Document :  AEMH 18-034

Title: National Report Croatia

Author : Croatian Medical Chamber

Purpose : Information

Distribution : AEMH Member Delegations

Date : 9 June 2018
The key project of the Croatian Medical Chamber in 2017 is the Demographic Atlas of the Croatian Medicine. The project was finished in December 2017. Croatia, like other South-East European countries, is faced with a problem of the lack of physicians. This Atlas was conceived as one of the tools which will help adequate planning of future physicians’ human potentials. The Croatian Medical Chamber is an institution with public authorities. The upkeep of physicians’ directory which served as the starting point for the Atlas is an essential public authority. The initiative for this project came from the Croatian Medical Chamber’s Committee for International Cooperation after we became acquainted with the French Atlas. However, it is important to emphasize that Croatian Atlas is not a copy of the French Atlas but it is in its entirety an original solution which came as a result of our experts’ hard work.

During the course of the last 3 years there is an intensive process of computerization of the Croatian Medical Chamber which is now approaching its end. As a part of this project the Chamber has made connections to other institutions. The process of Atlas development took place simultaneously. The Atlas merged data about physicians from HZIZ (Croatian National Institute for Public Health), DZS (Croatian Bureau of Statistics), HZZO (Croatian Health Insurance Fund), HZMO (Croatian Pension Insurance Institute), HZZ (Croatian Employment Institute), medical faculties and Agency for Science and Higher Education.

The authors of the Atlas come from the field of demography, medical economics and mathematics.

The whole time they worked closely together with the Croatian Medical Chamber expert team which had an editor and experts from the fields of medical administration, public health and medical law.

The Atlas itself abounds in structured and clearly presented analysis of the Croatian medical corps.

The main analyses were conducted taking into consideration the following categories: the type of health protection, territorial division (national level, health regions of planning and counties), workload, specializations, retired physicians, graduate students of medicine.

Given that it is impossible to present an entire Atlas in a short PPT, to conclude I shall draw out the most important data and conclusions which are characteristic for the Croatian medical corps.

There were 14,394 medical doctors in Croatia on 1.1.2017. (They were doctors licenced to practice medicine and they make the basis for all calculations in the Atlas).

- 9648 specialists + 2268 residents + 2030 doctors without specialization + 448 interns
- 63% females, average age 45 years
- 37% male, average age 47 years
- 3.5 doctors on 1000 inhabitants
- Every third doctor works in Zagreb.
- 9% of doctors work only in the private health system.
- In the course of the next decade the biggest ever number of medical doctors shall retire.
- It is essential to make a comprehensive mid-term horizon planning.
- The lack of medical doctors is more evident in the primary health care than in the hospital sector.
• During the course of the last 10 years the number of specialists rose significantly faster than the number of doctors in the primary health care sector
• The counties most exposed to the lack of medical doctors were detected.
• Unequal workload in health regions.
• The biggest number of working hours was recorded by specialists in the eastern health region.
• More than half of doctors who work night shifts have more than 250 hours of overtime per year.
• Since Croatia entered EU, on every 18 medical doctors who left Croatia only 1 came from abroad and joined the Croatian health system

Should any of you (the country) wish to implement a similar project we are more than willing to help so please do not hesitate to contact us.
Given the fact that Croatia is relatively small country we in the Croatia Medical Chamber anticipate such analysis to be done every five years.