

Dear prof. Kostadinova,

Dear Joint Action participants,

The continuous migration and mobility of doctors, nurses, dentists, pharmacists and other health professionals are serious challenges for all governments, stakeholders and patient organizations to respond to the increased need of health services and health professionals in Europe.

The rapid implementation of new medical technologies and dynamic changes in the demographic structure of the population leads to creation of new professions therefore to the need of new education methodologies, qualifications, knowledge and skills.

The global shortage of health workforce is between 4 and 12 million specialists. For Europe this figure reaches one million. The better living and economical standards, the higher health literacy, the active participation in social life intensify the desire of the community for equal and easier access to health care with high quality – in technical, professional and human aspect, delivered on time and with best perspectives for quick health recovery.

The new health system requirements and changes in the sector demands application of new approaches and instruments in training, qualification and the continuous medical education, new payment mechanisms and introduction of new systems for improvement of labor efficiency. The main resource in any organization are the people.

All institutions in Bulgaria have to be engaged in the finding of right decisions regarding the planning and forecasting of health workforce, significant problem which has to be solved in order to achieve positive results, if the activities are performed in collaboration and cooperation.

The credibility of the Medical University – Varna is undoubted not only among the Bulgarian universities, but abroad as well regarding the education

and postgraduate training of the medical specialists. Medical University – Varna trains highly qualified medical specialists not only from Bulgaria, but from Europe and Asia. The university has created favorable atmosphere for people who can and know, who have the opportunity to learn in new, modern educational base, corresponding to modern criteria and world standards for high education.

My work as chairperson of the Standing Committee on Health in the Municipal Council – Varna gives me the opportunity to meet every day doctors, dentists, pharmacists, health care specialists. These are professionals with recognized names and reputation in their field of work, proven specialists and successful managers of health facilities. Many of them are alumni of the Medical University – Varna.

The opening of new specialties is an answer to the changing requirements of the health system and health sector. This needs new approaches and mechanisms in education, qualification and the continuous medical education which the Medical University applies successfully in the training of medical specialists.

I wish you good health and successful accomplishment of all future projects!

Good Luck!

Antoaneta Cvetkova

Standing Committee on Health in the Municipal Council – Varna