

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	Moderator:
"Beethoven Hall"	Linda Baleta (IHS project)
Opening remarks	Dr. Arben Vitia (Minister of Health)
Opening remarks	Prof. Asoc. Naser Ramadani (Director of NIPHK)
Opening remarks	Laurent Torche (Deputy Head of Cooperation, First Secretary Embassy of Switzerland Swiss Cooperation Office Kosovo)
Opening remarks	Dr. Gauden Galea (Strategic Advisor on NCDs and Innovation, WHO)
Opening remarks	Mr.ph. Elvir Azizi (Director of Kosovo Hospital University Clinical Services-KHUCS)
Opening remarks	Dr. Pleurat Sejdiu (Head, Chamber of Doctors of Kosovo)
Opening remarks	Nexhmije Gori (Head, Chamber of Nurses of Kosovo)
Keynote speakers	
Global NCD Policy: how integrated people-centred services contribute to Universal Health Coverage	Alison Cox (Policy & Advocacy Director NCD Alliance)
	Online presentation
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)
Why is family medicine important for the prevention and treatment of NCDs	Dr. Rushit Ismaili (Family physician)
Panel	Moderator: Linda Baleta
COFFEE BREAK (30min)	

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"	Moderator: Dr. Besa Balidemaj (MoH)
	Global/European epidemiological and demographic transition as drivers of NCDs	TBD (WHO)
	TBD	Dr. Ivo Rakovic (WHO Regional Advisor on NCD Surveillance)
	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)
	Kosovo: STEPS results	Prof. Dr. Sanije Hoxha Gashi (NIPHK)
	Kosovo Non-Communicable Disease Cohort (KOSCO) study	Dr. Ariana Bytyci Katanolli (AQH project)
	Question and Answers	Moderator: Dr. Besa Balidemaj
PARALLEL SESSION	Session 2: Presentations on Policy/Strategy "Strauss Hall"	Moderator: Prof. Dr. Merita Berisha (NIPHK)
	Health Tax Window: Overview of Western Balkans	Dr. Evan Harold Blecher (World Bank Consultant)
		Online presentation
	Government Strategies to Sustainable Development	Dr. Dafina Gexha Bunjaku (Deputy Minister of Health in Kosovo)
	Life course approach to NCDs from the Region, Experience from Slovenia	Dr. Tanja Mate (Ministry of Health in Slovenia)
	TBD	Dr. Marius Filip
	Action Plan on NCDs in Kosovo	Ass. Dr. Florie Miftari-Basholli (NIPHK)
	Panel	Prof. Dr. Merita Berisha

LUNCH BREAK (1hr 30min)

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

2 PARALLEL SESSIONS

PARALLEL SESSION	Session 3: Patient-centred approaches "Beethoven Hall"	Moderator: Dr. Rrezart Halili (Chamber of Doctors)
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Patient-centered approaches in health services from the European Region

Dr. Penilla Gunther (President, EUPSF-European Patient Safety Foundation & Former member of the Swedish Parliament)

Online presentation

Results of the Social Inclusion Study of AQH and IHS projects

Prof. Dr. Ilir Hoxha
(The Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice)

Continuity of Care for NCD Patients in PHC and Selection of Family Doctors by Citizens

Dr. Arsim Berisha
(Deputy Minister of Health in Kosovo)

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)

Case study on the home visiting program in Kosovo and the importance of quality mother and child health services in the early prevention of NCDs

Dr. Giorgio Tamburlini (UNICEF)

Online presentation

Panel

Moderator:
Dr. Rrezart Halili

PARALLEL SESSION	Session 4: Health Education and Health Promotion "Strauss Hall"	Moderator: Dr. Mejreme Bajcinovci (NIPHK)
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Health Promoting Hospitals

Prof. Oliver Gröne
(OptiMedis, Germany)

International Interdisciplinary Association for Chronic Diseases, Experience from Croatia

Prof. Dr. Maria Botica and
Prof. Dr. Ivana Renar
(University of Zagreb)

The importance of mental health in the prevention and management of NCDs

Dr. Shukrije Statovci
(Psychiatrist)

Anti-tobacco legislation and its effects in Kosovo

Dr. Faik Hoti
(NIPH)

The role of nurses in interdisciplinary NCD case management

Nora Namani, MSc
(Nurse in MFMC, Fushe Kosova)

Panel

Dr. Mejreme Bajcinovci

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

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

Artistic performance: Ensemble 'Zanat'

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

REGISTRATION

Welcome and Keynote speeches

"Beethoven Hall"

Moderator:

Zana Aqifi
(AQH project)

State of the World Heart Report 2022

Sean Taylor, MSc
(Director of Science and Public Health at World Heart Federation)

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

Action on NCDs across borders: the European Cancer Organisation perspective

Richard Price
(Head of Policy, European Cancer Organisation)

Online presentation

Panel

Moderator:
Zana Aqifi

COFFEE BREAK (30min)

Session 1: Presentations on regional achievements on tackling NCDs

"Beethoven Hall"

Moderator:

Prof. Asoc. Naim Jerliu
(NIPHK)

NCD control in a global health perspective: Public health and health systems strengthening approaches

Prof. Kaspar Wyss
(Swiss TPH, Switzerland)

Moldova: Healthy Life: Self-help groups on long-term care

Dr. Ala Curteanu
(Swiss TPH, Moldova)

Albania: Improving quality and accessibility of PHC services for people living with NCDs in Albania

Dr. Besim Nuri
(HAP project, Albania)

Kosovo: AQH project -

Nicu Fota, MPH
(AQH project, Kosovo)

Kosovo: IHS Project -

Prof. Asoc. Fabian Cenko
(IHS project, Kosovo)

Panel

Moderator:

Prof. Asoc. Naim Jerliu

LUNCH BREAK (1hr 30min)

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

3 PARALLEL SESSIONS

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

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

PARALLEL SESSION	Session 4: Diabetes "Strauss Hall 2"	Moderator: Prof. Dr. Venera Berisha-Muharremi (Endocrinology Clinic, KHUCS)
	Diabetic retinopathy	TBD
	Diabetes and novel treatments	Dr. Mimoza Ramadani Piraj (Endocrinologist)
	Diabetic foot	Dr. Linda Qarkagjiu, PhD (Family Physician, Diabetes specialist)
	Role of pharmacists in managing type 2 diabetes	Mr.ph. Granit Çeku (Pharmacist, Chamber of Pharmacists)
	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)
	Panel	Moderator: Prof. Dr. Venera Berisha-Muharremi
Coffee Break (30 min)		
3 PARALLEL SESSIONS		
PARALLEL SESSION	Session 5: Malignant Diseases "Beethoven Hall"	Moderator: Dr. Brunilda Profka-Haxhiu (Oncology Clinic, KHUCS)
	Cervical cancer prevention in PHC –TBD	WHO
	Concept of palliative care 'golden standard'- TBD	WHO
	Reporting/Prevalence of malignant diseases in Kosovo: Cancer Registry	Dr. Rina Hoxha and Dr. Mirlinda Hatashi (NIPHK)
	Acute Oncology service (AOS) – UK experience	Dr. Ernesa Xhafa-Hamiti (Medical Oncologist, London)
	Malignant diseases	Dr. Ilir Kurtishi (Oncologist)
	Chronic and palliative care -current situation	Dr. Bujar Gashi (Director, MFMC Prishtina)
	Panel	Dr. Brunilda Profka-Haxhiu

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

PARALLEL SESSION **Session 6: Gender in NCD service delivery** **Moderator:**
"Strauss 1 Hall" **Dr. Albana Sahiti- Morina**
 (MFMC, Prishtina)

Why are men and women not equally at risk of developing chronic diseases? Dr. Joelle Schwarz
(University of Lausanne)

Online presentation

European perspective on men's health report Dr. Isabell Yordi
(WHO Gender & HR)

Gender sensitivity in service delivery Dr. Visare Mujko Ninami
(UNFPA)

Online presentation

Men and women: how their hearts differ and what it means for cardiologists Dr. Ibadete Bytyci
(Cardiologist)

The connection between health and human rights Dr. Basri Kastrati
(Deputy Ombudsperson
in Kosovo)

Panel **Dr. Albana Sahiti-Morina**

PARALLEL SESSION **Session 7: IT and digital solutions for health service delivery** **Moderator:**
"Strauss 2 Hall" **Donika Gjigolli**

Digital health: Legal implications Afërdita Syle Hoxha
(MoH)

E-Kosovo (status of: HIS, telehealth, etc.) Zenel Hiseni, MSc
(MoH)

Digital health solutions and Non-communicable Diseases Dr. Dardan Asllani
(Digital Clinic)

Estonia: E-health Development (Successes and failures) Dr. Taavi Lai
(E-health expert)

Digital clinical decision support systems Talia Salzman
(Swiss TPH)

TBD LuxDev

Panel **Donika Gjigolli**

Closing Ceremony and Networking Cocktail

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)

Community Scorecard

Fitim Sadiku

(NGO-Polis)

10:30 – 10:40

Discussions

Lunch (Sandwiches in bus)

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)

Fitim Sadiku

(NGO-Polis)

Alush Bikliqi

(Patients' Council in Lipjan)
