



**Fédération Européenne
des Médecins Salariés**
European Federation
of Salaried Doctors

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**KIBRIS TÜRK
TABİPLERİ BİRLİĞİ**

Adres : 21 Doğu Sokak Yenikent
Gönyeli - Lefkoşa KKTC
Tel : (+90 392) 223 3990
Fax: (+90 392) 223 3989
E-Mail :info@kttb.org
Web : www.kttb.org



**CYPRUS TURKISH
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

Address : 21 Doğu Sokak Yenikent
Gönyeli - Nicosia TRNC
Tel : (+90 392) 223 3990
Fax: (+90 392) 223 3989
E-Mail :info@kttb.org
Web : www.kttb.org

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OCTOBER 2019 COUNTRY REPORT- (CTMA)

Healthcare system of North Cyprus is experiencing problems of both staff and infrastructure. There has been a significant population increase and system hasn't managed to keep up. As a result, there now exists a shortage of healthcare staff, especially doctors. On the infrastructure side, the project for a new hospital which would've been a public-private partnership model is abandoned as a result of our objections and a new project for a fully public hospital is on the table now.

There are currently six medical and seven dentistry faculties in North Cyprus turning out new graduates more than ever before. This raises possibility that there will be too many graduates and not enough jobs for them. We strongly suggested that the student body in these faculties be limited in line with anticipated future demand. We also demanded the authorities to make sure that education in these fields conforms to the modern standards and norms.

Economic downturn resulting from the devaluation of the Turkish Lira had a considerable impact on incomes of public healthcare workers as it impelled government to cut overtime pays, which later changed to a temporary cut as a result of the objections from unions. These cuts expired after the agreed upon period of 4 months and overtime pays are back to normal.

The rise in violence against healthcare staff has been a growing concern of ours. Together with other organizations representing healthcare workers we are exploring our options regarding this issue. We also have been putting pressure on the authorities about this issue but there hasn't been any new legislation or regulation addressing this so far.

Twenty West Nile virus cases were diagnosed in The North this summer and there are reports of the same virus on the southern side of the island. This marks the first time we have encountered this virus in Northern Cyprus. There is also a re-emergence of malaria as a result of a growing student population from African Countries. To combat these challenges we continue to have Vector Control seminars with public health authorities. We are also advocating for more disease control programs, unfortunately governmental bodies failed to satisfy our demands on this issue.

CTMA Public Health and Preventative Medicine Study Group, prepared an Adult Immunization Program, involving vaccination for HPV, pneumococcus, influenza and other preventable diseases. Health Ministry agreed to our proposal and they are preparing to implement it.

Özlem Gürkut, MD
(President)