

Meeting of departments of family medicine in Ljubljana - Network Primary Care Departments NPHC (November 10 -11, 2022)

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In 1992 representatives of a few European departments of general practice agreed on setting up an international network "Primary Health Care", in principle including general practice, social/occupational health and geriatrics. This network operates within the Erasmus exchange program and offers medical students the possibility of fulfilling a primary care clerkship, a research elective or taking part in an Intensive Programme.

The last NPHC meeting was held in autumn 2022 at the Department of Family Medicine in Ljubljana in the large meeting room of the dean's office on Vrazov trg. Dean Prof. Igor Švab presented the development of this institution, the vision of the Faculty and the new construction works. He highlighted the long-term cooperation with the NPHC network, EURACT and WONCA EUROPE. The operation and mission of EURACT was presented by the assistant Vesna Homar. Prof. Marija Petek Šter described the undergraduate teaching and the new curricula in the field of family medicine. Mrs. Anja Rudan from the international office spoke about the possibility of mobility within the Erasmus+ program, the so-called KIP (combined intensive programs).

Prof. Michael Holmes from Haxby Group (UK, York/Hull/Scarborough) spoke about different medical schools offer and general practice placements which are educating at varying times within their 5-year course. Practices can sign up to be teaching practices and can agree which year groups they will support. Funding is provided from the medical school on a tariff basis. Practices also offer placements for doctors once qualified and prior to commencing specialist training. This is a two-year period and is referred to as 'Foundation Years'. They are funded centrally via Health Education England (HEE) – this is a state-run organization responsible for the training of all health professionals.

Professor Ábel Perjes from Semmelweis University described current educational and research activities at the Department of Family medicine. Mrs. Mujde Basar and Assoc. Prof. Fatih Artvinli presented the content of the new community orientation and social accountability curriculum. Doc. Janez Rifel described innovations in the field of Geriatrics, a new course at the undergraduate level in the Medical Faculty of Ljubljana. Dr. Szilvia Heim from the University of Pécs presented an overview of the curriculum of the department of family medicine and educational and scientific programs in family medicine at the University of Pécs. Dr. Kadri Suia, from Tartu Ülikool, Faculty of Medicine, spoke about the situation in Estonia concerning exchange. Assoc. Prof. Radost Asenova from the Department of Urology and General Practice, Faculty of Medicine, Medical University of Plovdiv presented educational and scientific programs in family medicine for medical students at University of Plovdiv. The meeting was attended for the first time by the chairperson Prof. Erika Zelko from Johannes Kepler University Linz | JKU · Institute for General Practice.

The program continued by descriptions of Erasmus student exchanges in the field of primary health care, prepared by representatives of each participating country.

Acibadem International Medical Center will co-organize the next meeting of the NPHC network, which will be held in Istanbul in the autumn of 2023. We are already inviting primary health care teachers to attend and use this opportunity to present their educational programs.