



EAPC Task Force on the development of Palliative Care in Europe

CROATIA



Current Directory:

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None identified x

Key Contact/National Association

Key contact:

Dr. Matija Rimac,
Leader of the Interdisciplinary Hospice Home Care Team,
Croatian Association of Hospice Friends – Regional Hospice Centre,
Hirceva 1,
10 000 Zagreb,
Croatia.

Telephone: ++ 385 1 23 44 835

Email: rimacmatija@yahoo.com

National Association:

Professor Anica Jusic,
President,
Croatian Society for Hospice/Palliative Care,
Croatian Medical Association,
Subiceva 9,
10 000 Zagreb,
Croatia.

Telephone: ++ 385 1 48 56 775

Email: anica.jusic@zg.htnet.hr

Palliative Care Services

Number of Palliative Care Services						
	Inpatient Palliative Care Units	Hospices	Consultant Teams in Hospitals	Home Care Teams	Day Centres	Total
Adult/Children	0	0	0	3	0	3
Paediatric only	0	0	0	0	0	0
				Inpatient Palliative Care Units/ Hospices	Chronic Hospitals /Nursing Homes	Total
Number of beds allocated to adult palliative care inpatients				0	0	0
				Adults	Children	Total
Number of Bereavement Support Teams				2	1	3

Comments/Sources

[Croatian Association of Hospice Friends – Regional Hospice Centre, Zagreb, Hirceva 1]

[EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]

Adult Palliative Care Population			
90%	of patients receiving palliative care have a cancer diagnosis		
10%	of patients receiving palliative care have other incurable conditions		
			Cancer (%)
Number of patients who die at home			447 98.22%
Number of patients who die in a general hospital			3 0.67%
Number of patients who die in other healthcare institutions			5 1.11%



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Comments/Sources

- These figures reflect Zagreb only. No data is available for patients who die in the whole of Croatia (Croatian Association of Hospice Friends – Regional Hospice Centre, Zagreb).
- In 2004, the total number of deaths in Croatia totalled 20,086 - malignant diseases accounted for 4,291 (21%) (Croatian Institute for Health Insurance).

[EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]

Palliative Care Workforce Capacity

	Full-time	Part-time	Total
Physicians	0	4	4
Nurses	0	4	4
Social Workers	1	0	1
Psychologists	-	2	2
Physiotherapists	-	1	1
Occupational Therapists	-	-	0
Spiritual/Faith leaders	-	-	0
Volunteers	-	-	30

Comments/Sources

[EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]

Funding of palliative care services

Total number of palliative care services funded by the government	0
Total number of palliative care services funded privately or by NGO's	1

Comments/Sources

[Croatian Association of Hospice Friends – Regional Hospice Centre, Zagreb, Hirceva 1]
[EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]

Perceived use of main opioids in palliative care

Order of frequency	Opioid	Estimated cost per month (€)
First opioid	Fentanyl a 25µg/h	628.00 kn = 85 Euro
Second opioid	Tramadol retard a 100 mg	224.00 kn= 30 Euro
Third opioid	MST cont. 10 mg	139.00 kn = 19 Euro

Comments/Sources

[EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]

Key issues and challenges

- Political problems and an unstable government. Disruption at the Ministry of Health has resulted in extensive personnel and programme changes.
- Ensuring that the patient has the right to information on diagnosis and prognosis.
- The aggressive propaganda of the pharmaceutical industry and the uncritical acceptance of this by some fellow colleagues for non-medical reasons.
- Changing public opinion and education about palliative care at all levels.

[EAPC Palliative Care Euro-Barometer, 2005]



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Palliative care accreditation

- “No specialist accreditation for palliative care professionals exists in Croatia at the present time.”

[EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]

Palliative care milestones

- *1994*: The Croatian Society for Hospice/Palliative Care, Croatian Medical Association is founded.
- *1994*: The First Symposium on Hospice and Palliative Care is held in Zagreb. It is introduced by Dr. Nigel Sykes, from St Christopher’s Hospice, London.
- *2000*: The Croatian Association on Pain Treatment (Croatian Medical Association) is founded.
- *2002*: The Regional Hospice Centre in Zagreb is opened by The Croatian Association of Hospice Friends.
- *2002*: David Oliver, Medical Director of the Wisdom Hospice in Rochester, England, is elected as visiting Professor of the Medical Faculty, University of Zagreb.
- *2003*: Kathleen Foley (Open Society Institute, New York) is elected as a guest Professor of Medical Faculty, University of Zagreb.

[EAPC Palliative Care Euro-Barometer, 2005]

Health policy

- The Croatian Society for Hospice/Palliative Care spreads information about palliative care throughout the country by numerous symposia, conferences, courses, single lectures and publications.
- The Regional Hospice Centre in Zagreb functions as a centre for home care visits and consultations, courses, and volunteer meetings.
- In 2003, palliative care is introduced into the Health Protection Law by the Palliative Care Committee of the Ministry of Health. The committee is later disbanded by the minister of Health, but re-established in 2004 with the same president but with a highly reduced number of members.
- In 2004, Professor Anica Jusic is nominated as one of 20 members of the National Ethics Committee of the Ministry of Health.
- In 2004, The Council of Europe Report on Palliative Care (2003) (Recommendation 24 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the organisation of palliative care) is translated into the Croatian language and distributed free of charge to health institutions, press conferences, and palliative care courses.
- At the current time, there are no initiatives in Croatia that seek the legalisation of euthanasia or assisted suicide.
- Significant financial support has been provided to the Regional Hospice Centre in Zagreb by The Open Society Institute, New York.
- Plans are underway to build the first Institution for Palliative Care – St. Lucas Hospice in Zagreb. It is hoped that the institution will provide teaching and research facilities, inpatient palliative care unit beds, a day hospice centre, an outpatient department for pain and palliative care, and home care visits.

[EAPC Palliative Care Euro-Barometer, 2005]

References



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