

**The 2nd Croatian Congress on Children and Adolescents Mental Health:
'Mental Health of Children and Adolescents – Wealth of the Nation'**

The 2nd Croatian Congress on Children and Adolescents Mental Health (CAMH) entitled 'Mental Health of Children and Adolescents – Wealth of the Nation' was held in Zagreb, May 18-19th, 2018. The congress was organised by:

- Croatian Society for Infant, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
- Psychiatric Hospital for Children and Adolescents, Zagreb
- Child Protection Center for Children and Youth, Zagreb
- Under the patronage of the President of the Republic of Croatia Ms Kolinda Grabar Kitarović, the Ministry of Health and Ministry for Demographics, Family, Youth and Social Policy



From left to right: Prof. Marija Burgić Radmanović (Bosnia and Hercegovina), Ass. Prof. Hojka Gregorič Kumperščak (Slovenia), Prof. Norbert Skokauskas (Norway), Professor Füsün Çetin Çuhadaroğlu (Turkey), Milica Pejović Milovančević (Serbia), Prof. Dimitris Anagnostopoulos's (Greece), Ass. Prof. Vlatka Boričević Maršanić (Croatia) and Jasminka Marković, MD, PhD (Serbia).

The Croatian Society for Infant, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry was established in 1991 during the Croatian War of Independence. It soon became a member of the International Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Allied Professions' (IACAPAP) and the European Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (ESCAP).

The congress scientific program was opened by Professor Füsün Çetin Çuhadaroğlu (Turkey), the Secretary General of the IACAPAP, with a plenary lecture on mental health policy for children and youth, and ESCAP President Elect Professor Dimitris Anagnostopoulos (Greece) gave a lecture on mental health needs of refugee children and the necessity of the collaborative work - a European perspective. Prof. Norbert Skokauskas (Norway), Chair of the Child and Adolescent Section, World Psychiatric Association, also addressed the future of child and adolescent mental health in his lecture.

Invited speakers from the south-eastern European region were Hojka Gregorič Kumperščak (Slovenia), Milica Pejović Milovančević (Serbia), Marija Raleva (FRY of Macedonia), and Marija Burgić Radmanović (BiH).

Croatian experts in CAMH, Ivana Pavić Šimetin, Marina Ajduković, Miranda Novak, Nada Anić, Andrijana Kovačić, Vlasta Rudan, Dubravka Kocijan Hercigonja, Ivica Šain, Marija Posavec, Ljiljana Tirić Ćihorić, and Asja Palinović Cvitanović gave inspiring and informative lectures on intersectoral CAMH policy, epidemiology of mental health problems in Croatian youth, the impact of socioeconomic deprivation on CAMH in Croatia, cognitive behavioural therapy in treating mental disorders in youth, dental care in children with autism spectrum disorders, challenges of diagnosing dissociative disorders in children and adolescents, day hospital treatment for children and adolescents in Istra as a collaboration with the hospital and local community, education of children and adolescents with mental disorders, and support from school doctors to youths with mental health needs.

Experts from the Child Protection Center for Children and Youth of Zagreb with the director Professor Gordana Buljan Flander held a round-table discussion on the intersectoral collaboration in cases of abuse and neglect of children and youth, and the adverse consequences of not reporting child maltreatment.

Child and adolescent mental health reform is underway in Croatia with a strong commitment from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Health and Ministry for Demographics, Family, Youth and Social Policy, Ministry of Education, Croatian Public Institute of Health and health institutions throughout the county to implement the guidelines of the Twinning Project - 'Ensuring optimal health care for people with mental health disorders' (CRO MHD).

About 180 participants from Croatia and the region participated in the congress, comprising of plenary lectures, symposia, round-table discussions, poster sessions and workshops. The congress aims to provide for experts and clinicians from home and abroad an opportunity to exchange on experiences, and to advance our knowledge and skills in the field of CAMH. New cooperative clinical and research initiatives were established. Members of the audience from a variety of disciplines (healthcare, education, social welfare) participated actively in discussions, which generated constructive suggestions and initiatives focusing on challenges of the organisation of services, clinical practice and research, and also the promotion and preventive activity in the field of CAMH.

The Croatian Society for Infant, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry will continue to work on improving child and adolescent mental health in Croatia in collaboration with professionals from many disciplines involved in the care of children and youth.