

PRESS RELEASE

for Health Info, "Unified information system for exchanging information between primary health units in the cross-border area for emergency health cases",

A press conference was held at the Clinical hospital in Bitola, on 29/05/2019, through which they wanted to inform the wider population in Bitola and places nearby about the implementation of the project HEALTH INFO, program for cross-border cooperation with Greece, entitled "Unified information system for the exchange of information at the primary level in the border region for emergency cases".

Biljana Hristovska, IT director at the Clinical Hospital for this project, said: "One of the activities of this project is the purchase of a digital mammography which is currently not available at the Clinical Hospital, for which the tender is already in progress, and the procurement and installation will end in the summer. Ministry of Health, as a partner in this project, already did the mapping for current state with health institutions in Bitola and surroundings, medical human resources and medical equipment available. Then, in September in Clinical hospital Bitola will be done screening women for mammography and PAP tests by a medical team, which includes Dr. Nikolina Ristevska-gynecologist and Dr. Aleksandar Dimovski-radiologist. The screening will include women from Bitola, Novaci, Pretor, Grncari, Medzitlija, as part of the border region covered by the project. For this purpose, there will be info days that will be held in the populated areas that are covered with the project, to inform population about need of breast cancer prevention and cervical cancer prevention as well. At least 200 women will be screened, and if more women need more women will be included in the project. For everyone there will be free transportation to Bitola hospital from the places where they live. Data gathered from those activities will be included in the unified information system and be available for all project partners.

-Gynecologist, Dr. Nikolina Ristevska, for this project said: -In the last five years, 53 women died from cervical cancer. A diagnosis is made using several methods, and screening according to PAP test can timely reveal the precancerous changes, and which if treated can prevent the onset of cancer of the cervix. This cancer can be prevented by vaccination against HPV virus, and high-risk types 16 and 18 in 72 per cent of cases cause cancer of the cervix.

"The latest recommendations are to raise the awareness among the female population and the women to go to regular gynecological examinations, is one of the goals of this project, says Dr. Aleksandar Dimovski, adding: "The statistics say that only 55 percent of women in our country have chosen a family gynecologist. Of those who had a family gynecologist, to 44 per cent were sent invitations, and only 27 per cent were examined. That means, the number of women who continuously make PAP tests and HPV tests is only 15 percent. Women ages 35 to 65 years of age need to do HPV test every 3 years, and under 30 years to take PAP and HPV tests. Also, women above 40 years need to do mammography every 3-5 years".

Partners in this project are: NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES PROVISION THESSALONIKI (LB)

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<https://youtu.be/tHscfd5f4NQ>

Project web site: www.healthinfoproject.eu