

Dear guests,

On behalf of Prof. Aneliya Klisarova – Minister of education and science, let me congratulate you for the idea of holding today's forum. I would like to express my satisfaction that I can attend this meeting about the conditions of the health workforce in Bulgaria and other European countries.

I was listening very carefully to the foregoing speeches. The strategy of the higher education in Bulgaria is an important political issue. In the field of higher education opportunities are sought for to improve the quality of education and the internationalization of the system. The measures play a crucial role here related to the introduction of external evaluation by an independent European accreditation agency in higher education and the introduction of differentiated students' tuition fees according to achievement and social status, university ratings and the measurement of the students' fulfillment on the labor market.

Additional funding is provided for state universities based on a comprehensive quality assessment and the compliance of education with the needs of the labor market.

Of utmost importance is the continuing education of physicians, dentists and pharmacists, changes in the regulations on specialty acquisition as well as the continuing training of health care professionals with main semi-higher vocational qualification or the qualification of a professional bachelor. In order to address these issues we need to work together with the Ministry of Health and we certainly need the support of the Parliament. In May 2012, a survey of the Open Society Institute was held, which recorded data on the labor force in the country, the ratio of departing doctors and nurses. Therefore, I think that the planning and forecasting for the future health professionals are extremely important.

To me, it will be more valuable to exchange information on the development of universities producing these health professionals. In our country there are 5 medical universities and colleges affiliated to them. The utilization of resources under the Operational Programs and Funds is also essential. A part of the funds under the Operational Program "Human Resources" is managed by the Ministry of Education, which gives me grounds to guarantee that you will be fully supported. Many countries restructure their health systems. In our country it is necessary to look for ways to turn the health care system into an attractive environment for the interested parties – the human resources from all medical specialties.

Thank you for your attention!

Prof. Vanya Dobрева