani is a dedicated nurse with over 20 years of experience at the Central Family Medicine Center in the municipality of Fushë Kosovë. Nora is an outstanding nurse in her work, with a positive approach towards patients and staff. Currently, she contributes to the Health Education and Promotion Room, where she provides advice to patients on diabetes, hypertension, and asthma.

Namani is trained in Motivational Counseling and serves as a coordinator for group physical activities within the Integrated Care of the Central Family Medicine Center in Fushë Kosovë. She has been a practical mentor for nursing students at AAB University in Prishtina and was also involved with private hospitals for a period.

She completed her master's studies in International Relations in Tirana, while her undergraduate studies were completed at the Faculty of Law of the University of Prishtina. She actively participates in conferences and various activities related to the field of healthcare in Albania, Croatia, and other places.



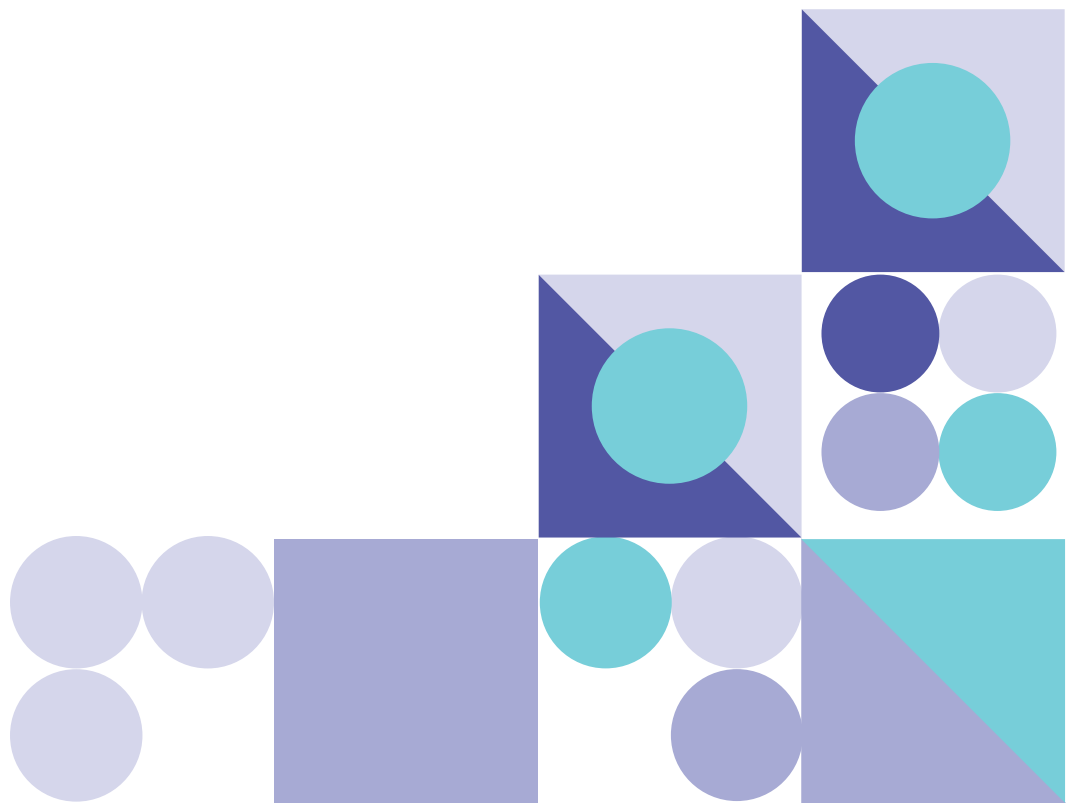
PROF. DR. OLIVER GROENE

CEO of International Network of Health Promoting Hospitals and Health Services



Prof. Dr. Oliver Groene is a distinguished figure in the healthcare and management spheres, currently holding the position of CEO of the International Network of Health Promoting Hospitals and Health Services. He also serves as the Vice Chairman of the Board at OptiMedis AG, a management company renowned for its expertise in designing, implementing, and assessing Integrated Care Systems with the aim of enhancing health outcomes, patient experiences, and cost-efficiency.

He also holds the position of Professor at the Department of Management, Economics and Society at the University of Witten/Herdecke, Germany. Previously, he led large scale national audits on the quality of care as Associate Professor in Health Services Research at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. As Manager of the 'Quality of Health Systems Programme' at the World Health Organization to led hospital performance initiatives in the WHO European Region. He holds an MSc and PhD in Public Health and an MA in medical sociology and organizational sciences. Oliver Groene publishes widely on quality of care and health services research topics (H-index: 45).



DR. PENILLA GUNTHER

President of the European Patient Safety Foundation



Penilla Gunther is a distinguished figure in the realm of healthcare and patient advocacy, renowned for her extensive contributions to the field. As a former Member of the Swedish Parliament, she leveraged her political prowess to champion patient's rights, particularly focusing on areas such as cardiovascular disease (CVD) and cancer.

In recognition of her unwavering commitment to improving healthcare, Penilla Gunther founded FOKUS Patient®, a groundbreaking initiative serving as a pivotal meeting ground for healthcare and life sciences professionals. Her visionary leadership has fostered collaboration and innovation in these critical sectors.

Penilla's influence extends to the international stage, where she currently holds the prestigious position of President of the European Patient Safety Foundation. Her dedication to enhancing patient safety and well-being has been a driving force behind her involvement in this esteemed organization.

Furthermore, her expertise led to her appointment by the European Commission in 2022 as a Member of the Cancer Mission Board, entrusted with the vital task of implementing Europe's Beating Cancer Plan. Her unparalleled knowledge and holistic approach to healthcare and life sciences have made her a sought-after participant in steering committees, advisory boards, policy training consultations, and a respected speaker at both national and international forums.



RICHARD PRICE

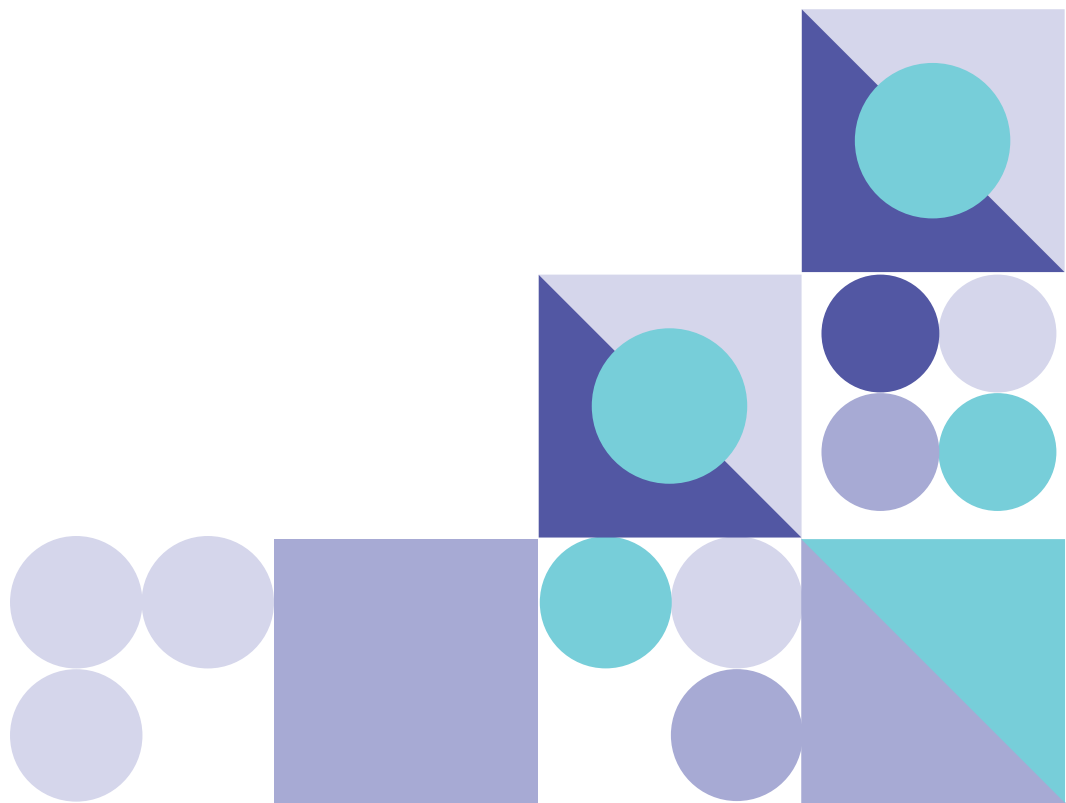
Head of Policy at the European Cancer Organization



Richard Price currently holds the position of Head of Policy at the European Cancer Organisation, which serves as an overarching federation encompassing 42 European and international organizations involved in the field of cancer care.

In this role, he provides essential support to the policy initiatives undertaken by the Organisation's 10 Focused Topic Networks. Additionally, Richard plays a key role in guiding the Organisation's interactions and representations with esteemed bodies such as the EU institutions, the World Health Organization, and various national governments.

Before assuming his current position, Richard Price served as the Policy and Advocacy Officer at the European Association of Hospital Pharmacists. Prior to that, he worked as a Policy Advisor for the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland.



DR. RINA HOXHA

Specialist in Social Medicine, NIPH

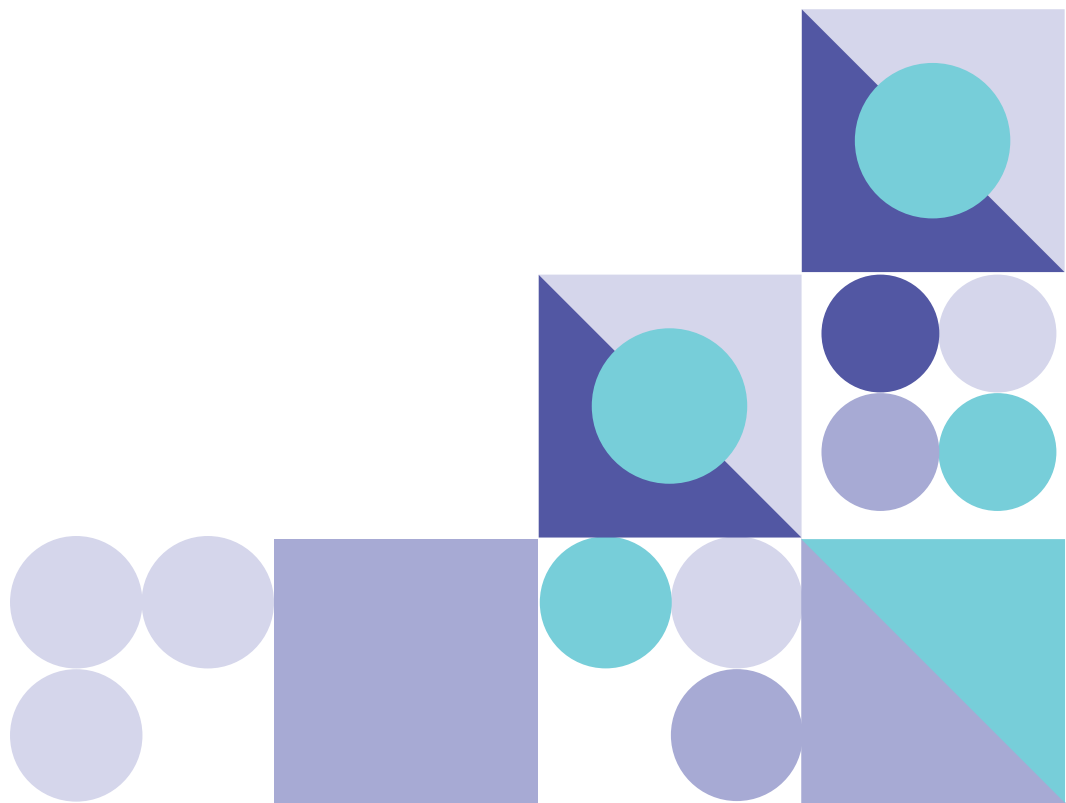


Dr. Rina Hoxha is a specialist in social medicine who provides continuous professional contributions at the National Institute of Public Health of Kosovo. She is currently also a professor at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Prishtina.

Dr. Hoxha completed her doctoral studies in public health in Skopje, North Macedonia. She completed her master's and bachelor's studies at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Prishtina. Since 2003, she has been a specialist in social medicine at NIPH.

Dedicated to her field of expertise, Dr. Hoxha makes a distinctive contribution to educating young students. In pursuit of advancing and expanding her knowledge, she has participated in numerous local and international conferences and congresses with a focus on public health.

As an expert in public health, Dr. Hoxha has presented at various local and international conferences, including the Public Health Conference in Prishtina in 2022, where she presented on 'Cardiovascular Diseases Reported by Secondary Health Care,' and at the Public Health Conference in Tirana in 2023, where she presented on the topic 'Health Impacts.'



DR. SCI. RUKIJE MEHMETI

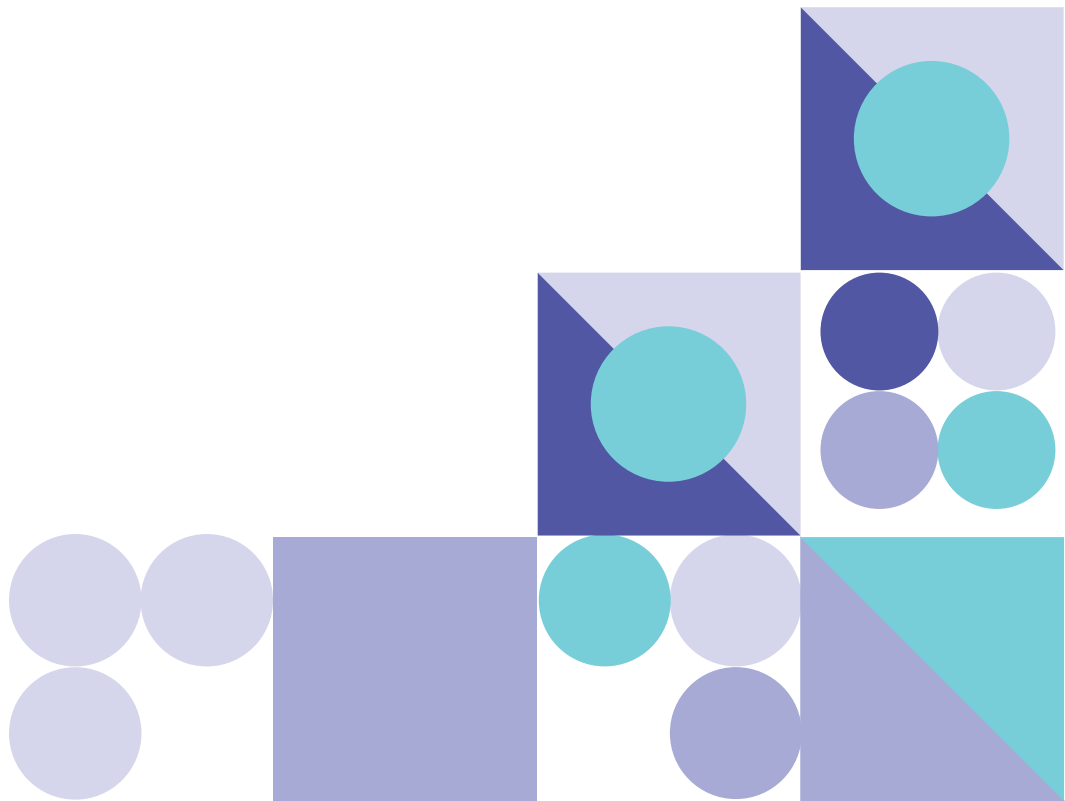
Pulmonology Specialist



Dr. Rukije Mehmeti is a pulmonology specialist dedicated to advancing healthcare through innovative patient-centered research. With over 40 years of experience in the field of medicine, Dr. Rukije Mehmeti has held significant positions in healthcare institutions, including Chief of the TB-Pulmonology Department, Director of the Pulmonology Clinic at QKUK, and President of the Kosovo Pulmonologists Association. She has also lectured at Heimerer College.

She completed her doctoral studies at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Tirana in Albania, while her master's studies and specialization were done in Zagreb, Croatia, as well as at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Prishtina.

As a pulmonology professional, she has presented the findings of her research at several local and international conferences, sharing insights into the latest developments in personalized treatment approaches for tuberculosis patients.



DR. RUSHIT ISMAILI

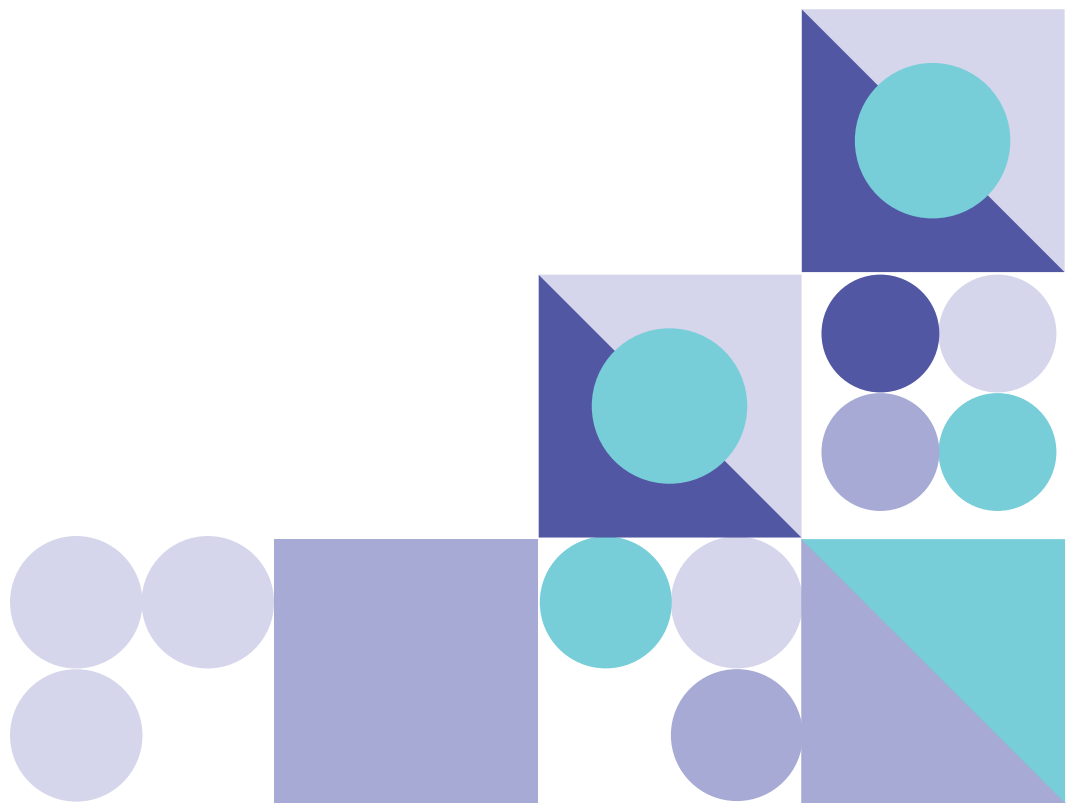
Family Doctor



Dr. Rushit Ismaili is a dedicated family doctor with a focus on family medicine. He holds a degree in Family Medicine and completed his Postgraduate Masters Training in Family Medicine in Public Health at the University of Prishtina. Dr. Ismaili's commitment to excellence led him to pursue additional education in the USA, where he completed the Humphrey Fellowship Program in Richmond, Virginia, and the CTN INVEST Fellowship Program in Seattle, Washington.

A member of the Association of Family Physicians of Kosovo (AMFK), Dr. Ismaili plays a crucial role as the Director of International Relations. His passion lies in enhancing the quality of life for his patients by advancing Primary Health Care. Currently, Dr. Ismaili serves as the Coordinator of Continual Professional Development at the Main Family Medicine Center in Prishtina. He is also the Head of the Family Medicine Center in Hajvali and a Clinical Mentor in the Family Medicine Residency Program in Prishtina.

One of his notable achievements is bringing the diagnosis and treatment of Hereditary Angioedema (HAE) into mainstream medical practice in Kosovo. His efforts were instrumental in getting the necessary medication listed as an Essential Drug.



DR.SAHADETE KELMENDI

Family Medicine Specialist

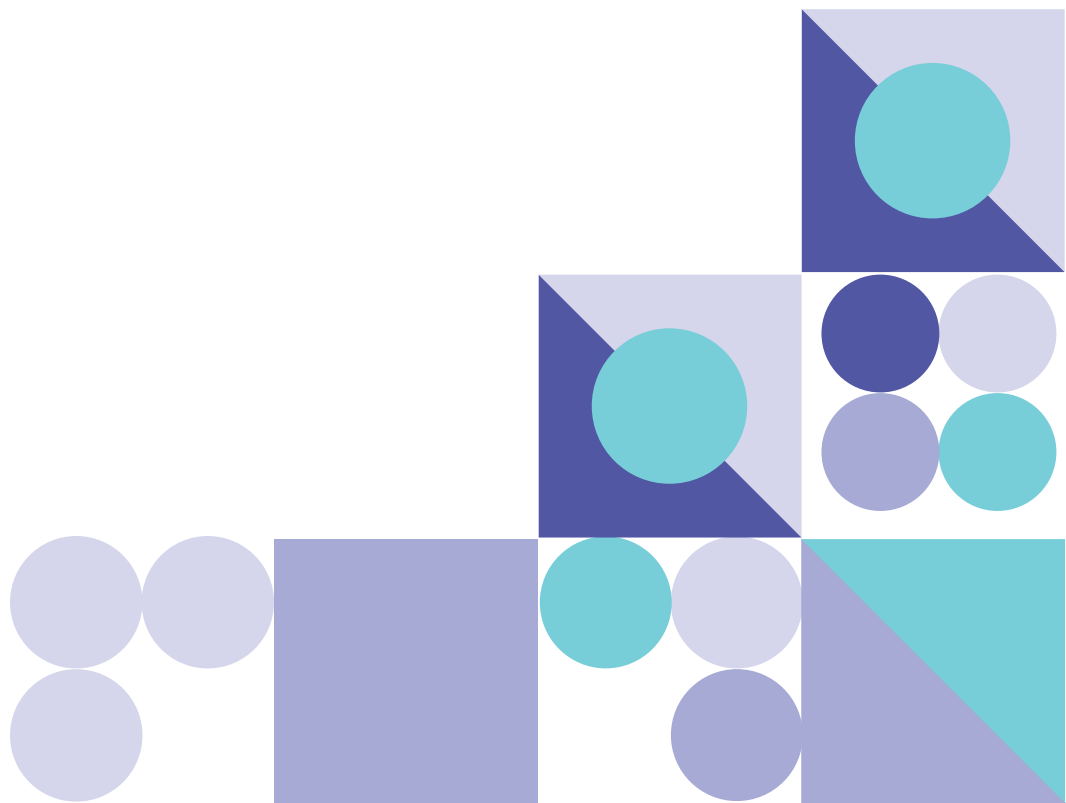


Dr. Sahadete Kelmendi is a dedicated family medicine specialist committed to advancing healthcare, particularly for patients with chronic and mountain-related diseases.

With over twenty years of experience in the field of medicine in the peripheral clinics of the Municipality of Prishtina, she has been contributing to the Primary Family Medicine Center in Prishtina in Home Healthcare since 2008. Since January of this year, she has been appointed as the head of this service.

Dr. Sahadete is active in training, seminars, and various activities, as well as a presenter at local and international conferences. She consistently advocates for home healthcare and care for chronic and mountain-related patients through television media.

She completed her studies and specialization in family medicine at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Prishtina.



PROF. ASS. SANIJE HOXHA-GASHI

Specialist in Social Medicine, NIPH

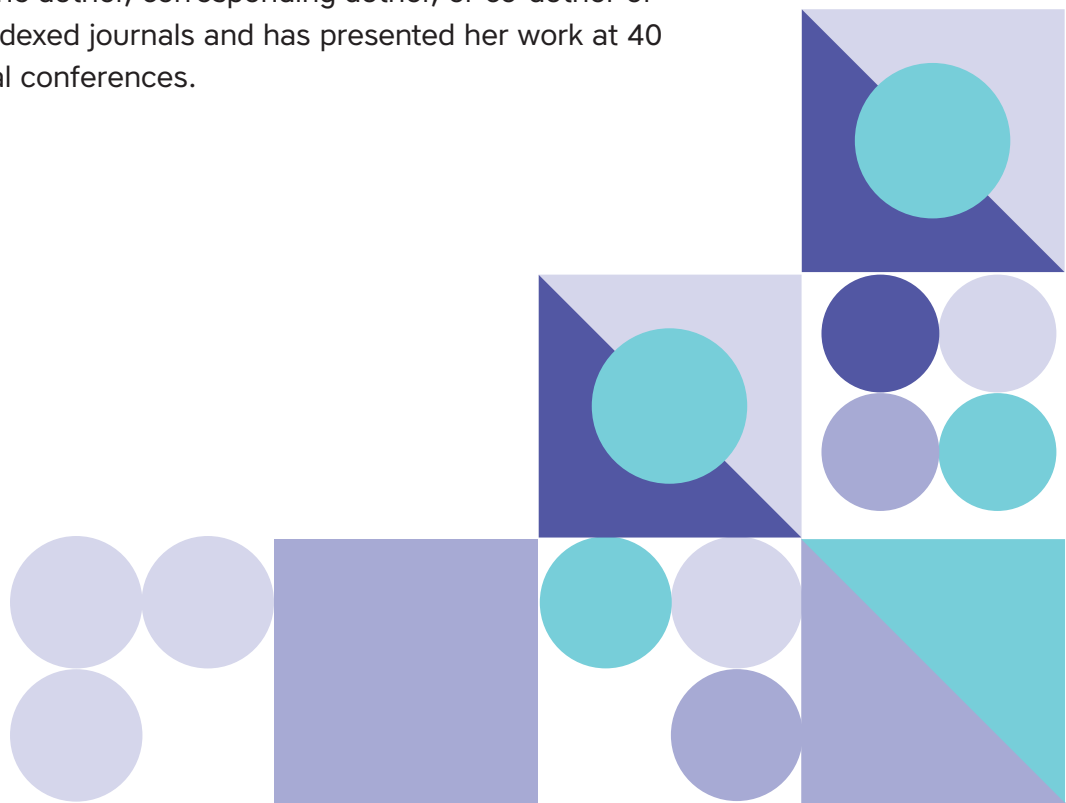


Prof. Assoc. Dr. Sanije Hoxha-Gashi is a distinguished specialist in social medicine/public health. She completed her bachelor's studies at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Prishtina. For over two decades, she has been working at the National Institute of Public Health of Kosovo, where she leads the Department of Health Statistics.

She pursued her master's studies in the field of Public Health and Epidemiology, while also specializing in social medicine. She also obtained a master's degree in Health Management and completed her doctoral studies at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Zagreb, Croatia.

She has worked as a physician at the "Isa Grezda" Medical Center in Gjakova and as an assistant at the Faculty of Medicine. She currently lectures on Medical Statistics and Scientific Work Methodology at the same institution.

She has participated in international training programs and schools in the field of public health, including the University of Pecs in Hungary, Erasmus Medical Center in Rotterdam, and the MetaNET-SEE Summer School in Zagreb, Croatia. She successfully led two STEPS surveys in Kosovo in 2011 and 2019. She is the author, corresponding author, or co-author of 39 scientific papers in indexed journals and has presented her work at 40 national and international conferences.



MSC. SEAN TAYLOR

Director of Science and Public Health
at World Heart Federation



Mr. Sean Taylor, MSc, joined the World Heart Federation (WHF) as a Director of Science and Public Health in 2022. His career spans over a decade in the healthcare and nonprofit sectors. Prior to joining WHF, Sean held the position of Education and Public Health Director at FDI World Dental Federation, leading a diverse portfolio of initiatives including professional education, research and public health programmes.

Sean holds a master's degree in Global Health from the University of Geneva and is particularly interested in issues of access to care, health workforce and digital health. At WHF, Sean is responsible for projects related to science and public health, including the World Heart Observatory, World Heart Report and CVD Roadmaps.



SHKELZEN HAJDINI

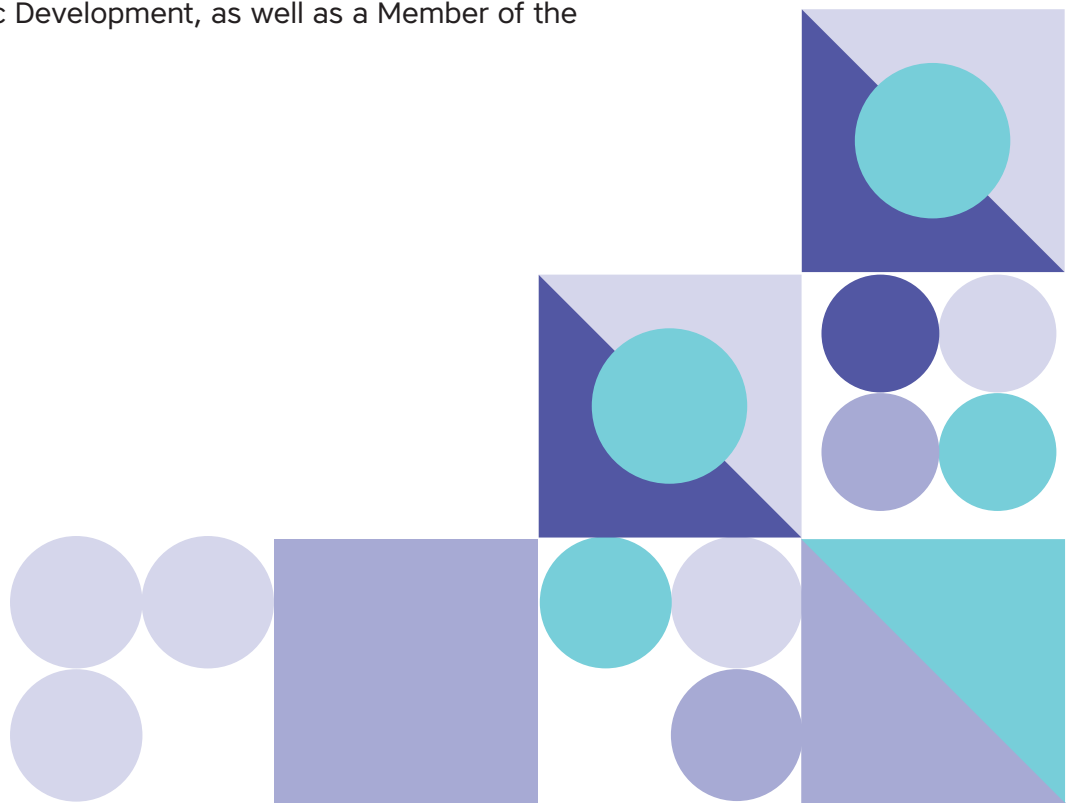
Director of the Directorate for Health and Social Welfare in Lipjan



Shkelzen Hajdini is a graduate economist from the Faculty of Economics at the University of Prishtina, who currently leads the Directorate for Health and Social Welfare in the municipality of Lipjan. Hajdini is certified in Integrated Health Care by the International Foundation for Integrated Care (IFIC). He has contributed to and participated in numerous workshops, training sessions, and conferences related to advancing public health and integrated health services.

He specializes in management and has over a decade of experience, including significant contributions in high-level managerial positions. He participated in the development of the Strategy for Social Inclusion, which serves as a foundation for the further advancement of integrated healthcare in the Municipality of Lipjan. While managing various departments in local public administration, Hajdini has contributed to significant successes.

Under his leadership, the Municipality of Lipjan has been recognized multiple times for its outstanding management. Among the important public positions to which he has made significant contributions are: Director of the Directorate for Budget and Finance, Director of the Directorate for Economic Development, as well as a Member of the Parliament of Kosovo.



DR. SHUKRIJE STATOVCI

Psychiatrist



MD Psychiatry Specialist Dr. Shukrije Statovci is a specialist in psychiatry, a clinician, and a researcher at the University Psychiatric Clinic in Prishtina. She completed her studies in General Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine in Prishtina, and later specialized in the field of psychiatry, continuing with both a master's and doctoral program.

As a member of the first generation of psychiatrists in Kosovo (formerly neuropsychiatrists until 2000), she played an active role in establishing the mental healthcare system in post-war Kosovo. During this process, she received specific training to work with trauma through two international collaborative projects conducted by the "Mind and Body" Approach in Washington, D.C., and the University of Illinois in Chicago.

In 2017, she pursued postdoctoral studies at the University of Illinois in Chicago, becoming a research collaborator in the university's global mental health program.

Dr. Statovci is also a collaborator in the KOSCO research project implemented through the AQH/Swiss TPH project, serving as a member of the evaluation committee for PhD candidate Katrina Obas. Additionally, she collaborates on the current mental health project at the University of Basel/Swiss TPH, led by Dr. Irene Falgas.



PROF. STANISLAV GROPPA

President of the Moldavian Society
of Neurology



Professor Stanislav Groppa is a renowned neurologist who currently holds the esteemed position of leading the Neurology Department at the Nicolae Testemitanu State University of Medicine and Pharmacy (SUMP) and serving as the vice-rector overseeing Research activities at the same institution. He is also president of the Moldavian Society for Neurology.

Professor Groppa's passion extends beyond his academic roles, as he dedicates his efforts to raising stroke awareness, supporting national health initiatives, and advancing stroke education, training, research, and prevention.

Mr. Groppa's expertise spans Clinical Neuroscience, encompassing molecular-level brain function analysis and its societal implications. He's dedicated to enhancing Moldova's healthcare by organizing educational programs and improving health services for conditions like stroke, epilepsy, dementia, neurogenetics, and pain.

His prolific scientific work comprises over 450 publications, including nine monographs, five textbooks, and seven methodological papers. He's authored medical training programs and holds various roles in shaping medical education.

As Vice-Rector for Research Activity, he founded the National Health Institute In Medicine and Research at Nicolae Testemitanu SUMP. His active participation in regional and international neurological societies, like the Stroke Society of Central and Eastern Europe and the European Stroke Society's Bureau of the International Association in Neurology and Neurosciences, underscores his commitment to advancing the field.



DR. TAVI LAI

Consultant, WHO

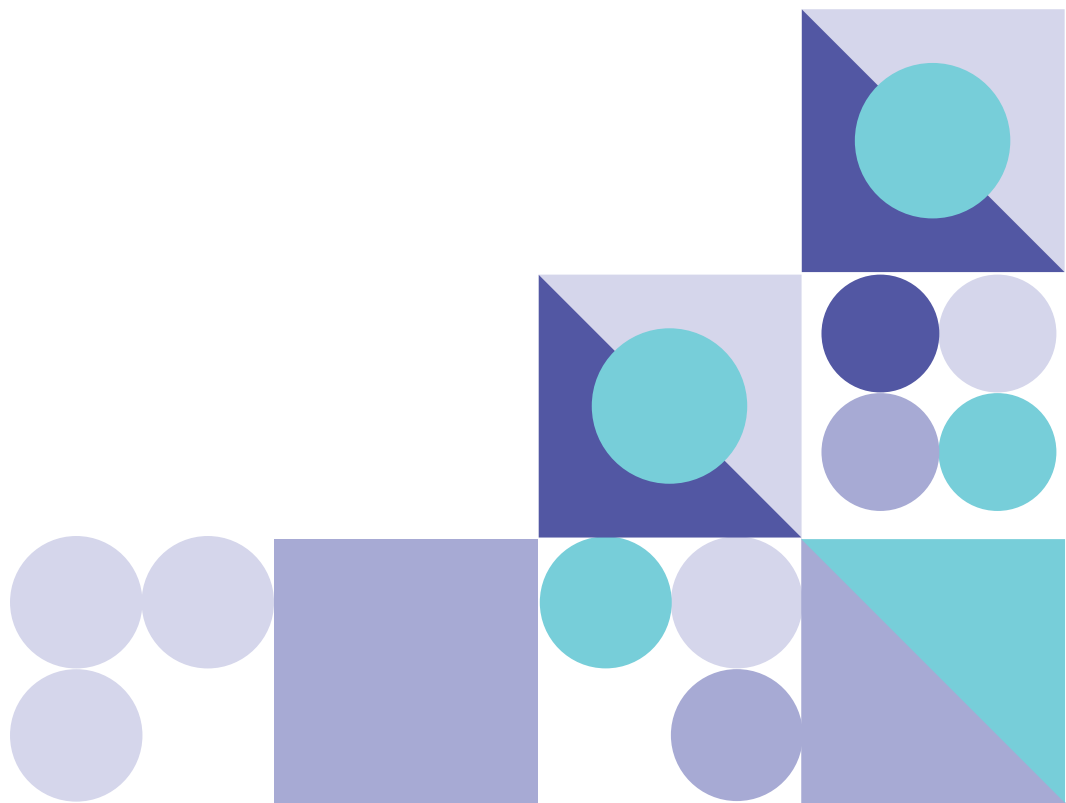


Taavi Lai, MD, Ph.D. is a public health and health system expert and policymaker who links his long-time experiences as a researcher, knowledge translator, and policymaker to provide comprehensive support for the development of evidence-based policies and health sector reforms.

His research topics have spanned from the burden of disease, and modeling of disease epidemiology to health impact analysis, intervention modeling, and health system organization.

During his years in the Ministry of Social Affairs in Estonia he among other things created the national health system performance assessment framework, was the lead author of the first national overarching national health plan, and headed the e-Health Department for a period. Currently, he is working on the development of the Estonian hospital network masterplan and overall vision for the development of healthcare service delivery in the country.

He has been for years also supporting many countries on health system strengthening and universal health coverage, including on topics like health financing, primary health care, hospitals, e-health, and other similar topics.



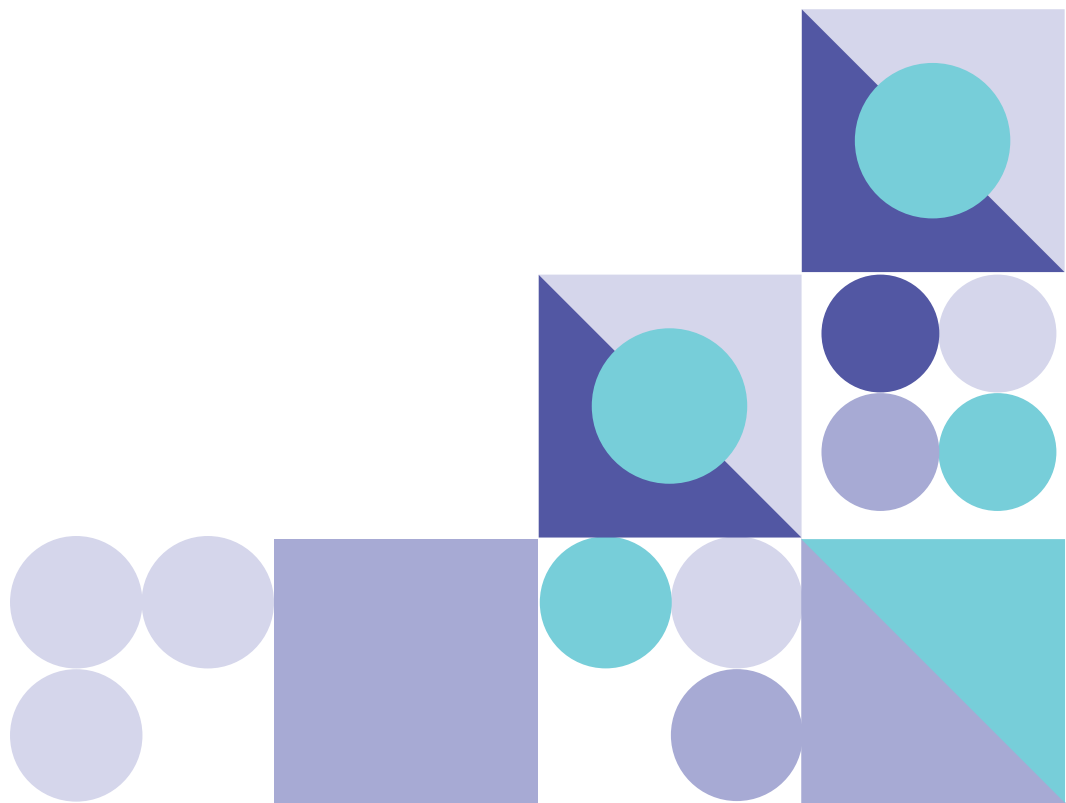
TALIA SAZLMANN, MSC

Swiss TPH



Talia Salzmann is the coordinator of the Clinical Decision Support Systems (CDSS) portfolio at the Swiss Institute for Tropical and Public Health (Swiss TPH). She is a graduate of biomedicine and global health with experience in public health and digital health, research, project management, communication, and health economics. Her background is in bioengineering and public health research; and after working on a range of topics such as access to medicines and technologies for Non-Communicable Diseases, cervical cancer, and maternal and cardiovascular health she specialized in digital tools for health.

In her current position, she supports a dozen digital decision-support tools at different stages which are co-developed and deployed with a range of partners. She has contributed as a co-author to the publication titled 'Enhancing Healthcare for Pregnant Refugee and Migrant Women and Newborn Children,' published by the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe. Additionally, she serves as a guest lecturer in the Public Health track at Boston University Geneva.



DR. TANJA MATE

Ministry of Health in Slovenia



Dr. Tanja MATE has dedicated 30 years to the healthcare field. She started as a resident doctor and later worked in various roles at the Ministry of Health in Slovenia. Notably, she served as Executive Director for three years on the World Bank co-funded HSMP (Health System Management Project).

After her successful ministry tenure, Dr. Mate took on a new role as an advisor to the Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia's General Manager. Her commitment to healthcare leadership led to her appointment as the General Director of the Directorate of Health Care at the Ministry of Health from 2016 to 2019. Dr. Tanja MATE's unwavering dedication has made a lasting impact on healthcare in Slovenia.



DR. VISARE MUJKO-NIMANI

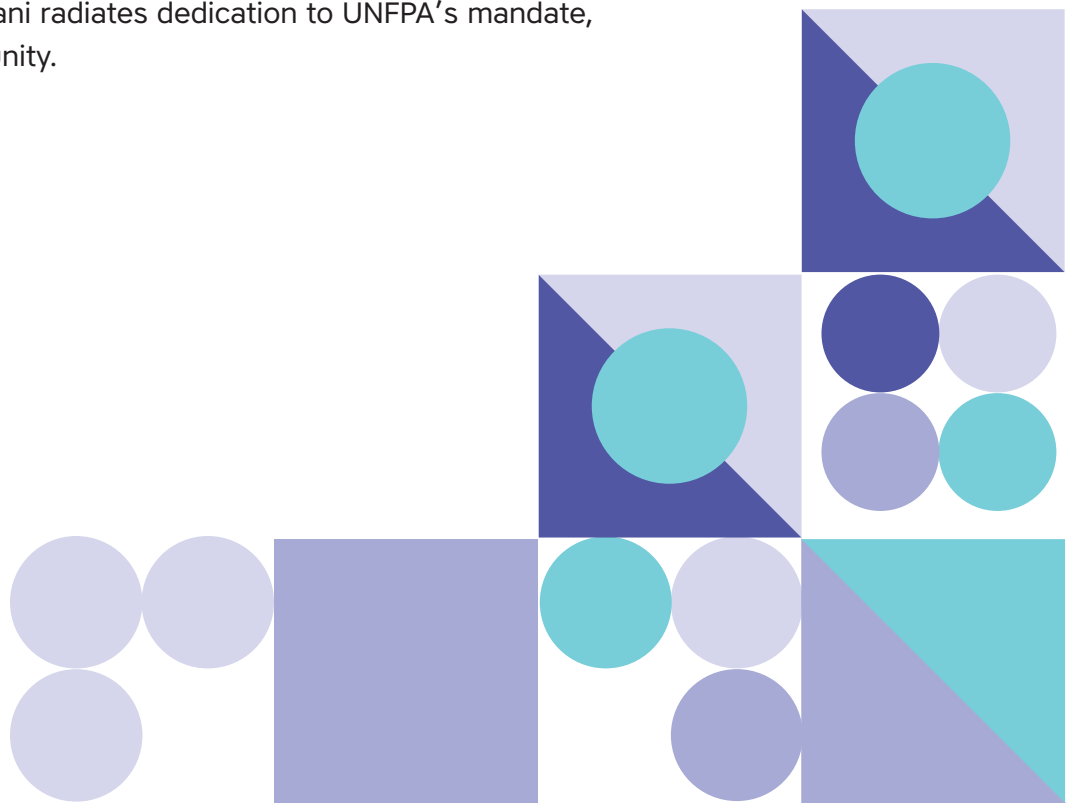
United Nations Population Fund,
UNFPA



Dr. Visare Mujko-Nimani is a multifaceted professional with a notable trajectory within United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), embodying expertise, dedication, and a fervent commitment to advancing global health and development.

She is an experienced professional with two decades of impactful service within the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Hailing from Kosovo, she brings a wealth of experience to her current role as Head of UNFPA Office in Kosovo. Prior to her present assignment, Dr. Visare Mujko-Nimani distinguished herself as a Program Specialist at the UNFPA Kosovo office. Her contributions extended beyond her office, as she embarked on program support missions across diverse field locations, including Ukraine, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, and the UNFPA Europe and Central Asia Regional Office.

Dr. Visare Mujko-Nimani holds an MD in Medicine from Prishtina Medical University, complemented by a Master's Degree in Health Management. Her expertise spans diverse disciplines, as evidenced by her authorship and contribution to over 15 publications encompassing medicine, public health, population, and international development. Beyond her professional prowess, Dr. Mujko-Nimani radiates dedication to UNFPA's mandate, mission, and the community.



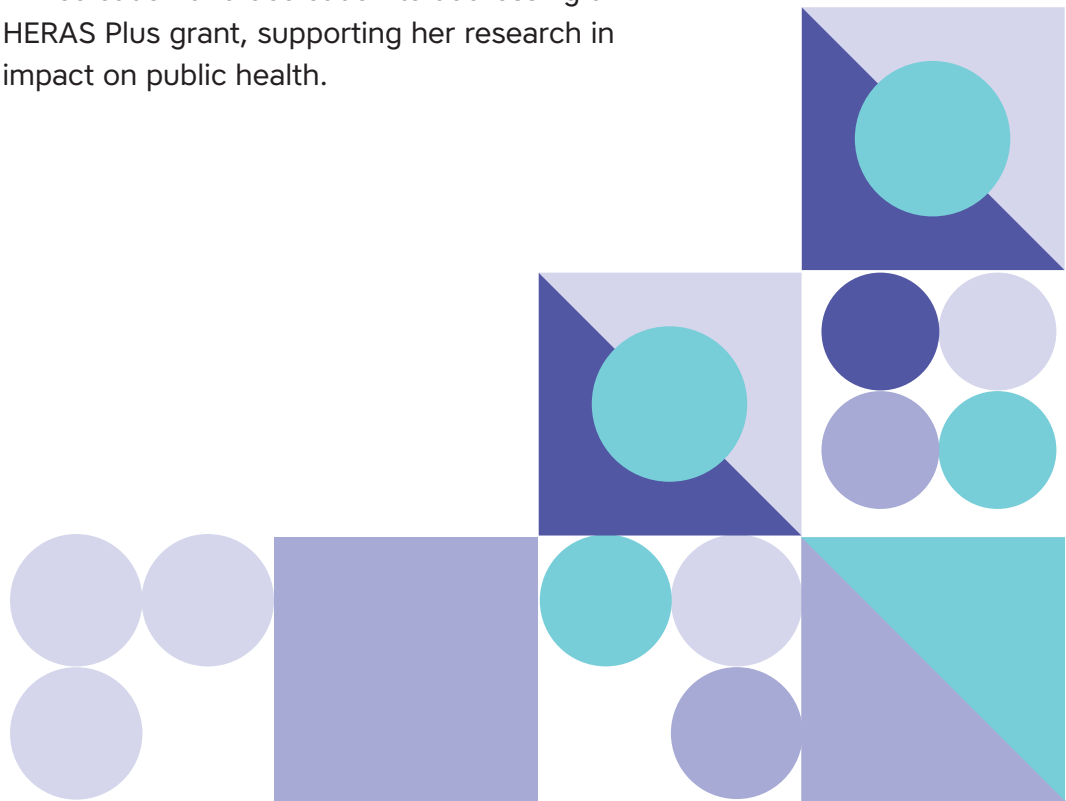
ZANA SHABANI ISENAJ

PhD candidate in Public Health



Zana Shabani Isenaj is an accomplished professional currently pursuing a Public Health doctorate at the University of Pristina. Her versatility spans public health, environmental health, research, pharmacy, and project coordination. She holds a Master's in Public Health Education from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, specializing in disease, injury prevention, and health promotion through education, along with a Master's in Pharmacy from the University of Prishtina. Zana's exceptional record includes being the Healthier Kosovo Project Coordinator at UNDP Kosovo, leading Healthier Kosovo 2 Project. She's held roles as Senior Officer for Pharmacy and Health Promotion and Health Education Officer at the Ministry of Health. Her experience extends to lecturing at College Universum and College AAB, and roles such as Child Protection Project Coordinator at Terre des hommes and Health and Nutrition Thematic Specialist at Save the Children in Kosovo, as well supporting the Outcome 3 of AQH Project.

She holds a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) designation and has numerous certifications and awards, including first prize in the Non-Communicable Diseases track at the CUGH conference in 2017. Her research on antibiotic self-medication and dedication to addressing air pollution earned her the HERAS Plus grant, supporting her research in mitigating air pollution's impact on public health.



PROF. ASS. DR. ZANA SLLAMNIKU DALIPI

Specialist in Periodontology and Oral Medicine,
Chamber of Dentists of Kosovo

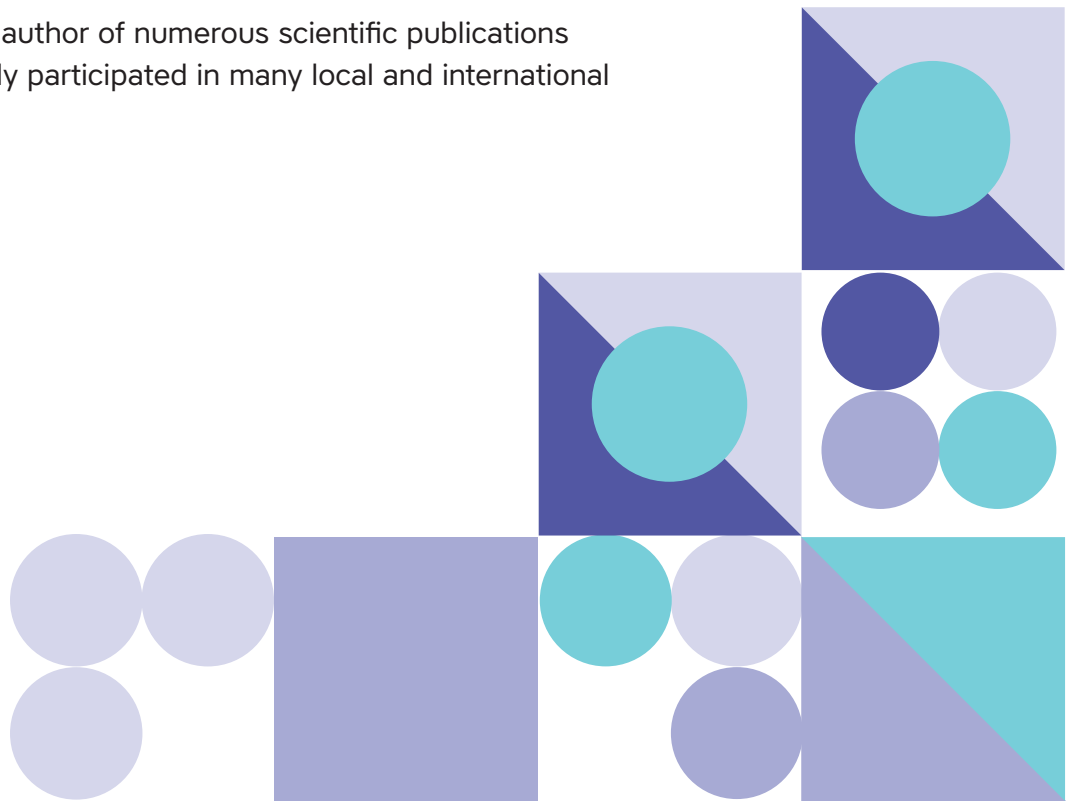


Prof. Dr. Zana Sllamniku Dalipi is a specialist in periodontology and oral medicine. She serves as the Vice-Dean for Finance and Infrastructure at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Prishtina, and as an associate professor in the subjects of Periodontology and Oral Medicine at this institution.

She completed her studies at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Prishtina, where she started working as an assistant at the Department of Periodontology and Oral Medicine in 2000 and as a physician at UHC. She obtained the specialist title in 2005, the Master of Science in Dentistry in 2007, and the Doctor of Science title in 2013.

Throughout her career, she has made contributions through various public roles, such as Head of the Clinic of Periodontology and Oral Medicine at the University Dental Clinical Center of Kosovo, Deputy Head of the Department of Periodontology and Oral Medicine, and mentor for residents in the field of Periodontology and Oral Medicine. She is a member of the Ethics Board of the Ministry of Health, a member of the Central Board for Specialist Education at the Ministry of Health of Kosovo, a member of the Specialist Committee of the University Dental Clinical Center of Kosovo, and the Chair of the Ethics Committee of the Chamber of Dentists of Kosovo.

She is an author and co-author of numerous scientific publications and monographs, actively participated in many local and international conferences.



ZINEL HISENAJ, MSC

Department of Health Information Systems at MoH



Zinel Hisenaj is an experienced computer information technology expert who contributes his expertise to the Ministry of Health. Currently, he holds the position of Director of the Department of Health Information Systems at MoH. He completed his master's studies in computer science and engineering at the University of Prishtina.

Hisenaj has demonstrated his professionalism by working on various important databases, including civil registration, voter registration, health information systems, electronic health records, electronic medical records, and more.

