



REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRIË
MINISTRIA E SHËNDETËSISË
DHE MBROJTJES SOCIALE

20
23

5-6-7
March
ALBANIA

1st
Health
CONGRESS

- ▶ **Better** Care
- ▶ **Better** Quality
- ▶ **More** Innovation

Albania's 1st Health Congress aims to bring together policymakers, health experts, healthcare professionals, service users and other key stakeholders to share experiences and engage in dialogue regarding the challenges of health systems. The congress will provide a medium for stakeholders to reflect, learn and adapt best international practices with the purpose of providing better care, increasing quality of services and be up to date with the latest innovation.

The participation and interaction of many authorities from various health institutions will boost cooperation in addressing future challenges for a more qualitative and inclusive service with the main focus in achieving Universal Health Coverage.

Programme

Day 1. Monday March 6, 2023		
8.30 - 9.00	Registration of Participants	Hall of the Palace of Congresses
9.00 - 10.00	<p>Opening Ceremony</p> <p><i>Welcome Speech:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ms. Ogerta Manastirliu, Minister of Health and Social Protection 2. Mr. Edi Rama, Prime Minister of Albania 	Concert Hall
10.00 - 11.00	<p>Plenary Session:</p> <p>Universal Health Coverage - Health for All. Towards designing effective and sustainable strategies and actions to strengthen the health system</p> <p>Welcome speech addressing participants, health professionals, experts of public health, policymakers and other national and international stakeholders.</p> <p>This session aims to set the narrative of the Congress and conclude with a discussion on health-related topics, including inter sectoral health policy, access in healthcare, health and social inequalities as well as the sustainability of the health system during unprecedented times.</p> <p><i>Panelist:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Hans Henri P. Kluge, WHO Regional Director for Europe (video message) 2. Prof. Arben Gjata, Rector, University of Medicine Tirana 3. Ms. Fiona McCluney, Resident Coordinator, UN 4. Ms. Ruth Huber, Ambassador of Switzerland 5. Ms. Sandra Gallina, EU Directorate General for Health and Food Safety (video message) 6. Mr. Alexis Hupin, Charge d'affaires, EU Delegation in Albania 7. Mr. Gerald Rockenschaub, Regional Emergency Director, WHO Europe 8. Ms. Eva Kadilli, UNICEF Director of Supply Division <p><i>Moderator: Ms. Ogerta Manastirliu, Minister of Health and Social Protection</i></p>	Concert Hall

11.00 - 11.30	Coffee Break	
11.30 - 13.00	<p><u>Topic 1:</u> Taking action for Universal Health Coverage</p> <p>Session I: Health financing to support sustainable and resilient healthcare systems</p> <p>This session will focus on the various models of financing health care systems, as well as on the role preventive and screening programs play towards increasing wellbeing of the population while reducing the costs and financial burdens. The session will also touch on the topic of increasing public spending in health, to invest in enhancing stability and preparedness of the system.</p> <p><i>Panelist:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ms. Ogerta Manastirliu, Minister of Health and Social Protection 2. Ms. Delina Ibrahimaj, Minister, Ministry of Finance and Economy 3. Mr. Arben Vitia, Minister of Health, Kosovo 4. Mr. Dragoslav Scekcic, Minister of Health, Montenegro 5. Mr. Fatmir Mexhiti, Minister of Health, North Macedonia 6. Ms. Albana Adhami, Director General, Health Insurance Fund - "Financing health care packages and drug reimbursement. Future challenges" 7. Ms. Kozeta Sevrani, Vice President of the Committee for The National Hospital Planning <p><i>Moderator: Ms. Vjollca Braho</i>, Deputy Minister, MoHSP</p>	Albanology Hall
	<p>Parallel Session II: Towards Universal Health Coverage. The patient-centered model of care</p> <p>This session will enable a more in-depth discussion among policymakers and experts to share ideas and best practices for the patient-centred model of care, in providing personalized health care and assuring equity of access.</p> <p><i>Panelist:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Gazmend Bejtja, National Health Officer, WHO Albania 2. Mr. Dawran Faizan, Fund Portofolio Manager, Global Fund 3. Mr. Kaspar Wyss, Deputy Director of Swiss TPH (Online) - "Best International Practices of health services with the citizen in the center" 4. Mr. Markens Shllaku, Director, Regional Operator Shkoder - "Integrated socio-health centers, as one of the models of providing healthcare with the citizen at the center" 	Vetting Hall

	<p>5. Prof.Ass. Ilirjana Zekja, Dean, Nursing Faculty, University of Medicine - "Education of health personnel to guarantee models of integrated socio-health services with the patient at the center"</p> <p>6. Ms. Suela Lala, Executive Director, Together Foundation</p> <p>7. Prof. Genc Byrazieri, Public Health Expert, University of Medicine Tirana- "Digitalization of health care services as a mean to provide services with the patient in the center"</p> <p>8. Prof. Gentjana Qirjako, Head of Public Health Department, University of Medicine Tirana- "Health services to fulfill the OneHealth Objective"</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Mira Rakacolli, Deputy Minister, MoHSP</p>	
13.00 - 14.30	Lunch Break	
14.30-16.30	<p>Topic 2: Scaling up resilience of Public Health, as a tool for addressing needs and challenges in ever-changing settings</p> <p>Parallel Session III: Preparing health care systems for future risks and public health emergencies</p> <p><i>This session will bring the spotlight on the lessons learned during the last 2.5 years of COVID-19 pandemic, allowing all the stakeholders involved to share their perspective and engagement towards achieving a comprehensive response.</i></p> <p><i>The session will also focus on strengthening the coordinated national response, while also highlighting the need for structured communication plans and strategies for monitoring and addressing mental health challenges during public health emergencies.</i></p> <p>Panelist:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Gerald Rockenschaub, Regional Emergency Director, WHO Europe Mr. Ababayehu Assefa Mengistu, WHO Health Emergency Coordinator, Balkan Hub Prof. Ass. Silva Bino, Head of Epidemiology and Communicable Diseases Department, Institute of Public Health - "Judgment and solution under uncertainty and imperfection - pandemics through the lens" Prof. Najada Como, Head of Infectious Diseases Department, Mother Teresa University Hospital - "Infectious management of the Covid-19 pandemic at the tertiary hospital level and lessons learned for the future" Dr. Skender Brataj, General Director, National Emergency Center - "Coping with emergencies and major events in a structured way with other emergency services" Ms. Megi Kociaj, Head of Mental Health Service Department, Local Health Care Unit, Tirana - "The Loneliness Epidemic and Other 	Albanology Hall

	<p>Comorbidities. Mental Health Challenges accentuated by COVID-19 and Objectives for Intervention at a national level"</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Entela Ramosacaj, Deputy Minister, MoHSP</p>	
	<p>Parallel Session IV: Multidimensional approach in health and social care services in response to dynamic demographic changes</p> <p><i>This session aims to provide an overview of widely known integrated care models in an attempt to capture components and processes involved in the design and implementation – from models designed to integrate care for individuals with chronic conditions and disease-specific models to population-based integrated models.</i></p> <p>Panelist:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Eugena Tomini, General Director, Institute of Public Health - "Public health with a focus on coordination mechanisms and integrated services for the follow-up of patients with NCDs" Ms. Mirela Cami, General Director, National Health Operator "Reforms in the provision of health services in response to demographic changes in Albania" Dr. Vincenzo De Angelis, Director, National Center for Blood, Italy - "The Italian interventions in the international bilateral cooperation: a multidisciplinary approach to the congenital bleeding disorders in Albania" Ms. Elsona Agolli, Gender and Population Dynamics Program Analyst, UNFPA - "Albania and demographic changes: Challenges as an opportunity for development and improvement of integrated services so that no one is left behind" Ms. Valbona Treska, President of the Order of Psychologists - "The role of psychologists in dealing with emergencies. The challenges of integrated services" Mr. Mirgjit Vataj, Head of the Order of Social Workers - "The role of social workers in providing a quality integrated social and health service" Dr. Augusto Boitani, Psychiatrist, - "New innovative models on integrated socio-health services in Albania" (online) <p>Moderator: Ms. Denada Seferi, Deputy Minister, MoHSP</p>	Vetting Hall
16.30	Closing of the 1st day	

Day 2. Tuesday March 7, 2023

9.00 - 9.30	Registration of Participants	Hall of the Palace of Congresses
9.30 - 11.00	<p>Topic 3: Primary health care as a strategic mechanism for maintaining citizens' wellbeing and addressing possible challenges of the future</p> <p>Parallel Session V: Primary health care as a whole-of-society approach for organizing and integrating national health systems</p> <p><i>Primary health care addresses the majority of a person's health needs throughout their lifetime and is the access point for the healthcare system. Furthermore, people who suffer from non-communicable diseases, or are at risk of developing them, need a long-term proactive care, tailored around their needs, sustainable and community based. This particular care can be offered to everyone equally, only through health systems based on primary care.</i></p> <p><i>The restructuring of the primary health care in Albania as well as the new Action Plan on the fight against Non-Communicable Diseases under the Health Strategy will be discussed thoroughly in this session.</i></p> <p><i>Panelist:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ms. Ketrin Zeno, Primary Health Care Director, MoHSP 2. Ms. Dionne Kringos, Vice-Director of the Amsterdam Public Health Research Institute and Associate Professor of Health Systems and Services Research (online) 3. Dr. Besim Nuri, Project Leader, Health Project for All - "The contribution of the Health for All Project (HAP) to the reform of Primary Health Care in Albania" 4. Ms. Mariana Bukli, Health and Nutrition Specialist, UNICEF - "The whole life cycle health approach in primary care" 5. Prof.Ass. Alban Ylli, Director of Non-Communicable Diseases Department, Institute of Public Health - "The role of Primary Health Care in the control of non-communicable diseases" 6. Prof. Peter Anderson, Population Health Sciences Institute, Newcastle University (online) <p><i>Moderator: Ms. Mira Rakacolli</i>, Deputy Minister, MoHSP</p>	Vetting Hall

	<p>Parallel Session VI: Addressing the challenges and needs of children, teenagers and youth health and well-being</p> <p><i>As children transition from adolescence to adulthood, their health, sexual and reproductive rights, and other health challenges, should be addressed in a tailored approach, according to their age specific needs.</i></p> <p><i>Experts will be able to share the most recent implemented programs such as the Vaccination against HPV, the dental and eye screening programs in schools, new psycho-social support service provided by the health care centres, etc.</i></p> <p>Panelist:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ms. Bora Muzhaqi, Minister of State for Youth and Children 2. Mr. Roberto De Bernardi, UNICEF Representative in Albania 3. Ms. Ledia Lazeri, Regional Adviser for Mental Health, WHO Office for Europe 4. Ms. Siff Nielsen, Vaccine Acceptance and Demand Technical Officer, WHO Regional Office for Europe - "Role and use of behavioral research in tailoring programme strategies, particularly capacity building efforts for health care workers on communicating with parents and caregivers about HPV vaccination" 5. Ms. Dorina Tocaj, Reproductive Health & Youth Programme Analyst, UNFPA - "Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights of Adolescents and Youth" 6. Ms. Rovena Daja, Epidemiologist, Communicable Diseases Department, Institute of Public Health - "The impact of changing the vaccination calendar on the evolution of infectious diseases in Albania" <p>Moderator: Ms. Entela Ramosacaj, Deputy Minister, MoHSP</p>	Albanology Hall
11.00 - 11.30	Coffee Break	
11.30-13.00	<p>Topic 4: Developing human potential through innovation and digitalization</p> <p>Parallel Session VII: Designing policies and strategies to address the effects of worldwide medical staff mobility</p> <p><i>In the face of worldwide challenges caused by mobility of the medical staff, new and targeted strategies are designed and implemented, focusing on attracting, motivating and empowering the health care workforce, while also aiming to enrich their</i></p>	Albanology Hall

continuous educational programs. Furthermore, a specific emphasis will be placed in strategic planning to ensure a health workforce that is fit for purpose to attain the targets of UHC and the SDGs.

Panelist:

1. **Ms. Albana Tole**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education and Sports
2. **Ms. Vilma Bello**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Tourism and Environment - "**Medical tourism in Albania**"
3. **Ms. Geraldine McWeeney**, WHO Representative in Albania
4. **Prof. Xheladin Dracini**, Dean, University of Medicine, Tirana "**The transformation of healthcare professional's education to address the worldwide effects of the medical workforce mobility**"
5. **Dr. Denis Gjika**, General Director, Agency of Health and Social Care Quality - "**Employee retention strategies: a focus on quality**"
6. **Dr. Fatmir Brahimi**, President, Order of Physicians - "**The role of the Order of Physicians in optimizing the retention, motivation and performance of medical staff**"
7. **Ms. Blerina Duka**, President, Order of Nurses - "**Starting from the past to lead the future. The new path to excellence for health care professionals in Albania**"
8. **Ms. Alma Dervishaj**, Director of Human Resources Management, MoHSP - "**The optimization of human resources in the public health system**"

Moderator: **Ms. Entela Ramosacaj**, Deputy Minister, MoHSP

Parallel Session VIII: Towards the appropriate and sustainable adoption of digital health solutions

Scaling up from the momentum built in digital health in the recent years is crucial in achieving Universal Health Coverage. Furthermore, analysis of the gathered data is important in evidence-based decisions and policy making. This session will explore opportunities and challenges that digitalisation poses.

Panelist:

1. **Ms. Edona Bilali**, Minister of State for Entrepreneurship Protection
2. **Mr. Ryan Dos Santos**, Expert in Systems Analysis and Design, and Information and project management, WHO (online)
3. **Mr. Arian Boci**, Head of Sector of Telemedicine and Scientific Research, National Center of Biomedical Engineering and Telemedicine

Vetting Hall

	<p>4. Ms. Ana Hoxha, National Agency for Information Society</p> <p>5. Mr. James Mullen, Head of Tech, Tony Blair Institute</p> <p>6. Mr. Tomi Thomo, Director of Delivery Unit and Statistics, MoHSP - "Digital Health in Albania. Achievements and challenges"</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Nejsi Lleshi, Health Expert, MoHSP</p>	
13.00 - 14.30	Lunch Break	
14.30-16.00	<p><u>Topic 5: The future of healthcare: Welcoming innovation and transformation as a prerequisite for improved care</u></p> <p>Parallel session IX: The modernization of hospital care</p> <p><i>This session will explore innovative models of hospital care management and will also present the Albanian new Law on Hospital Services including concepts of hospital autonomy, service costs, optimization of human resources and finances, Modernization of hospital care aims to create a new hospital care model based on principles of good governance, sustainability and cost efficiency.</i></p> <p>Panelist:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Taavi Lai, Public Health Expert 2. Ms. Mejvis Kola, General Director of Health Policies, MoHSP - "Law on hospital care and its impact on optimization of financial resources and efficiency of hospital services" 3. Prof. Ass. Arben Baboci, Head of National Hospital Committee, Mother Teresa University Hospital - "National hospital plan" 4. Ms. Albana Fico, Director General, Mother Teresa University Hospital "Challenges of hospital management in the conditions of infrastructural changes and increased performance of human resources" 5. Prof. Orlando Armignacco, Medical Director, Lady of Good Counsel Hospital 6. Ms. Rudina Degjoni, Director General, Memorial Hospital Fier "Hospital autonomy as a management method that increases the quality and performance of healthcare services" 7. Mr. Klodjan Allajbeu, CEO, American Hospital Albania <p>Moderator: Ms. Mira Rakacolli, Deputy Minister, MoHSP</p>	Albanology Hall

	<p>Parallel Session X: Pharmaceuticals: Drug safety, quality assurance, and increasing access and affordability to innovative therapies.</p> <p><i>The main focus of this session will be the pharmaceutical service. National and international experts will discuss on increasing citizens' access to medicines, the policies to grasp innovative treatments, and the safety assurance in the quality of drugs.</i></p> <p>Panelist:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Michal Pilkiewicz, Director for the EE Region, IQVIA 2. Ms. Mikaela Kolaci, Head of Registration Department, National Agency of Drugs and Medical Devices- “Modernization of Albanian National Agency of Drugs and Medical Devices- Drug safety and Quality assurance” 3. Prof. Suela Kellici, Deputy Dean, University of Medicine Tirana- “The potential of Pharmacists in a changing Health environment” 4. Prof. Leonard Deda, Professor, University of Medicine Tirana- “Offer dynamics of Pharmaceutical Industry market in Albania”. 5. Ms. Barjola Hodaj, Director of Pharmaceutics Department, MoHSP- “Increased access of innovative drugs- priorities of MoH policies” 6. Mr. Kliti Hoti, President, Pharma Trade Association- “Bold Vision of SHPF to Innovation- Responsibility of society for Patient Future” 7. Mr. Ilir Minga, Representative of the Pharmaceutical Business Union <p>Moderator: Ms. Blerina Kaza, Health Expert, MoHSP</p>	Vetting Hall
16.00 - 17.00	<p>Conclusions and Recommendations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ms. Ogerta Manastirliu, Minister of Health and Social Protection 2. Ms. Mira Rakacolli, Deputy Minister MoHSP 3. Ms. Entela Ramosacaj, Deputy Minister MoHSP 4. Ms. Denada Seferi, Deputy Minister MoHSP 5. Ms. Vjollca Braho, Deputy Minister MoHSP 6. Ms. Nejsi Lleshi, Health Expert, MoHSP 7. Ms. Blerina Kaza, Health Expert, MoHSP 	Albanology Hall
CLOSING		