

Dear excellences,  
Dear general directors,  
Dear European Commission representatives,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honor to address you today at this Closure event of the Joint Action. I believe that this three year journey of targeting challenges and producing results was very useful and worth the efforts of all partners and stakeholders. Active role of Slovakia, acting as dissemination leader in this project proved to be fruitful in overall health workforce planning awareness.

I stand here today not only as the representative of Joint Action partner network but also as representative of the country that is about to take over the presidency of the Council of the European Union. As you already know, Slovak Republic starts its historical first presidency in the Council of EU in July 2016. There is so much on the agenda to carry on.

In October 2016 we plan to organize the Informal Council of Ministers in Bratislava. This meeting will be focusing on TBC as a part of cross-border health threats. We therefore consider it necessary to apply the application of global strategy in the EU, with the involvement of all stakeholders including civil society and patient organizations.

Under the combating of cross-border health threats we will continuously follow up on LV Presidency having the issue of tuberculosis also among the priorities. Subsequently via addressing the issue of multi-resistant strains of tuberculosis we will continuously follow up on the priority focus of the NL Presidency to combat antimicrobial resistance.

Patient safety and antimicrobial resistance is perceived as a serious problem. Slovakia like other EU countries provides data on AMR in the European database EARS-Net. Data from the Slovak database confirm that most of the monitored parameters AMR that development of antibiotic resistance became in recent years in our country extremely unfavorable. With the view of the large number of so called marginalized groups and their living condition it seems almost

impossible in Slovakia to reduce the consumption of the antibiotics to the level of the Scandinavian countries, for example. Therefore, we want to continue during our presidency to continue with the topic of AMR through addressing the issue of multi-resistance strains of tuberculosis.

The situation in Slovakia has been stable in the incidence and prevalence of TBC for several years. In Slovakia we need to maintain the current system of control and treatment of TBC, since Slovakia represent the model country in the Central Europe of WHO and the European Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (ECDC) that has appropriate system of monitoring and follow-up dispensary. There are only 33 countries in the world in the elimination phase of TBC, which have recorded less than 10 cases per 100 000 inhabitants and the Slovak Republic is one of them. Only Czech Republic, Slovak Republic and Slovenia reached this status out of the former Eastern bloc.

During our presidency we also want to focus on availability and shortages of medicines, which can be caused generally by many factors. The aim of SK PRESS is to find compromised proportional measures, which will respect the requirement of European law in order to secure free movement of goods including medicines and the clause on the protection of the internal market of member states. In order to maintain the quality of provided health care, it is necessary to ensure sufficient amount of medicines on member state market.

We will focus also on the prevention of the chronic non-communicable diseases, a healthy lifestyle and Alzheimer diseases as the new epidemic of this millennium. There is need for better monitoring supervision and evaluation of non-communicable diseases. Prevention can bring great health benefits not only for Slovak population, but also for the rest of EU population.

We are convinced that focus of our presidency works towards more sustainable health systems and will contribute to quality of provided health care. This Joint Action, with its outcomes plays an essential role in maintaining sound health systems overall Europe. Medical doctors, nurses, dentists, midwives, pharmacist and all other medical occupations are the backbone of the health care. Without their work it is hard to picture any shift towards quality of received health care services.



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**I am confident that the upcoming two days of presenting Joint Action results will be full of rich and interesting discussion and will create strong partnerships for future.**

**Thank you for your attention.**

