



Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Allied Professions in Western Balkans – the first regional meeting

The first regional meeting of Associations for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and allied professions was held from 20-21st October 2017 in the city of Novi Sad, Serbia. Representatives from Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), and Serbia were present.



Hojka Kumperščak Gregorič (Slovenia), Nataša Potočnik Dajčman (Slovenia), Jasna Gidaković Prašović (Slovenia), Maja Drobnič Radobuljac (Slovenia), Bojan Belec (Slovenia), Vlatka Boričević Maršanić (Croatia), Marija Burgić Radmanović (BiH), Mira Spremo (BiH), Marija Raleva (FYROM), Angelina Filipovska (FYROM), Vojislav Ćurčić (Serbia), Milica Pejović Milovančević (Serbia), Jasminka Marković (Serbia), Olga Milojković (Serbia), Ana Kesić (Serbia), Vladimir Borovnica (Serbia).

The meeting provided an excellent opportunity to analyse the past activities and to exchange experiences from the different countries. The country representatives held presentations that focused on the status of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (CAP) in each country, each provided an in-depth insight into the functioning of CAP, association structures, local congresses and symposiums. Special focus was on the functioning of CAP within national healthcare systems, benefits and challenges of each association, the number of working physicians and allied professionals within the country, outpatient posts and the number of patient beds for stationary treatment, and the education of medical doctors and CAP trainees (specialization). Plans for improving CAP care services and ongoing and future clinical studies were also presented.

All countries share similar experiences and concluded that there is a general lack of CAP specialists. Specialised curriculum differs among countries – Slovenia and Croatia are following UEMS training recommendation, while other countries have their own training curriculum. All countries are dealing with the same problem with adult psychiatry (somehow adult psychiatrists neglect the needs of child/adolescent mental health issues), and policy makers (CAP as a training is not well-established and more advocacy is needed for the future of CAP).

All participants agreed to form a regional mailing list for exchanging information. It was also suggested that a common symposium should be organized during national congresses in order to exchange knowledge and skills. In the near future, we are planning to meet once in a year in a different country, the next regional meeting is planned for October 2018 in Slovenia. It was suggested that the presence at future meetings and congresses should be in the form of a regional joint symposia.