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HEPMP

Higher Education Pain Medicine Project

Erasmus+ KA2 project

Strengthening Capacities for Higher Education of Pain Medicine in Western Balkan countries – HEPMP

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Why HEPMP project?

- Pain is probably one of the oldest and most universal forms of stress and one of the earliest sufferings of humankind.
- Pain is the follower of many diseases and conditions: Rheumatoid arthritis, postherpetic neuralgia, degenerative spine conditions, osteoarthritis, AIDS, migraine, diabetic neuropathy, and phantom pain are examples of chronic pain as well as cancer.
- In the economic sphere, it is estimated that the cost to treat patients with chronic pains exceeds the total cost to treat patients with heart disease, cancer, and AIDS.
- Prolonged pain is among the major causes of absence from work, sick leaves, disability retirement, severance pay, and low productivity. It is a problem of public health for its prevalence, high cost, and negative impact on the quality of life of patients and their families.
- Despite the efforts and the fact that it is as old as humanity itself, pain neither has been completely understood nor can be totally controlled.
- Low awareness of the importance of treating pain lies amongst the public and health care professionals.
- Number of doctors trained for pain medicine is insufficient.
- We need to improve knowledge about pain and raise awareness, both professionals – healthcare workers, and society, about the significance of this problem.

HEPMP aims

- Strengthening Capacities for Higher Education of Pain Medicine in Western Balkan Countries
- Development of Pain medicine service provision in the country by providing qualified trained staff.
- Support will be granted to operationalize the recently established educational program in the form of pain medicine specialization and the possibility of the development of undergraduate education programs.
- Establish an academic network and improve professional cooperation through opportunities provided by new technologies (Internet, telemedicine, etc.)

Tasks of the project

Tasks of the Universities of European Union countries

- Assist in the analysis of the current situation in this area in Western Balkan Countries.
- Defining the possible changes that would improve or introducing curriculum of pain medicine in the undergraduate and postgraduate education.
- Training of trainers from Western Balkan Countries in the European Union countries.

Tasks of Universities of Partner countries

- To modernize the existing curriculum of pain medicine specialization. Coordinate the existing postgraduate education curriculum in the field of pain medicine with European Pain Federation (EFIC) curriculum.
- To develop a module lectures for undergraduate studies of pain medicine.
- To develop a web platform for mutual learning and communication for health care professionals who deal with pain medicine.
- To organize courses of pain medicine for doctors in primary health care.
- Develop written material for Life Long Learning -LLL (books, brochures, scripts, leaflets, digital material etc).
- Establish an academic network of health care professionals and universities in the field of pain medicine.



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