



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

Date:	09-09-2022	Document:	F22-044 EN
Title:	National Report Slovenia		
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FIDES REPORT FOR FEMS, Northern Republic of Turkish Cyprus, September 2022

After we held parliamentary elections at the end of April this year, a new government with a coalition of three declaratively center-left parties was sworn in in the first days of June. The leading role was taken by the party "Gibanje svoboda" (Freedom Movement), a new party in the political field without a program and vision, which won the most votes. It is flanked by the Social Democrats, which is nothing more than a renamed communist party from the time of the former commonwealth of Yugoslavia, and a third, extreme left-wing party whose program has clear anti-constitutional tendencies towards the return of long-lived socialism. For the majority of thinking Slovenians, the outcome of the election was a big surprise, because for the last two years we had a government that successfully pulled us out of the Covid crisis and we recorded surpluses in the economic and social spheres. Unfortunately, the voters did not reward this and I believe they will soon regret it.

Our goal, the goal of FIDES, is still the same: exiting the single pay system in the public sector. Now we have other interlocutors on the other side, but the first encounters with them do not fill us with optimism. We have already had two meetings with the Minister of Health (doctor, orthopedist, unknown in politics, with no experience of leading at such a level), once informally, the second time formally. We clearly presented our expectations and requirements to him. Regarding exit and better working conditions, he immediately redirected us to the Minister of Public Administration, where we learned that changes in the unified salary system are necessary, but that she will tackle them systematically. We know from experience that such a method does not bring immediate results, and not at all the expected ones, because doctors in this system do not enjoy sympathy among the other unions, so in this case we would have both the government and the other unions against us.

Our healthcare is facing the worst crisis in recent years. The already impoverished staffing of doctors and nurses, burnt out after the Covid 19 pandemic, has been shrinking even further in recent months. Doctors no longer want to specialize in certain professions (the profession of family doctor stands out here) and are flirting with going abroad or have already gone there. Nurses, on the other hand, are leaving jobs at the secondary and tertiary level in health care and moving to the primary level or even outside of health care, most often into commerce. The minister's answer to all this was that he needed information before taking action and he was supposed to obtain it through an intervention law in which he was supposed to put the maximum burden on the health system and at the same time ensure payment for all services provided... In our opinion, this would drive the last nail into the health care coffin.

We will probably conclude the talks about our future at a meeting with the Prime Minister. He has not yet responded to our call. At the same time, we are preparing for the so-called or expected black scenario, when the government will deny us support. That is why we have prepared a petition on exit from the unified salary system, which has been signed by more than half of the doctors so far, and we will solemnly submit it to the National Assembly so that the deputies will clearly know what we are asking for. At the same time, we are replaying the various forms of union struggle that will follow these scenarios. Many meetings of the management of FIDES and its bodies are scheduled, and the resolutions are expected to be supplemented and confirmed by the extraordinary annual conference of FIDES at the end of September.

Ljubljana, 5 September 2022

Damjan Polh, MD, vice president of FIDES