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ASSOCIAZIONE EUROPEA DEI MEDICI OSPEDALIERI  
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ΕΒΡΟΠΕΪΣΚΑ ΑΣΟCΙΑCΙΑ ΗΑ ΣΤΑΡΣΗΤΕ ΒΟΛΗΙΧΝΗ ΛΕΚΑΡΗ  
ASOCIATIA EUROPEANA A MEDICILOR DIN SPITALE**

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**Croatian Health Insurance Fund and new model of hospital financing**

After almost ten years of being a part of the state treasury (budget), the Croatian Health Insurance Fund – single insurer for obligatory health insurance in Croatia – finally managed to become financially independent from the state budget. Consequently, more money will be allocated for health care than used for other public purposes (social support). In this way a true balance between the patients (insured persons) and health care providers should be established. This independent position enabled the introduction of a new model of hospital financing – payment after service being provided. So, instead of former model where hospitals received money at the beginning of the month (hospital budget) and spend it (mostly) on wages, according to the new model income will be reimbursed after health services are provided to patients and charged to the Fund.

This change influenced the hospitals' managements and hospital doctors because a completely new organisation of work was introduced. Hospitals are now better motivated to serve more patients aiming to receive more money for provided services and improve their financial situation. A further shortening of the waiting lists is now being expected.

**“Master-plan” – “National development plan for Croatian hospitals (2015 - 2016)“.**

Masterplan – a national development plan for Croatian hospitals is a 200.000 € worth project, conducted by French consulting company upon directive given by World Bank which came into force in March 2015. Masterplan is meant to be a strategic document which should help to improve Croatian hospitals. According to the plan 21 local (county) hospitals should be merged together, average stationary care duration will be shortened (hospital days), and the number of

hospital beds lowered by approx. 30%. This plan should also stop a long period of debts and financial losses in hospital sector.

Regardless the fact that hospitals network urges for re-organisation and rationalisation, it was rather disappointing for doctors' professional organizations (and Medical Chamber) that the decision was made without any prior consultation and that no professional input was asked during this process.

### **Croatian Association of Hospital Doctors – HUBOL**

For several years, hospital doctors in Croatia have been feeling that their opinions and rights are not sufficiently represented in public and before authorities. On the New Year's Eve 2013 a new doctors' association was founded – Croatian Association of Hospital Doctors – (HUBOL) - NGO which represents hospital doctors in Croatia. The membership is at present free and voluntary for all the colleagues willing to cooperate.

Turning point was the Law on representation which prevented Croatian Doctors' Syndicate to actively represent Croatian doctors in Collective Agreement negotiations with the Government because of "insufficient" number of members. Having the impression that hospital doctors' voice is not sufficiently present and respected in the society, "HUBOL" has set an intensive interaction with the Minister of Health and the health administration among its main goals.

HUBOL also actively participates in the pre-election lobbying activities for Croatian Medical Chamber general elections (June 2015) showing open interest to support all the candidates coming from hospital sector which could change the present politics of the Chamber and to improve the promotion of the interests of hospital doctors.

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