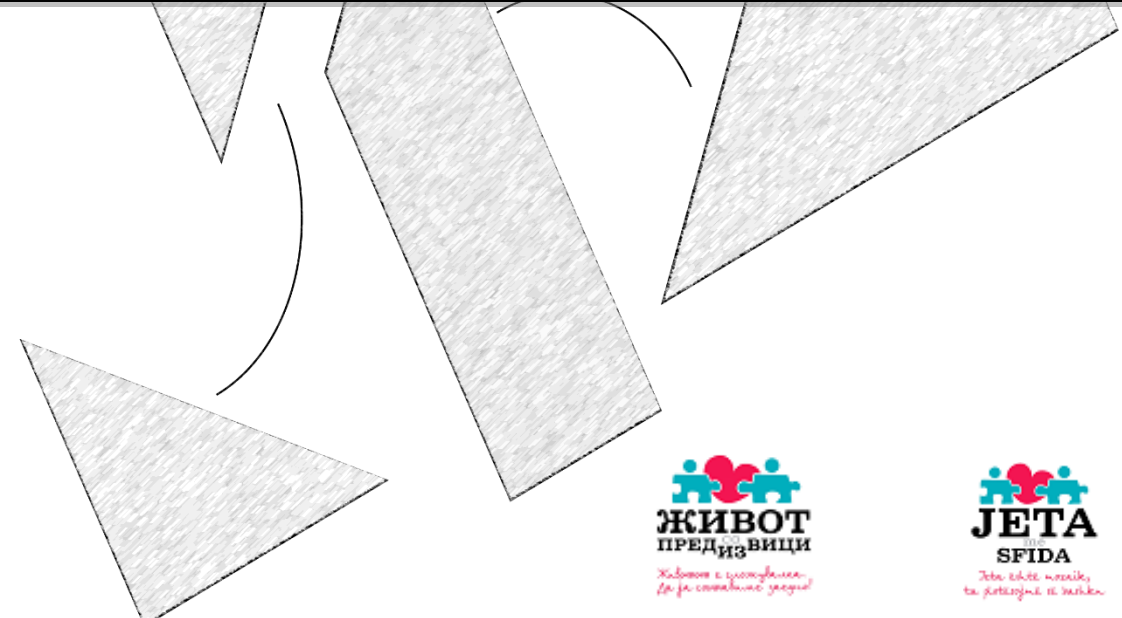


NARRATIVE REPORT

# REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON RARE DISEASES

7-9 JUNE, HOTEL DRIM, STRUGA, REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA



## Живот со Предизвици / Jeta me Sfida / Life With Challenges

### *Dear supporters, members and collaborators,*

It was a pleasure being a host to a great event which included 3 conferences directed towards exchange of experiences and knowledge for improvement of life of families that live with rare diseases.

As an association of citizens for rare diseases LIFE WITH CHALLENGES, this year marked the 10<sup>th</sup> year of existence, 10<sup>th</sup> year of activities focused on advocating for the rights of patients with rare diseases.

This conference was made possible with the cooperation of the associations and alliances from the region (Croatia, Serbia, Albania, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Greece, World Duchenne Organization, International Gaucher Alliance, EURORDIS, Borka, IAPO, Rett syndrome Europe), the Genetic engineering department at the Macedonian academy for science and arts, the Doctor association for rare diseases, institutions from Republic of North Macedonia, volunteers from our association and many more.

The opening of the conference started on 8<sup>th</sup> of June at 9.00h. We had the honor to open the conference with a speech from the First Lady of Republic of North Macedonia, Elizabeta Gjorgievska, which was followed by the speech of the Minister of Health, Venko Filipce. After that we had a statement from Jagoda Shapaska, vice president of the commission of health at the parliament of Republic of North Macedonia and from Aleksandar Dimovski, director of the research center for genetic engineering and biotechnology.



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The participants were able to learn about the challenges and problems in North Macedonia and how we managed to find solutions, about news in the registry for rare diseases, the increased finance in the program for rare diseases, the news in diagnostic and treatment possibilities. Conclusion was that when doctors, patients, associations, pharma companies and institutions work together, then it is easier to find suitable solutions and overcome obstacles. As together we are definitely stronger.

Participants and lecturers at the conferences were doctors, nurses, researchers, patient advocates, patients, parents ... 300 people, coming from many different countries as North Macedonia, Albania, Kosovo, Bulgaria, Greece, Czech Republic, Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Germany, United Kingdom, Australia ... The programs for the conferences in full can be found on the following links on our web site:

- Scientific conference – 7<sup>th</sup> South East European Meeting on Rare Diseases: <http://challenges.mk/en/7th-rare-diseases-in-south-east-europe-meeting-7-9-june-2019/>
- Regional conference of patient advocates coming from national alliances for rare diseases: <http://challenges.mk/en/4767-2/>
- Regional conference for families and medical professionals for Gaucher disease: <http://challenges.mk/en/4769-2/>

At the same time on 8<sup>th</sup> of June, we organized symposium for physiotherapists in cooperation with the Macedonian society for physiotherapists and with the World Duchenne organization. The lecturer was Prof. D-r Marion Main, coming from UK. She held theoretical and practical part for around 20 physiotherapists present from North Macedonia. The lecture was also opened to patients with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy and Spinal Muscular Atrophy.

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### **Conclusions from the event:**

- The countries in this region have similar problems and challenges and they strive towards similar solutions
- National plans for rare diseases work in some of the countries where there is good structure in terms of shared responsibility, clear obligations for the different institutions, strong commitment from the patient organizations and the medical professionals.
- Holistic care is something that patient organizations strive to, but there is still lack of understanding and commitment from the institutions.
- Early diagnosis and treatment are crucial for improvement of lives of families with rare diseases and lack of knowledge and expertise are only some of the obstacles to reach a higher level of diagnostics. In some countries there are problems with getting genetic analysis and accurate tests for control and management of rare diseases.
- There is a lack of multidisciplinary approach not just in treatment and management but also in diagnosis.
- Registries should be established and used to gather epidemiological data which is important for prevention, screening and control of rare diseases, and not just for keeping up with the number of patients and diseases.
- Medical professionals and patient organizations need to work with institutions and try to establish regional network for rare diseases that will provide a platform for exchange of experience, knowledge and expertise in diagnosis, treatment, prevention, management, screening and control of rare diseases.
- Reimbursement criteria should be more transparent and clear to the public so that patients can understand them and accept them.
- There is lack of cost effectiveness analysis and health technology assessment. As countries in the region are small and with many challenges, the idea of regional



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health technology assessment sounds like a future plan that needs to be developed by the responsible institutions in the countries.

- As the cost of medicines for rare diseases is a crucial point of discussion, the idea of regional public bidding for medicines is another idea that needs to be considered.
- Social services for rare diseases and special orthopedic devices are a neglected subject that needs to gain focus and commitment.
- Political crisis and corruption is a shared problem between countries that we need to overcome with higher transparency.
- When all stakeholders work together the progress is inevitable.

We hope that this event is just a beginning of such events that gather doctors, researchers, nurses, patients, pharma, associations and institutions together. It is clear that it helps in promoting holistic treatment and care for patients with rare diseases. And if we work on regional level it will be much easier for our countries to find different innovative ways to improve healthcare and social care for rare diseases.

At the end I would like to say thank you to all of our volunteers and donors who made this event possible. To learn more about LIFE WITH CHALLENGES, our activities, volunteers, members and supporters please download our 10 year anniversary brochure at the following link: <http://challenges.mk/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Brochure-10-years-EN.pdf>

*This event was supported by:*






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## DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Supported by:



SCIENTIFIC  
REGIONAL  
MEETING

Friday 7th to Sunday 9th of June, 2019 / Hotel Drim, Struga, Republic of North Macedonia

**ON RARE DISEASES MACEDONIA**

7th South East European meeting on rare diseases  
The first Congress of the Macedonian Society for Rare Diseases  
SHARING KNOWLEDGE - IMPROVING COOPERATION

Organised by:



The scientific congress for medical professionals and researchers was organized in cooperation with the Macedonian society for rare diseases, and the research center for genetic engineering and biotechnology Georgi D. Efremov. The organizing committee consisted of: Zoran Gucev – President, Velibor Tasic – Secretary, Vesna Aleksovska, Aleksandra Jancevska, Gordana Loleska, and Bojan Teov. The scientific committee: Aleksandar Dimovski, Momir Polenakovic, Zoran Gucev, Velibor Tasic, Dijana Plaseska Karanfilska, Katerina Stavric, Irina Panovska Stavridis, Bojko Bjelakovic, Kristina Mironska, Vesna Ambrakova.

As guest speakers we had the opportunity to hear two amazing lectures from Timothy Cox, University of Cambridge, UK, about ***Sphingolipids: a conspectus in health and disease***, and from Christina Lampe, University of Giessen, Germany about ***Skeletal dysplasia in MPSs diseases***.



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Then there was a session on **Familial Amyloid Polyneuropathy**, a lecture that combined the experience of the doctors from North Macedonia and Bulgaria.



For the first time after 7 years of the doctor congress on rare diseases in North Macedonia we had a **hematology session** on rare diseases with the cooperation of the director of the University hematology clinic, Irina Panovska Stavridis. The topics were: Overview of the hematological rare disease and experience with orphan drug polatuzumab – vedotin, Aplastic anemia- Experience in the Republic of North Macedonia, Diagnosis of myeloproliferative Neoplasms in the Republic of North Macedonia, Langerhans cell histiocytosis in adults, overview and case report, Flow cytometry imunophenotyping in diagnosis and contemporary treatment of paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria (PNH), New treatment modalities in thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura (TTP), and Emicizumab a new treatment option for people with hemophilia A.



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The meeting continued with lectures from the **regional lecturers on different cases of rare diseases**: Homozygous Familial Hypercholesterolemia in Childhood – The first case report in Southeast Europe – Bojko Bjelakovic, Serbia, PHENYLKETONURIA: why newborn screening and early dietary treatment are of crucial importance?, Astrinia Skarpalezou, Greece, Epidermolysis bullosa – an overview of medical problems and complications – Slobodna Murat-Sušić, Croatia, Diagnostic challenges and modern pharmacological treatment of Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis – Jasna Tekavec Trkanjec, Croatia.



The lectures were all followed by a lot of questions and discussion as in the audience we had also medical students and young doctors who are entering the field of rare diseases and are eager to learn.

Lectures continued on: Growth Hormone Deficiency; Diagnostic Pitfalls and Treatment Outcomes – Liljana Saranac, Serbia, Global issues Sustainable development goals – Liesbeth Siderius, Netherlands, Genomic testing in the age of rare diseases: Opportunities and challenges – Todor Arsov, Australia, Latest research of treatment and care of patients with Spinal Muscular Atrophy – Marco Castillo, Switzerland, Challenges in diagnosis and treatment of patients with GHD in Kosovo – Vjosa Mulliqi Kotori, Kosovo, Rare forms of short stature, Zoran Gucev, North Macedonia, Clinical significance of life-threatening and chronic hyperammonemias – Danko Miloshevic, Croatia, Nephropathic cystinosis – outcome and treatment – Velibor Tasic, North Macedonia, Hunter syndrome (HS; Mucopolysaccharidosis type II) – Zoran Gucev, North Macedonia.



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At the end of the scientific conference there were presentations of more than 20 posters all on different cases of rare diseases. It seems that the field of rare diseases is becoming more attractive and interesting for medical professionals, researchers and medical students which is very important for the future of families that face rare diseases.



**The main conclusion of this meeting** was that it is always good for patients and medical professionals to cooperate as it was the first time of having such regional conference together. And of course when there is cooperation between all of us on regional level it will be much easier to consult on diagnostics, treatment, management, control, prevention and much more for better quality of life of patients with rare diseases.

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7мата регионална средба на ретки  
болести во југо-источна европа

### "ФИЗИОТЕРАПИЈА ПРИ ДЕЦА СО СПИНАЛНА МУСКУЛНА АТРОФИЈА И МУСКУЛНА ДИСТРОФИЈА"

📍 Хотел Дрим - Струга  
КЕЈ БОРИС КИДРИЧ 51

🕒 8 ЈУНИ 2019  
15:30 - 19:00

**PROF. D-R  
MARION MAIN**

РЕГИСТРАЦИЈА НА:

E-mail | [president@mfz.mk](mailto:president@mfz.mk)  
Phone | +38970772122



[WWW.MFZ.MK](http://WWW.MFZ.MK) | [WWW.FIZIOTERAPEVTI.MK](http://WWW.FIZIOTERAPEVTI.MK)

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On 8<sup>th</sup> of June, we organized symposium for physiotherapists in cooperation with the Macedonian society for physiotherapists and with the World Duchenne organization. The lecturer was Prof. D-r Marion Main, coming from UK.



She held theoretical and practical part for around 20 physiotherapists present from North Macedonia. The lecture was also opened to patients with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy and Spinal Muscular Atrophy. Prof. Marion Main in her presentation had a focus on the right use of appropriate tests to make a physiotherapeutic estimation. These tests are used in the UK in the centers of rehabilitation. During the symposium, she showed short physiotherapeutic estimation and plan for rehabilitation for every child that was present in the conference room (with DMD and SMA). She also gave them recommendations for further treatment.

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It was very exciting since physiotherapists in North Macedonia had never attended lecture on Muscular dystrophy and Spinal Muscular Atrophy and it was a learning moment for the professionals but also for the parents. We hope that we can continue to cooperate in education of physiotherapists in North Macedonia, since both sides understand the value of specific exercises for specific rare diseases. We hope that we can continue to cooperate in education of physiotherapists in North Macedonia since both sides understand the value of specific exercises for specific rare diseases.



Physiotherapists from North Macedonia were able to directly learn the ways of how physiotherapy is implemented in the treatment of patients with SMA and DMD. This symposium was a great opportunity to directly communicate with patients and discuss their needs and challenges.



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**Davor Duboka from Serbia talked about different recommendations and led the discussion with the patient advocates present.**

- It seems that the first challenge are the national plans/strategies for rare diseases. Although recommended, and adopted in many countries in Europe and in the region, still there is a lot to do here. Some plans expire and no new plans are developed. There is no financing for the strategies. There are no responsible people on positions needed to realize action points in plans.
- Reimbursement is different in all countries, and criteria is not always transparent on how, when and who gets medicines.
- There is a lack of cost effectiveness analysis, lack of health technology assessment
- Another significant problem is that usually governments focus on medicines for rare diseases and how expensive they are, but it is rare that someone actually understands the real burden of the disease.
- The focus needs to be on diagnosis, prevention, treatment, management and control, and even research although it seems something far away for the countries in the region. But the involvement in clinical research is of crucial importance for families with rare disease.
- There is a lack of multidisciplinary work among medical professionals in the region and this is what patients need. Not just for treatment and management of the disease but also for diagnosis as to get guidance in the search for diagnosis.
- Registries should be established and used to gather epidemiological data which is important for prevention, screening and control of rare diseases.



There was a very interesting discussion on the topic of **public health finance** in the area of **medicines reimbursement**, the different programs and ways of reimbursement, the approval of drugs, the registration of orphan drugs in the countries and of course the access to treatment. At the end transparency and criteria are of paramount importance for trusting the system that will finally work for the benefit of the patients.

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We had a guest speaker from the Health insurance fund from North Macedonia, Vladimir Dimkovski, as we already cooperated with him on his previous work as researcher in Studiorum, working together on a research about rare disease challenges and recommendations on how to overcome obstacles and improve quality of life of patients with rare diseases.

It is very difficult to coordinate efforts in access to treatment between EU and not EU member countries. There is a rise in research, development and approval of orphan drugs, but there is also the rise of prices that at the end even EU countries have difficulties in reimbursement. There is a need of **a transparent European Cooperation Framework for the Determination of Fair Prices and of Sustainable Healthcare Budget Impacts**. The collaborative approach is a way forward in dealing with high prices and access to treatment. There are many suggestions on how to go forward as:

- Apply consistent approach on **value principles, value determinants** for assessment and **European HTA clinical assessment**
- **Flexible agreements** based on outcomes or other financial aspects
- Discounts on **uncertainties**, and allowing price to fluctuate over time based on additional generated evidence
- Registries and post-marketing authorisations activities coordinated cross-border
- **Joint purchasing**
- Focus on **smaller population** first then progressively expands negotiations to more prevalent diseases
- Differential pricing + control over parallel trade

**Social services** were also a topic of discussion among the patient advocates as they are often forgotten and neglected as such. But the holistic care approach is something that patients and families need to have a better quality of life as from 8000 rare diseases, only for 5% there is some kind of treatment, the others have nothing left and often are included in groups such as people with dysfunctionality or people with special needs. People with rare diseases are different and they need to be in the system as such.



***In this session we had the opportunity to hear different stories and examples such as:***

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- The **helpline services** in Croatia, Serbia and North Macedonia. While in Croatia and Serbia they have employed psychologist to answer the helpline and schedule separate meetings in North Macedonia, the free psychological support is guided by the association but it is available for all rare disease patients, and for their family members as the burden of the disease is on the whole family not just the patient. The helplines also provide information on rare diseases, doctors with expertise, centers of expertise, they help in writing requests to institutions, and they guide patients through the health and social system in the country. As we are all connected on regional level we also connect families on regional level for exchange of experience and best practice on different rare diseases.
- Vlasta Zmazek from Croatia also presented the work that **Debra** Croatia is doing for the families living with Epidermolysis Bulosa as an example on how much more can an association do for the patients when the system is not providing enough.
- We also had the presentation of Danijela Szili, from **RETT syndrome Europe**, providing information on how peer to peer support and how association support and help is crucial to families when there are no medicines in the world that can help and there is not enough expertise in medical professionals as the numbers of patients are very low in different countries.



**At the session on HTA, Clinical trials, and organ transplant** the leader of the discussion was Anja Bosilkova Antovska from the National Alliance of North Macedonia. The first speaker was Prim Dr **Neda Milevska Kostova**, President of the NGO Studiorum (North Macedonia) and Board Member of the International Alliance of Patient Organizations - IAPO (UK), who discussed the involvement of patients in health research and the role of IAPO as a bridge between patients and research. Giving a brief overview of the work IAPO does, Milevska Kostova stressed the main aim of IAPO - giving a voice to patients and patient's organization to effectively advocate on relevant aspects of healthcare policy, along with the research done on health policies, quality of life and quality of care. She discussed the patient's path and experience with (rare) diseases and the importance of the patients involvement in reviewing clinical guidelines and health policies by sharing their own experiences, values, preferences and needs, and opportunities for participation in clinical trials.

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While Milevska Kostova touched upon patient involvement activities for individual HTAs, the next speaker - **Biba Dodeva**, President of the Association against cancer BORKA (North Macedonia) spoke about Health Technology Assessment (HTA) in more detail and discussed how HTA is used in our countries. Dodeva presented the process of HTA as a systematic evaluation of the effects and consequences of a certain health technology (e.g. drug development, medical devices, diagnostics or other medical procedure etc.) with the aim to inform decision-making about that health technology. Dodeva discussed the importance of patients and organizations using HTA as a tool to advocate about the effectiveness, safety, cost-effectiveness of the different technologies, as well as the social, economic and ethical aspects of using those, in order to achieve the best value.

Finally, **Pavlinka Nesovska Baliska**, President of NEFRON (North Macedonia) presented about organ transplantation and discussed about the importance of organ donation. After explaining the process of organ transplantation and donation, as well as giving answers to the most frequently asked questions on this topic, Nesovska Baliska discussed the availability of this procedure to patients with rare diseases and the challenges related to this. She also presented the current legislation on organ transplantation and donation in Macedonia, and the history of these procedures in the country. The presentations were followed by a discussion on reimbursement decisions by national health and insurance institutions in the countries of the region when it comes to treatment of rare diseases, and a follow-up discussion regarding organ donation and transplant procedures.

This meeting was also a possibility for patients to meet and talk with each other and with doctors. MPS 4 families from North Macedonia and Montenegro met with Christina Lampe and the doctor that is leading their case in North Macedonia – Zoran Guchev, to exchange experience and talk about the future.

RETT syndrome families from North Macedonia had a meeting with Danijela Szili from RETT syndrome Europe to discuss about the hope and possibilities that future in research brings.

Epidermolysis Bullosa families from North Macedonia had a meeting with Vlasta Zmazek from DEBRA Croatia as to see how patients in North Macedonia can get more support and be more involved regionally.

There were additionally lectures at the scientific meeting that were of interest to patients from North Macedonia such as Phenylketonuria, Epidermolysis Bullosa, Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis, MPS 4 – Morquio Syndrome, Spinal Muscular Atrophy. In this case patients were able to meet expert doctors and discuss their condition and possible improvement in treatment and management of the rare disease.

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The Gaucher regional meeting was organized with the help of the Gaucher associations and groups from the region and cooperation with International Gaucher Alliance. Around 120 participants were at the meeting (patients, family members, nurses, doctors).



This meeting started with sharing information on number of patients and available treatment, care and diagnosis. The following conclusions were presented:

- **Republic of North Macedonia:** around 12 patients with type 1 on treatment (there are also some older patients – above 70 years old, without treatment), 8 on Imiglucerase, 4 on Taliglucerase, 1 on Eliglustat (expected 2 to transfer to eliglustat from imiglucerase), patients usually start with 60 units per kg, and after they are stable they go on 30 units per kg. There are no patients with type 3, but there were 3 patients type 2 that we know about in the past.

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There is no home therapy, all patients must travel to University hematology clinic in Skopje but there are efforts to get therapy at least in other hospitals in other cities, if not home. Genetic analysis is available at the genetic center at the Macedonian academy for science and arts, covered by the Health Insurance Fund. All patients are registered at the rare disease registry at the Ministry of Health under the program for rare diseases. The information about Gaucher disease is shared with printed and downloadable brochure in Macedonian and Albanian language available on our web site and in the clinic. There is a helpline and psychological support for all rare diseases available through the association LIFE WITH CHALLENGES.

- **Serbia:** 34 patients with type 1, 1 with type 2 and 5 with type 3 Gaucher. Available treatments are imiglucerase, taliglucerase and eliglustat. There is no home therapy, the doses are low in matter of units per kg, there is no reimbursement yet for oral therapy, part of the patients are receiving treatment as donation. Genetic analysis is possible and covered by the government. The association has an informative brochure in Serbian language available for the patients, they have regular meetings, lectures for doctors, social media activities and much more.
- **Croatia:** there are 20 patients with type 1 and 2 with type 3 Gaucher. All of them are on treatment and available treatment is imiglucerase, velaglucerase and eliglustat. There are 5 clinical centers that patients go to for therapy. Genetic analysis and diagnosis is available and covered by the government. Home therapy is available for patients on imiglucerase.
- **Slovenia:** there are 22 patients with type 1 Gaucher, all on treatment. Available at the moment is imiglucerase and velaglucerase. Diagnosis and genetic analysis is available and covered by the government. Home therapy is available for the patients. There are different patient and doctor brochures for information and education.
- **Bosnia and Herzegovina:** there are 3 patients type 1 on imiglucerase and velaglucerase. There is a problem in education and information among doctors and no new patients have been diagnosed in the past 10 years or more. Diagnosis is on a very low level and also reimbursement of treatment is a problem so donation is present.
- **Albania:** there are around 28 patients. Available treatment at the moment is taliglucerase and velaglucerase. All patients must travel to the clinic in Tirana and they are now trying to get therapy in other hospitals in the country as some of them have to travel 4 to 6 hours to get to the clinic. The association is new and they will soon become members of IGA as they asked for support many times and IGA representatives visited Albania. This is the first time that we have included Albania in the regional meeting for Gaucher and we hope to continue cooperating in improving lives of patients and families.
- **Bulgaria:** there are 22 patients, and 16 are on treatment. Treatment available in the country is imiglucerase, some are on eliglustat after participating in clinical study. Genetic analysis and diagnosis is available and covered by the government. It was the first time that Bulgaria attend a regional meeting in Gaucher disease, and we were very happy that new people are included at the meeting.

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At this meeting we also had the opportunity to hear more about **International Gaucher Alliance and the regional manager project**. Marketa Smockova as regional manager for Eastern Europe and Balkan was present at the meeting and besides having a presentation she also had meetings, discussions and conversations with the representatives to learn about the challenges and see how she can help and support the patient associations through the activities of the IGA.



As a guest speaker from abroad we had the pleasure to listen to a lecture from **Prof. D-r Timothy Cox**, who presented oral therapy and what are the benefits and the challenges with it. As doctors, patients and families were present, they all had a lot of questions and a great discussion.



**Doctors from the region** had lectures on the treatment, care and management of Gaucher patients in the region. As such we had the following lectures:

Prof. D-r Nadira Duraković from Croatia spoke about thier experience with Gaucher disease, then Prof. D-r Mojca Žerjav Tanšek from Slovenia talked about biomarkers for Gaucher disease, from North Macedonia Prof. D-r Zlate Stojanoski, presented the current situation in management for Gaucher disease, D-r Ermira Dervishi from Albania presented the expereince in Gaucher disease in Albania and from Serbia Prof. D-r Milan Lakočević talked about clinical trials -what are they and how are they done?

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In the program we also had **workshops to discuss different challenges and opportunities** in Gaucher disease for patients, family members and medical professionals. Topics that were discussed were: available treatments, funding, availability of home therapy, quality of life, difference between children and adult patients, existence of referral centres and guidelines, organisation of regular annual check-ups, knowledge about GD among 'non GD professionals', need for screening and genetic counselling, need for multidisciplinary approach, relationship with pharma companies... One of the conclusions was that since 1<sup>st</sup> regional Gaucher meeting in Slovenia, there is significant improvement in availability of treatment for GD patients in the region, but there are many more issues to deal with beyond the treatment.

### Statements from participants at the meeting:

*Kristijan, Bulgaria: As a first time comer to a regional meeting, it was interesting to see people from all over the Balkan states. Even though there are differences between the languages spoken on the Balkan peninsula, it was nice to be able to speak your own language and be understood at the same time (more or less). This makes you feel accepted and part of the whole room. I admit that this way it is harder for the guest lecturers, as they do not speak the language, but you cannot have your cake and eat it too.*



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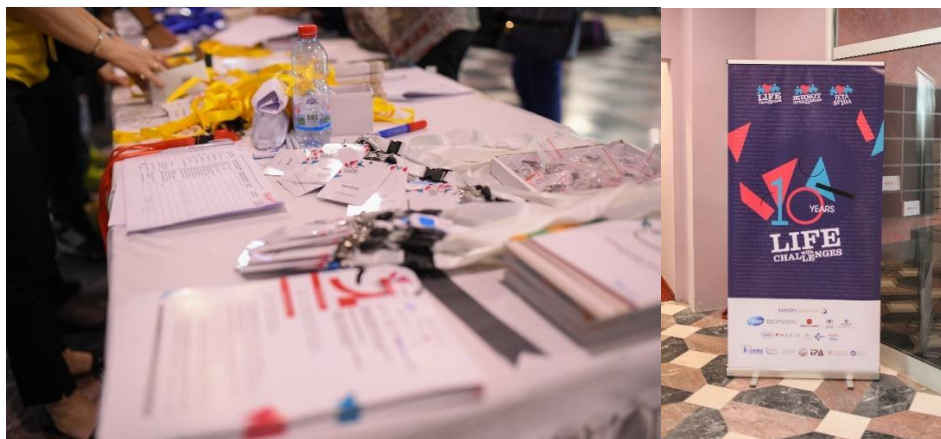
Slovenia:

*I would like to congratulate the organizers who have been very nice to us and have prepared lectures where we learned about Gaucher disease, treatment and new findings, and about the situation in other countries. At the workshop on Sunday we met new patients and listened to their stories, which are not only positive, but also unpleasant and difficult. In the end, however, we concluded that there are many positive things in all this Gaucher story, and that is why we have to look positively on the disease and make the most of our lives. (Gaucher patient from Slovenia)*

*Super meeting, great experience! In the future, I wish a little more focus on sharing groups, discussions among patients, perhaps having a doctor who is treating Gaucher with us in a patient workshop. (Gaucher patient from Slovenia)*

*We are very happy and grateful to all organizers that they have brought together many people from several countries, patients and their dearest ones. We got additional information about the husband's disease (Gaucher disease) and were calmed down regarding its impact on our children. All praises to the local organisers and to everyone for a nice and relaxed meeting. (a wife of Gaucher patient from Slovenia)*

*Biljana, Serbia: 24 of Serbian Gaucher patients and family members attended Regional Gaucher Meeting in North Macedonia 7-9th June. It was a great opportunity to hear very important lectures from leading doctors in the region, and always inspiring prof Tim Cox. We also had time to gather with friends from other countries and share experiences.*





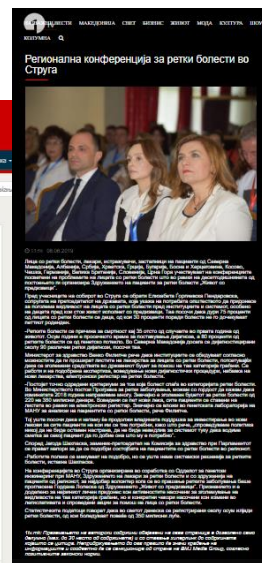
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### MEDIA COVERAGE

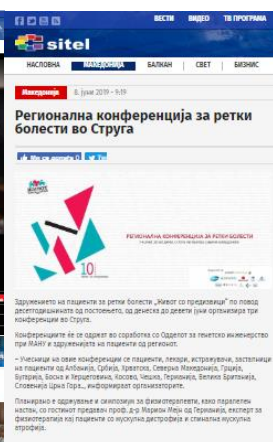
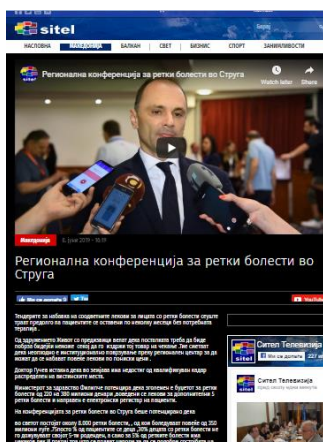
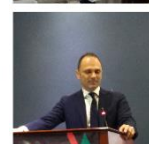
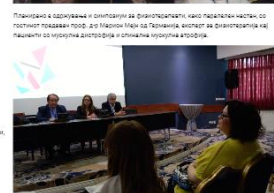
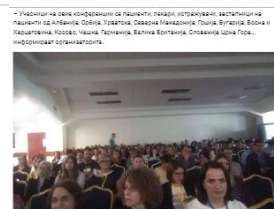
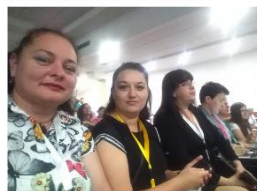
The conference was widely covered by local, regional and national televisions, radio, newspapers, web portals etc....



## Живот со Предизвици / Jeta me Sfida / Life With Challenges



Ова објавува подолготрпна Елизабета Поповска, прва дама на Република Северна Македонија. Вено Филип, Министер за Здравство на Република Северна Македонија, Јетра Селески, Заменик-претседател на Комисија за здравство при Собранието на Република Северна Македонија, Александар Димковски, потпретседател на Центар за ретки болести и биомедицина, Радко Вораноски, претседател на Македонија во Македонија, Зоран Тивков, македонски амбасадор во ретки болести, Елена Александрова, претседател на Живот со Предизвици.



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