



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

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REPORT FOR FEMS, Autumn 2020

The last summer time period was, in general and in the health care, marked by the pandemic Covid-19. Everything was concentrated on measures to be taken in order to prevent the spreading of the contaminations. In the meantime the government was intensively engaged in the steps to be taken in order to revive again the economy of the country. After the breaking of several activities our lives would, this way, return to their normal streams.

In such an atmosphere we were using the same methods also with FIDES, and the majority of activities were performed through correspondence. Meetings were reduced to a minimum. In spite of that, we had some very important meetings with the representatives of the government. I would mention just three of them: the Health Minister and his team, the Minister of Public Administration and, last but not least, the President of the Government.

In addition to current matters, problems with the health care and difficulties in relation with the pandemy, the essential motive of all the meetings was to give detailed information to those who are responsible in relation with our claim regarding the doctors' exit from the unitary salary payment system. From the part of the government nobody was really surprised with the decision, not even the Prime Minister. Besides, in the next months the unitary salary system will be subject to radical changes. All syndicates representing Health care system, Education system, Police, Army will be invited to separate negotiations in order to try to achieve separate agreements concerning their salaries.

In the case of new facts, we will try to renew our Collective agreement which has chiefly been prepared and in a great part already coordinated from the part of the government. In our syndicate we are of the opinion that we are following the right course to realize our aim which had been pursued for years.

After the announcement of the end of the epidemic, at the beginning of June, we noticed in the middle of summer, some sporadic cases of contaminations in the country. These increased when our citizens started to return from the vacations in Croatia. Many of them were coming back home after having visited relatives and friends from the rest of countries, areas of the former joint states. The majority of the states from the West Balkans were all the time in the red zone, which meant the obligatory 14 days (now reduced to 10 days) quarantine on the way back to Slovenia. In the end also Croatia became red.

During the whole month of September the number of infected persons in Slovenia augmented to daily records of more than 100 persons per day. On the 18th of September the numbers were: 3070 tested people, 114 positive, 67 hospitalized, 10 in intensive care, 1 dead, 4 discharged from hospital. Most of positive are younger and this is probably the reason of a lighter course of the disease. This also proves that the gathering of people and entertainments didn't bring good results.

Those who are responsible for education decided to open schools in September for all categories of children, from kindergarten to university, but under certain conditions and restrictions. They are still valid, in general, and require the use of masks in closed places and where the distance isn't possible to assure. In the same way, people are allowed to gather up to a fixed number. Cinemas and theatres are far from normality. Night clubs are closed. Restaurants and bars will operated till 10:30 PM.

The second wave of pandemic is even worse that it was in spring time. We do more tests, more people are infected, but on the other hand we have less hospitalized patients and less casualties. The course of the disease is milder as I mentioned before. Experts also proved that our health care system is worsening. For example we

find a decrease in detection of oncologic patients. This could become a big problem after some years because of delayed treatment of oncologic patients. Also the waiting lists for specialists care and elective treatment of patients are augmenting. At this moment the capacities of medical care institutions are not yet fulfilled because of pandemic. We are limited in both: in number of health care professionals and in number of beds available in intensive care units.

Damjan Polh, vice president FIDES

Ljubljana, 21st of September, 2020