



FÉDÉRATION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS SALARIÉS  
EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF SALARIED DOCTORS

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HRVATSKI LIJEČNIČKI SINDIKAT - CROATIAN MEDICAL UNION  
Zagreb, Šubićeva 9, Croatia

**National Report Croatia (HLS) (September 2012- May 2013)**  
**Budapest, May 2013**

Croatia is still in recession, the health-care system is still in crisis, the financial funds intended for the health-care system are being cut down and losses are being made. In April, this year, the Government of the Republic of Croatia passed a decision on the sanation of the health-care system in the amount of 658 mil. EUR.

Simultaneously, the Croatian Government started the procedure of sanation of the health-care institutions and took over the ownership of them, temporarily, for the period of two years. How this action shall affect the quality and availability of the health care services and the status of the employees can not be anticipated, yet. In May this year, we have local elections that are of importance for the health-care system, because a part of the health-care institutes are owned by local governments.

The Croatian medical union /HLS/ together with a part of the trade unions active in the public sector, signed in December, 2012, a new Fundamental collective agreement that stays in effect for 4 years. Despite that, the Government unilaterally decreased the salaries for all the employees in the public and state sector, for 3%, including the medical doctors.

The Government, with a part of the traded unions collaborating closely with the Government, is trying to cancel the Collective agreement for the health-care sector signed by the Croatian medical union in October, 2011. A court action has been started. It is hard to anticipate what the outcome shall be. We fear of the political decisions to the detriment of medical doctors.

It is certain that Croatia shall become the 28th member of the European Union on 1 July, 2013. How this shall affect the migration of medical doctors from Croatia, the time shall show. In Croatia, facing a great deficit of medical doctors, relatively low salaries, long working hours with overtime work and hard work, this shall place an additional burden on the whole situation and shall affect the quality and the availability of the health-care services.

In conclusion, we would like to stress, that there shall be a deficit of 4,500 medical doctors, which is 30% of the total number of the medical doctors. With this essential decrease of financial funds, this shall aggravate the application of all the positive directives and EU standards.

In Zagreb, 25<sup>th</sup> of April, 2013

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