



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

Date:	29-04-2020	Document:	F20-008 EN
Title:	National Report Slovenia		
Author:	Fides		



SEMIANNUAL REPORT FIDES SLOVENIA FOR FEMS

In relation with the urgent problems concerning the overburdening of the doctors at the primary level, and consequently family doctors, no solutions was found so far. In autumn, meetings and discussions with the Minister of Health and his team continued. It was stressed that nothing or very little was done. It has come to breakings concerning the preparation of administrative burdens, as well as the way of rewarding the excessive work of family doctors. Also the promised meeting from the part of the Minister of Health together with colleges at the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Public Administration, regarding the doctors' exit from the unitary salary payment, hasn't come into view yet.

At the same time, after the summer holidays, negotiations between the Trade Unions of the public sector and the Ministry of Public Administration continued. The governmental side proposed some changes of the law regarding the system of salaries in the public sector. It is necessary to point out that FIDES already has some open and unsolved obligations from the part of the government which were already confirmed and signed two years ago. The most important ones are: The opening scale of remuneration of doctors and other skilled workers now blocked in the 57. salary class, The transfer of promotions from the period of specialization time to the period after the specialist exam. Considering the atmosphere during the mentioned negotiations we can't expect any agreement in our favour. Nevertheless in the future we have the intention to participate in all the negotiations hoping to be able to give our contribution for the solution of our serious problems.

The new regulations about the competences of medical nurses, signed by the Ministry of Health and encouraged by those responsible for medical care, met with great disapproval. This regulation originated without any influence from the health care providers, read by doctors and has long been subject of severe criticism. The regulation directly caused a severe dropout in more demanding jobs, as overnight nurses with secondary education lost the right to perform some of the tasks they had previously done without difficulty.

It has become clear to the leadership of FIDES that without some syndicate activities we won't be able to acquire our promised but never realized demands. Our essential aim is the doctors' withdrawal from the unitary salary payment system. To reach our goal we need the approval of the majority of doctors. We were thinking about organizing an extensive inquiry among doctors and at the same time through the board of coordination of doctors' organizations we would carry out some kind of plebiscite.

In the last period of time we had been engaged in various activities, but we haven't forgotten to encourage our doctors to accept the Standards and Normatives from all parts where they haven't been put into the practice yet. Due to the "political blockade" the acceptance of the final versions from the part of the Health Council was not realized, so we warned our doctors that there exists a deviation they can make good use of on local level. Namely, confirmed standards from the part of the State professional body can be accepted by the local health care institution from their professional councils and as such implemented.

Right after the new year we performed test inquiries in some institutions concerning the doctors' readiness to support the syndicate activities for the realization of the doctors' withdrawal from the unitary salary payment system. The specimen gave us clear answers: go into action. Our intention was clearly expressed at the meeting with the members of the Health, Finance and Public Administration Ministry. Waiting for an answer from the Government, at the end of January, we were surprised at the information that the Prime Minister had given his resignation. From the moment on the Government was performing only regular business. In a word, we didn't have any interlocutor for our requests.

We've got to face two different scenarios: the election of the new government in the frame of the present convocation of the parliament, or early elections. What happened was unbelievable. From the so called coalition against the most numerous party in parliament, a new coalition sprang up, in record time, with the most powerful party under the leadership of Janez Janša. The before mentioned politician received his third mandate in the career of the independent Slovenia, and the government immediately took the first steps by using strict measures to curb the epidemic.

At the end of March we haven't reached the top of the epidemy yet. Restricted measures, from the part of the government, regarding the limited liberty to move is successfully forcing the inflow of those who are infected and sick. We all hope the trend won't turn drastically up words. Nobody wishes to experience a collapse after the example of our nearest neighbouring states. At the moment, the biggest problem is the acquisition of protective equipment for health care professionals. Also the capacities of intensive care units are not unlimited. Considering the fact that most of the interstate borders are closed, the flow of goods is reduced and supplies of protective articles and intensive care disposals are restricted. Therefore we should not overlook the importance of respecting all the necessary measures to restrain the epidemic.

In mid-April, when public life was virtually stopped, according to the profession, the epidemic in Slovenia reached its peak. The daily increase of the infected was decreasing, the number of deaths was falling and for some days there were no death casualty to take note of. The number of hospitalizations began to decline. That is why the government decided to slowly relax the very strict restrictive measures of the movement. Some shops started to open and some services were again available. A study is now underway to study the population's infestation and prevalence, which will provide important answers to the epidemic movement in the country. On this basis, if the results are favorable, the government is expected to continue releasing restrictive measures in May.

Ljubljana, 26 April, 2020

Report made by Damjan Polh, vice president of FIDES