

Project title: Palliative Care for Elderly - An Analysis of Needs and Resources in Croatia

INTERIM ACTIVITY REPORT

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July 2004

The activities on the first part of the project “Palliative Care for Elderly - An Analysis of Needs and Resources in Croatia” conducted from 1. March until 31. July 2004 were focused on the first two goals/phases of the project:

1. Establish the number of terminally ill in Croatian population,
2. Define the providers of health care services for the terminally ill patients (hospital, homes for the aged, home care, etc.).

The activities and research conducted during the first two phases of the project were necessary for:

- planning of the third goal/phase of the project (3. Develop a plan for the pilot project focusing on the terminally ill patients at the local community level), that is scheduled for the second part of the project,
- collecting research data for the RESEARCH PAPER and POLICY PAPER.

Activities:

1. During March 2004 research was organised. Statistical data relevant for the project (mortality and morbidity parameters of the targeted population from 1998-2002) were collected/analysed in March-May 2004. Relevant data of the Zagreb Institute of Public Health were used (step 1 of the project).
2. Mortality, morbidity, and place of death of the population 65 years of age and older were compared to the results of the younger population in May 2004 (step 2 of the project).
3. Preparing the questionnaire for the old people - to analyse the satisfaction with provided care at the end of life issues in one geriatric hospital (April/May 2004)
4. The sociodemographic status (age, sex) of the targeted groups were analysed in May 2004 (step 3 of the project).

5. The results of the pilot trial conducted by Ana Stambuk, on 488 subjects of different age groups regarding attitudes towards death is incorporated into the investigation (step 4 of the project).
6. Data analysis and statistics defining the number of the elderly (≥ 65 years of age) suffering from the diseases of: cardio-vascular, respiratory, digestive, endocrine, genito-urinary, muco-skeletal and nervous systems, skin, eye, ear, psychiatric disorders, infections and neoplastic diseases/tumors was done in July 2004. The results were compared to the population of < 65 years of age. In this way we obtained current trends of the health care needs in Croatia (step 5 of the project).
7. Interviews with the selected group old people in one geriatric hospital - about the satisfaction with provided care at the end of life issues (July 2004)
8. In addition to the previously described I was also acting as a president of the non-profit organization "Croatian Association of Hospice Friends", and gave lectures, presentations, volunteers education regarding Palliative Care problems and needs in Croatia. I was also the member of The Committee for Palliative Care of the Ministry of Health, Republic of Croatia. I attended OSI CEE Public Health Leadership Network Meeting held on April 22-24 2004 at Bled, Slovenia where I met my group mentors Mary Callaway and Cathy Foley.

All described activities were conducted in order to provide data relevant for the next step of the project according to the timetable, and to prepare draft RESEARCH PAPER.

It was not possible to prepare draft POLICY PAPER since necessary part of data collection and other activities was in the timetable predicted after 1. August 2004.