

NORTH  
MACEDONIA

# VHPB BALKAN MEETING

## *INTRODUCTION IN THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE SERVICE*

**Marija Dimzova MD PhD**

University clinic for infectious diseases and febrile conditions  
medical faculty, Uni Ss Cyril and Methodius-Skopje



# COUNTRY NORTH MACEDONIA

## COUNTRY PROFILE

- Population (in millions) (census 2022): 1.836.713 (resident) total-2.097.319
  - median age-39 (male 38, female 40)
- Gross national income per capita (EUR) (2021): 6223.94 a 7.73% increase from 2020 <sup>1</sup>
- Health spending per capita (EUR) (2019) 442.68 <sup>2</sup>
- Life expectancy (2022) 76,13 growth rate 0.170% <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GNP.PCAP.PP.CD?locations=MK>

<sup>2</sup> <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.XPD.CHEX.PC.CD?locations=MK>

<sup>3</sup> <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.LE00.IN?locations=MK>

# COUNTRY NORTH MACEDONIA

## HEALTH CARE SYSTEM AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE SERVICE

- The Republic of North Macedonia, with the independence gained in 1991, inherited a large and well-established health care system with good geographical accessibility, long positive experience with health insurance covering nearly the whole population, qualified staff, good control of infectious diseases, and almost full coverage of the population with the national immunization program.
- Health care financing is organized around a social insurance system managed by the Health Insurance Fund (HIF) and utilizes **a mixture of a public and private healthcare system**. All residents are eligible to receive **free state-funded healthcare** and have the option of receiving private healthcare for treatments that the public system does not cover
- Health care in Macedonia is provided through an extensive net of health care organizations, and it is delivered through a system of health care institutions, which makes it possible for around 90% of the population to get a health service in less than 30 minutes. It is organized on three levels: **primary, secondary and tertiary**.
- The health facilities range from health care stations and centers at PHC level and specialty-consultative and inpatient departments at secondary level, to university clinics and institutes at tertiary level, with the latter also carrying out research and educational activities.
- Infectious Diseases Services are available throughout the whole territory of North Macedonia
  - Secondary care institutions in 14 towns, inpatients departments in 11 towns
  - Tertiary care institution –University Clinic for Infectious Diseases in Skopje
  - Since 2021 due to COVID -19 pandemic for the first time infectious diseases services are offered at a private hospital

# COUNTRY NORTH MACEDONIA

## HEALTH CARE SYSTEM AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE SERVICE

- All patients have the constitutional right for prevention and protection from infectious diseases <sup>1</sup>
- Primary screening for viral hepatitis usually is done on the primary and/or secondary level of healthcare
- Guidelines for prevention, diagnosing, treatment and management of patients with acute and chronic viral hepatitis are available online on the site of MOH <sup>2</sup>
- All physicians, at any level of the health care system have the right/possibility to order laboratory tests/markers for viral hepatitis
- Hospitalizations, for patients with VH, if necessary, can be done in inpatients departments at secondary care and/or in tertiary care institutions
- Molecular diagnostics, staging and grading, transient elastography, are done in institutions at tertiary care
- Ultrasound of the liver can be done at any level and CT, MRI can be done at secondary and tertiary care institutions
- Antiviral therapy is prescribed by a specialist/subspecialist in infectious diseases and/or gastroenterohepatologist at tertiary health care institutions
- All patients with viral hepatitis have the right for free of charge treatment (without any participation towards HIF)

<sup>1</sup> <http://zdravstvo.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/ZAKON-ZA-ZASHTITA-NA-NASELENIETO-OD-ZARAZNI-BOLESTI-zakluchno-so-br.-37-od-2016.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://zdravstvo.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Virusen-hepatitis.pdf> of the healthcare system and infectious disease service (focused on viral hepatitis)

