

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

KOSOVO

The Swiss Development and Cooperation Office in Kosovo funded projects, Accessible Quality Healthcare (AQH) and Integrated Health Services (IHS), which are being implemented by Swiss TPH are facilitating a 3-day International Symposium on NCDs in Kosovo.

The symposia is hosted by the Ministry of Health and the National Institute of Public Health in Kosovo.



PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Day 1: September 27th 2023 - Prishtina "Hotel Emerald"

8:30-9:30 REGISTRATION

Welcome and Introduction

"Beethoven Hall"

Moderators:

Linda Baleta

(IHS project)

Valid Apuk

(AQH project)

9:30-10:00	Opening remarks	Dr. Arben Vitia (Minister of Health)
	Opening remarks	Prof. Dr. Naser Ramadani (Director of NIPHK)
	Opening remarks	Laurent Torche (Deputy Head of Cooperation, First Secretary Embassy of Switzerland Swiss Cooperation Office Kosovo)
	Opening remarks	Oleksandr Martynenko Liaison Officer and Head of WHO office, Prishtina
	Opening remarks	Mr.ph. Elvir Azizi (Director of Kosovo Hospital University Clinical Services-KHUCS)
	Opening remarks	Dr. Pleurat Sejdiu (President, Chamber of Doctors of Kosovo)
	Opening remarks	Nexhmije Gori (President, Chamber of Nurses of Kosovo)

Keynote speakers

10:00 - 10:30	Global NCD Policy: how integrated people-centred services contribute to Universal Health Coverage	Alison Cox (Policy & Advocacy Director NCD Alliance)
10:30 - 11:00	The importance of inter-institutional cooperation for an informed decision-making, based on evidence	Dr. Fatmire Mullhaxha- Kollçaku (The Chairman of the Commission for Health and Social Welfare)
11:00 - 11:30	Why is family medicine important for the prevention and treatment of NCDs	Dr. Rushit Ismaili (Family physician)

11:30 - 11:45 Panel

COFFEE BREAK (11:45 - 12:15)

Day 1: September 27th 2023 - Prishtina "Hotel Emerald"**2 PARALLEL SESSIONS**

PARALLEL SESSION	Session 1: Introduction to the NCDs situation in Europe and the Western Balkan (Research) "Beethoven Hall"	Moderators: Dr. Besa Balidemaj (MoH) Dr. Bajram Maxhuni (AQH project)
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12:15 - 12:30	NCD Surveillance	Dr. Ivo Rakovac (WHO Regional Advisor on NCD Surveillance)
12:30 - 12:45	The state of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in Kosovo – a Situational Analysis	Dr. Ha Thi Hong Nguyen (Senior Health Economist, World Bank) and Mrika Aliu, MPH (Human Development Specialist, World Bank)
12:45 - 13:00	Kosovo: STEPS results	Prof. Ass. Sanije Hoxha Gashi (NIPHK)
13:00 - 13:15	Kosovo Non-Communicable Disease Cohort (KOSCO) study	Dr. Ariana Bytyci Katanolli (AQH project)

13:15 - 13:30 Panel

PARALLEL SESSION	Session 2: Presentations on Policy/Strategy "Strauss Hall"	Moderators: Prof. Dr. Merita Berisha (NIPHK) Dr. Qamile Ramadani (AQH project)
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12:15 - 12:30	Health Tax Window: Overview of Western Balkans	Dr. Evan Harold Blecher (Economist, Global Tax Program, World Bank)
		Online presentation
12:30 - 12:45	Government Strategies to Sustainable Development	Dr. Dafina Gexha Bunjaku (Deputy Minister of Health in Kosovo)
12:45 - 13:00	Life course approach to NCDs from the Region, Experience from Slovenia	Dr. Tanja Mate (Ministry of Health in Slovenia)
13:00 - 13:15	Importance of complying to Clinical Practice Guidelines, Legal liabilities	Dr. Marius Filip (Healthcare Expert and Consultant on East European Institute for Reproductive Health, Quality Manager at Buftea Obstetrics and Gynecology Hospital in Romania)
13:15 - 13:30	Action Plan on NCDs in Kosovo	Dr. Florie Miftari Basholli (NIPHK)
13:30 - 13:45	Effective interventions to decrease the burden of non-communicable diseases	Dr. Anastasiya Dumcheva (WHO Consultant)
13:45 - 14:00	Panel	

LUNCH BREAK (13:30 - 15:00)

Day 1: September 27th 2023 - Prishtina "Hotel Emerald"

2 PARALLEL SESSIONS

PARALLEL SESSION	Session 3: Patient-centred approaches "Beethoven Hall"	Moderators: Dr. Rrezart Halili (Chamber of Doctors) Fekrije Hasani (IHS project)
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15:00 - 15:15	"Patient- or person-centered care, is there any difference?" – To create trust between patients and healthcare for better outcomes	Dr. Penilla Gunther (President, EUPSF-European Patient Safety Foundation & Former member of the Swedish Parliament)
15:15 - 15:30	Results of the Social Inclusion Study of AQH and IHS projects	Prof. Dr. Ilir Hoxha (The Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice)
15:30 - 15:45	Establishing patient councils (Challenges of forming councils in primary, secondary, and tertiary care)	Mr. Agron Bytyci (PRAK) and Mr. Alush Bikliqi (Representative from Patient Council Lipjan)
15:45 - 16:00	The importance of quality mother and child health services in the early prevention of NCDs	Dr. Giorgio Tamburlini (UNICEF)
16:00 - 16:15	Panel	Online presentation

PARALLEL SESSION	Session 4: Health Education and Health Promotion "Strauss Hall"	Moderators: Dr. Mejreme Bajcinovci (NIPHK) Dr. Elvira Rasimi (AQH project)
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15:00 - 15:15	Health Promoting Hospitals	Prof. Oliver Groene (OptiMedis, Germany)
15:15 - 15:30	International Interdisciplinary Association for Chronic Diseases, Experience from Croatia	Prof. Dr. Maria Botica and Prof. Dr. Ivana Renar (University of Zagreb)
15:30 - 15:45	The importance of mental health in the prevention and management of NCDs	Dr. Shukrije Statovci (Psychiatrist)
15:45 - 16:00	Anti-tobacco legislation and its effects in Kosovo	Dr. Faik Hoti (NIPH)
16:00 - 16:15	The role of nurses in interdisciplinary NCD case management	Nora Namani, MSc (Nurse in MFMC, Fushe Kosova)
16:15 - 16:30	Panel	

19:00 Gala Networking Dinner "Hotel Emerald" (with invitations)

Welcome speech: Dr. Arben Vitia (Minister of Health)

Artistic performance: Ensemble 'Zanat'

Closing remarks: Dr. Florie Miftari Basholli, NIPHK, Head of Symposium Organizing Committee

Day 2: September 28th 2023: Prishtina "Hotel Emerald"

8:30 - 9:30 REGISTRATION

Welcome and Keynote speeches

"Beethoven Hall"

Moderators:

Zana Aqifi
(AQH project)
Elvira Berisha
(AQH project)

9:30 - 10:00 State of the World Heart Report 2022
Sean Taylor, MSc
(Director of Science and Public Health at World Heart Federation)

10:00 - 10:30 Translating global NCD commitments into action at country level: Lessons learnt from two decades of partnerships
Mette Skar, MSc
(Senior Programme Manager at World Diabetes Foundation)

Online presentation

10:30 - 11:00 Action on NCDs across borders: the European Cancer Organisation perspective
Richard Price
(Head of Policy, European Cancer Organisation)

Online presentation

11:00 - 11:15 Panel

COFFEE BREAK (11:15 - 11:45)

Session 1: Presentations on regional achievements on tackling NCDs

"Beethoven Hall"

Moderators:

Prof. Asoc. Naim Jerliu
(NIPHK)
Dr. Jana Gerold
(Swiss TPH)

11:45 - 12:00 NCD control in a global health perspective: Public health and health systems strengthening approaches
Prof. Kaspar Wyss
(Swiss TPH, Switzerland)

12:00 - 12:15 Moldova: Healthy Life: Self-help groups on long-term care
Dr. Ala Curteanu
(Swiss TPH, Moldova)

12:15 - 12:30 Albania: Improving quality and accessibility of PHC services for people living with NCDs in Albania
Dr. Besim Nuri
(HAP project, Albania)

12:30 - 12:45 Kosovo: Essential non-communicable disease interventions in Kosovo PHC
Nicu Fota, MPH
(AQH project, Kosovo)

12:45 - 13:00 Kosovo: Empowering hospitals by integrating Health Promotion and Education on NCDs. Bridging the gap with PHC
Prof. Asoc. Fabian Cenko
(IHS project, Kosovo)

13:00 - 13:15 Ukraine: Major achievements in tackling NCDs challenged by war
Dr Anastasiya Dumcheva
(WHO Consultant)

13:15 - 13:30 Panel

LUNCH BREAK (13:30 - 14:30)

Day 2: September 28th 2023: Prishtina "Hotel Emerald"**3 PARALLEL SESSIONS**

PARALLEL SESSION	Session 2: Respiratory Diseases "Beethoven Hall"	Moderators: Dr. Blerina Dervisholli (Pulmonology Clinic, HUCSK) Dr. Arta Ibrani (AQH)
14:30 - 14:45	Indoor air pollution	Prof. Asoc. Antigona Ukehaxhaj (NIPHK)
14:45 - 15:00	Particulate Air Pollution and Primary Care Visits in Kosovo: A Time-Series Approach	Zana Shabani Isenaj, PhD Candidate (University of Prishtina)
15:00 - 15:15	Impact of air pollution in Kosovo population, correlation with smoking habit	Prof. Dr. Gazmend Zhuri (Pulmonologist)
15:15 - 15:30	Asthma	Dr. Rukije Mehmeti (Pulmonologist)
15:30 - 15:45	COPD	Ass. Dr. Besim Morina (Pulmonologist)
15:45 - 16:00	Panel	
PARALLEL SESSION	Session 3: Hypertention "Strauss Hall 1"	Moderators: Dr. Lulzim Kamberi (Cardiology Clinic, KHUCS) Dr. Ilir Mecini (IHS project)
14:30 - 14:45	Network for stroke care improvement in the European Union	Prof. Stanislav Groppa (President of the Moldavian Society of Neurology)
14:45 - 15:00	New trends in the interventional treatment of coronary artery disease	Prof. Dr. Florim Cuculi (Head of Cardiology, Heart Centre Luzern, Switzerland)
15:00 - 15:15	Sudden Cardiac Death	Ass. Dr. Edmond Haliti (Cardiologist)
15:15 - 15:30	The importance of the Guideline and Clinical Protocol for the treatment of patients with Hypertension in PHC	Dr. Elfete Kutllovci (Family Doctor)
15:30 - 15:45	What is new in the 2023 European Society of Hypertension. Arterial Hypertension Guidelines	Dr. Edis Demiri (Cardiologist)
15:45 - 16:00	Panel	

Day 2: September 28th 2023: Prishtina "Hotel Emerald"

PARALLEL SESSION	Session 4: Diabetes "Strauss Hall 2"	Moderators: Prof. Dr. Venera Berisha-Muharremi (Endocrinology Clinic, KHUCS) Dr. Genc Ymerhalili (AQH project)
14:30 - 14:45	Diabetic retinopathy	Prof. Florian Toti (Endocrinologist, Medical University, Tirana)
14:45 - 15:00	Diabetes and novel treatments	Dr. Mimoza Ramadani Piraj (Endocrinologist)
15:00 - 15:15	Diabetic foot	Dr. Linda Qarkagjiu, PhD (Family Physician, Diabetes specialist)
15:15 - 15:30	Role of pharmacists in managing type 2 diabetes	Mr.ph. Granit Çeku (Pharmacist, Chamber of Pharmacists)
15:30 - 15:45	The Bidirectional Association between Periodontal Disease and Diabetes Mellitus	Prof. Ass. Dr. Zana Sllamniku Dalipi (Specialist of Periodontology and Oral Medicine, Chamber of Dentists of Kosovo)
15:45 - 16:00	Panel	
Coffee Break (16:00 - 16:30)		
3 PARALLEL SESSIONS		
PARALLEL SESSION	Session 5: Malignant Diseases "Beethoven Hall"	Moderators: Dr. Brunilda Profka-Haxhiu (Oncology Clinic, KHUCS) Mr.ph. Blerta Haxha Mahmutaj (AQH project)
16:30 - 16:45	Prevention of breast and cervical cancers in PHC and beyond	Dr. Marilyns Anne Corbex (WHO Senior Technical Officer)
16:45 - 17:00	Reporting/Prevalence of malignant diseases in Kosovo: Cancer Registry	Prof. Ass. Dr. Rina Hoxha and Dr. Mirlinda Hatashi (NIPHK)
17:00 - 17:15	Acute Oncology service (AOS) – UK experience	Dr. Ernesa Xhafa-Hamiti (Medical Oncologist, London)
17:15 - 17:30	Malignant diseases	Dr. Ilir Kurtishi (Oncologist)
17:30 - 17:45	Chronic and palliative care -current situation	Dr. Bujar Gashi (Director, MFMC Prishtina) and Dr. Sehadete Kelmendi (Family Doctor, MFMC Prishtina)
17:45 - 18:00	Panel	

Day 2: September 28th 2023: Prishtina "Hotel Emerald"

PARALLEL SESSION	Session 6: Gender in NCD service delivery "Strauss 1 Hall"	Moderators: Dr. Albana Sahiti- Morina (MFMC, Prishtina) Dr. Merita Shehu (AQH project)
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16:30 - 16:45	Why are men and women not equally at risk of developing chronic diseases?	Dr. Joelle Schwarz (University of Lausanne)
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Online presentation

16:45 - 17:00	Gender sensitivity in service delivery	Dr. Visare Mujko Ninami (UNFPA)
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17:00 - 17:15	Men and women: how their hearts differ and what it means for cardiologists	Dr. Ibadete Bytyci (Cardiologist)
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17:15 - 17:30	The connection between health and human rights	Dr. Basri Kastrati (Deputy Ombudsperson in Kosovo)
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17:30 - 17:45	Panel	
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PARALLEL SESSION	Session 7: IT and digital solutions for health service delivery "Strauss 2 Hall"	Moderators: Donika Gjigolli Vanesa Ahmetgjekaj (AQH project)
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16:30 - 16:45	Digital health: Legal implications	Afërdita Hoxha, MSc (MoH)
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16:45 - 17:00	E-Kosovo (status of: HIS, telehealth, etc.)	Zenel Hiseni, MSc (MoH)
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17:00 - 17:15	Digital health solutions and Non-communicable Diseases	Dr. Dardan Asllani (Digital Clinic)
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17:15 - 17:30	Estonia: E-health Development (Successes and failures)	Dr. Taavi Lai (WHO Consultant)
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17:30 - 17:45	Digital clinical decision support systems	Talia Salzman, MSc (Swiss TPH)
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17:45 - 18:00	Innovative and quality health services in Kosovo	Dr. Aferdita Ademi Osmani (Lux-Development)
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18:00 - 18:15	Panel	
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18:00 - 19:30	NCD Networking Meeting Poolside area, Hotel Emerald	
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Day 3: September 29th, 2023 – With Invitations
Field visit to Lipjan Municipality and 'World Heart Day'

Demonstration Site of PHC in Lipjan:

9:00 – 9:30

Driving from Emerald to Lipjan

9:30 – 10:00

Registration and coffee

10:00-10:10

Welcome speech

Imri Ahmeti

(Mayor of Municipality of Lipjan)

10:10 – 10:30

Short presentations, PHC in Lipjan- Demonstration Sites

Shkelzen Hajdini

(Director, DHSW-Lipjan)

Dr. Agim Krasniqi

(Director, MFMC-Lipjan)

10:30 – 10:40

Discussions

Group 1:

10:40 – 11:00

Driving to Gadime (11 km)

11:00 – 12:00

Visit FMC Gadime, Visit Health Caravan in front of the Gadime Cave

12:00- 13:30

Visit Marble Cave

Group 2:

10:40 – 11:00

Visit Nurses at the main square of Lipjan Marking World Heart Day (WHD)

11:00 – 12:00

Visit MFMC Lipjan (Visit office of Patient Council and Telemedicine pilot project)

12:00 – 12:20

Driving to Blinaja Park (16 km)

12:20 – 13:30 Blinaja (Visit group of Integrated Care physical activity and Bicycle activity)

13:30 – 14: 00

Both groups will come back by bus to Hotel Emerald

Moderators/Organizers/Speakers:

Dr. Merita Shehu

Jeta Spahija

Linda Mulolli

(AQH project)

Dr. Agim Krasniqi

(Director, MFMC-Lipjan)

Shkelzen Hajdini

(Director, DHSW-Lipjan)

Imri Ahmeti

(Mayor of Municipality of Lipjan)

Alush Bikliqi

(Patients' Council in Lipjan)