

South East Europe Infection Control Network

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Hospital infection control in former SEE socialist countries

- In former Yugoslav countries, there was no effective infection control.
- Similar situation was in other former socialist Balkan countries
- The idea was to see if we could collaborate to improve hospital infection control

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The role of IFIC

- Microbiologic societies from Slovenia, Bulgaria, Rumania and Croatia, and Infection control society from Hungary were already IFIC members
- In 2003, we have started a project inside IFIC, to try to establish a network for infection control in SEE
- During the project, 3 out of 5 additional countries (Bosnia&Herzegovina, Greece and FYROMacedonia) joined IFIC
- Albania and UNMIKosova also participated in the project

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Research project

- Funded by 3M, through APIC, end of 2003 (10.000 US\$), 18 months duration
- Main goals:
 1. To establish a functioning network to support infection control education and communication in these countries,

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Research project

2. To conduct a survey of hospital infection control in hospitals in the 10 country network to identify existing programs, their location, content and practices, funding and plans for the future, and
3. To determine whether networking between those countries will increase the number of hospital infection control programs in the whole region.

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Networking Methods

- Communications: E-mail, fax, phone, meetings during national and international conferences in 2003 and 2004, individual hospital visits
- Surveys: “Hospital infection control in SEE: infrastructure and requirements” and “Practice in control of hospital infections” – pilot study
- Translation of educational materials into local languages (IFIC “Basic Concepts of Infection Control and Training”)
- Organization of IFIC Conference 2004 in SEE region

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Participant countries and representatives

Albania: Arben Gjata
Bosnia and Herzegovina: Mirsada Hukic
Bulgaria: Nina Gacheva
Croatia: Smilja Kalenic
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: Katja Popovska-Jovanovska
Greece: Achilleas Gikas
Hungary: Karolina Borocz
UNMIK Kosova: Lul Raka
Romania: Monica Licker
Slovenia: Marija Gubina
Other project participants: US: Patricia Lynch (IFIC), Croatia: Jasminka Horvatic.

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Results

- «Basic concepts for infection control and training» translated:
 - to Croatian language (beginning of 2004), 1000 copies distributed in Croatia and Bosnia&Herzegovina;
 - to Albanian language in UNMIK Kosova (beginning of 2005)
 - almost finished in Hungary

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Results

- Survey “Hospital infection control in SEE: infrastructure and requirements”
- Questionnaire sent to all 10 country representatives
- All country representatives have responded

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STRUCTURE 1.

- State regulation of hospital infection control (Law/bylaw): **8**, several revisions by now
- Hospital regulations: **6**
- Infection control HCW by regulation: **9**
- Profile of IC HCW: ICN (or lab/sanitary technician) and ICD: **9**
- Number of ICN/hospital beds: **6** (1:250)

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STRUCTURE 2.

- ICD: microbiologist (8)
infectious disease (7)
epidemiologist (7)
- ICNurse: nurse (7)
sanitary technician (6)
lab.technician (2)
“hygienic officer” (1)

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STRUCTURE 3.

- Infection control committee (7)
- National guidelines (6)
- Hospital guidelines (9)
- Rate of infection to the MoH (6)
- Reference centre (4)
- Society for Hospital infection (5)

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EDUCATION

- Basic education (4)
- Continuing education (6)
- Planned education for next years (4)
- Education improvements planned for the next 5 years (8)

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Future plans (next 5 years)

- Education improvement (8)
- National Surveillance (7)
- National guidelines (5)
- Institution of antibiotic policy (4)
- Updating National regulations (3)
- Reference centre (3)
- EU projects participation (3)
- Establishment of a national society (2)

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Future plans (next 5 years)

- Yearly conference (1)
- National Journal (1)
- Producing national benchmarking data (1)
- Animation of hospital management (1)
- Integration in the world systems (1)

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CONCLUSION: FUTURE PLANS

- Education improvement (8)
- National Surveillance (7)

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EDUCATION

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Results

- Survey “Practice in control of hospital infections”, in Croatia

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“Practice in control of hospital infections” – pilot study

- Pilot study was performed in Croatia
- Questionnaire based on “Infection control professional job analysis survey”, CBIC, USA sent to all 60 Croatian hospitals’ ICNs and ICDs
- 74 QUESTIONS IN 7 CATEGORIES:
Same questions to ICNs and ICDs: ICNs to answer what they are doing, and ICDs to answer what they think ICNs should do.

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RESPONSE

- 51 ICN responded
- 42 ICD responded
- Data entry to the computer program
- Analysis using Excel

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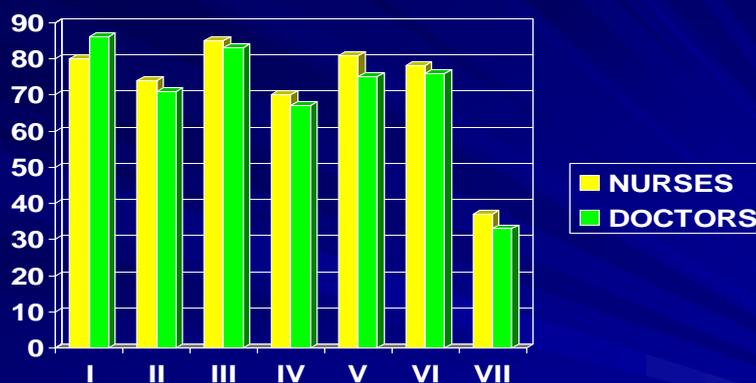
QUESTIONS

Seven groups of questions:

1. Identification of infectious disease processes
2. Surveillance and epidemiological investigations
3. Prevention/controlling the transmission of infectious agents
4. Employee health/occupational health
5. Management and communication
6. Education
7. Research

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Answers



1. Identification of infectious disease processes
2. Surveillance and epidemiological investigations
3. Prevention/controlling the transmission of infectious agents
4. Employee health/occupational health
5. Management and communication
6. Education
7. Research

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Practice analysis

- These results were the ground to refine Basic education programme for infection control nurses in Croatia
- We planned to perform this survey in all 10 countries
- We planned to have similar education programmes....

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IFIC Congress, Porec, 2004

- All 10 countries' representatives met
- Main discussion: joined education program
- Main problem: language barrier
- Here we stopped

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SURVEILLANCE

- In Porec we planned to start a surveillance of surgical site infections and ICU infections in several hospitals in all 10 countries
- As further funds were unavailable, we did not do it – it was another stop

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Basic education for infection control nurses, Croatia

- Nevertheless, we have proceeded with the development of basic education for ICNs
- Today we are happy to say that this education will recreate in a way the SEE network

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ICN in Croatia

- In 1997 first bylaw stated that every hospital should have one full-time “hygienic nurse”
- In 1997 Reference Centre for Hospital Infections, Ministry of health, was founded
- In 1998 RC started with 2-3 day workshops for ICNs with different topics, twice a year
- In 2000, Section for hospital infections in Croatian Association of nurses was founded

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Short workshops

- First such workshops showed that nurses need basic education in all areas of hospital infection control
- In 2002 a new bylaw:
 - new name for a nurse: “Infection control nurse”
 - new request: to be educated
 - was not stated who/how will educate ICNs

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Plans for basic education

- RC started to plan basic education for ICNs
- School for Nurses did not accept to perform this education
- In 2004, Nurses Chamber was founded
- The Chamber accepted Basic Course as a part of future specialization

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Plans for basic education

- February 2006, a Section for Infection Control Nurses was formed in the Nurses Chamber
- Reference Centre now have a request from the Nurses Chamber to prepare a program for specialization of ICNs
- Basic Course will be included in the specialization

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BASIC COURSE

- First class of 21 students finished the Basic Course (January-June 2005)
- Second class of 22 students is now in the 5th week of the Course (November 2005-April 2006)
- In the second class, 4 nurses participate from Bosnia&Hercegovina as well as one nurse from FYROMacedonia
- We have also interest from Serbia&Crna Gora for the third class (in 2007)

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