

Communiqué on the Occasion of Getting the EHFCN Excellency Award 2011

Our NGO „Doctors against corruption“ appreciates very much the great honour of getting the annual EHFCN Excellency Award for the achievements in the fight against healthcare fraud and corruption in Serbia. It is an enormously important recognition not only for our members, but for all decent people in our country.

Our self-financed NGO has been going through many difficulties in its efforts to confront the hermetic system of institutionalized healthcare corruption. Even the Government of the Republic of Serbia has admitted in its answers to EU Questionnaire that the healthcare is the most corrupt sector in Serbia.

Given that the Government has neither enough political will nor power to combat healthcare corruption, and that the state-appointed institutions for fighting corruption are suppressed and weak, several of us, medical professionals, have realized that we could contribute to uncovering the mechanisms of systemic corruption in the healthcare sector only through self-organized NGOs and their activities. These efforts resulted in detection and documented verification of several large affairs, in spite of hard working conditions, continuous pressures, obstruction, media blockade and persistent marginalization of our NGO by the governmental authorities.

We are fully aware that the moral support of EU institutions has been crucial for all results we have been thriving to achieve. It is particularly important for us that EU financial support to the Serbian health sector - reaching hundreds of millions Euros - is used in the best possible way, since our previous experience showed that much of these funds had been misused by local corrupted bureaucrats and health managers protected and supported by their political parties. The dramatically high degree of corruption has blocked socioeconomic, as well as health reforms and brought about a justified dissatisfaction of European donators and Serbian citizens. In order to discontinue the existing practice, it is of utmost importance that EU continues to provide support to Serbian health sector, but with mandatory strict monitoring by truly independent bodies.

We hope that the EHFCN Excellency Award will be an important impetus for the EU institutions to continue supporting health care system in our country, but involving effectively adopted control mechanisms, and thus speed up the implementation of European social and health care standards for the benefit of all citizens in Serbia.

Thank you very much!

Saopštenje povodom dobijanja Nagrade za izvrsnost Evropske mreže za borbu protiv prevare i korupcije (EHFCN) u zdravstvu za 2011. godinu

Naša NVO „Doktori protiv korupcije“ vrlo visoko ceni veliku počast koja joj je ukazana dobijanjem Nagrade za izvrsnost EHFCN za 2011. godinu za postignuća u borbi protiv prevare i korupcije u zdravstvu Srbije. To je izuzetno važno priznanje ne samo za naše članove, već za sve pristojne ljude u našoj zemlji.

Naša samofinansirajuća nevladina organizacija prolazi kroz mnoge teškoće u svojim naporima da se suprotstavi hermetičkom sistemu institucionalizovane korupcije u zdravstvu. Čak je i Vlada Srbije zvanično priznala u svom odgovoru na upitnik EU da je zdravstvo najkorumpiraniji sektor u Srbiji.

Kako država nema dovoljno političke volje ni moći za borbu protiv korupcije u zdravstvu, kao i da su institucije koje su vlasti osnovale za borbu protiv korupcije prigušene i nejake, više nas, medicinskih profesionalaca, shvatilo je da jedino kroz nezavisno udruženje i njegove aktivnosti možemo doprineti demaskiranju mehanizama systemske korupcije u zdravstvu. Ta nastojanja su rezultirala razotkrivanjem i dokumentovanom verifikacijom više velikih afera, uprkos teškim uslovima rada, stalnim pritiscima,

opstrukciji, medijskoj blokadi i upornoj marginalizaciji našeg udruženja od strane vlasti.

Potpuno smo svesni da je moralna podrška institucija EU bila ključna za sve rezultate koje smo nastojali da ostvarimo. Za nas je posebno važno da dragocena finansijska pomoć EU srpskom zdravstvu, koja se meri stotinama miliona evra, bude iskorišćena na najbolji mogući način, jer je dosadašnje iskustvo pokazalo da su ta sredstva u velikoj meri zloupotrebjavale korumpirane lokalne birokrate i menadžeri u zdravstvu, pod zaštitom i podrškom svojih političkih stranaka. Dramatično visok stepen korupcije blokirao je kako socioekonomske, tako i zdravstvene reforme i doveo do opravdanog nezadovoljstva evropskih donatora i građana Srbije. Kako bi se takvo stanje prekinulo, izuzetno je važno da Evropa nastavi da pruža podršku srpskom zdravstvu, ali uz obavezni strogi monitoring preko istinski nezavisnih tela.

Nadamo se da će Nagrada za izvrsnost koju nam dodeljuje EHFCN biti važan podsticaj institucijama EU da nastave da podržavaju zdravstvenim sistem u našoj zemlji, ali uz primenu efektivno prilagođenih kontrolnih mehanizama, kako bi se ubrzalo usvajanje evropskih socijalnih i zdravstvenih standarda u korist svih građana Srbije.