

# Press Release



## Macedonian healthcare bottom of the league according to European health consumer ranking

Brussels, 13<sup>th</sup> November 2008

**FYROM has one of the least consumer friendly healthcare systems in Europe according to the 2008 Euro Health Consumer Index (EHCI). At the launch of the Euro Health Consumer Index for 2008, today in Brussels, the annual survey of EU healthcare, FYROM was ranked 30<sup>th</sup> of 31 countries. The Netherlands lead the ranking with a score of 839 points, followed by Denmark (Diabetes Index winner in 2008), Austria (EHCI winner in 2007), Luxemburg and Sweden.**

In six categories, covering 34 performance indicators, FYROM scored 463 points out of a potential 1,000. This performance places FYROM just one rank ahead of an already member of the European Union, Latvia, but behind everyone else.

"FYROM scores good on patients rights and information, probably due to good legislation and the ongoing reform, promising further improvement. Not bad at all, if we consider the resources available and socio-economic background of the country. The existence of a parallel economy in healthcare is a threat to equal access to healthcare and should be addressed." says Dr. Arne Björnberg, Research Director for the Euro Health Consumer Index.

### **What more could be done in FYROM?**

"FYROM could work on the direct access to specialists, outcomes and, last but not least, the availability of data regarding the healthcare system," states the president of the Health Consumer Powerhouse, Mr. Johan Hjertqvist, when analysing the Index outcomes for FYROM. "A lot of work remains to be done before FYROM reaches the EU healthcare standards," he concludes.

### **About the Index**

The Euro Health Consumer Index is the annual ranking of national European healthcare systems across six key areas: Patient rights and information, e-Health, Waiting time for treatment, Outcomes, Range and reach of services provided and Pharmaceuticals. 31 countries are covered. First published in 2005, the EHCI is sourced from public statistics and independent research. The producer is the analysis and information organisation Health Consumer Powerhouse. As with all other HCP Indexes, the organisation takes a consumer-centred position.

For more information and the explanatory report:

[http://www.healthpowerhouse.com/archives/cat\\_media\\_room.html](http://www.healthpowerhouse.com/archives/cat_media_room.html)

About the Health Consumer Powerhouse: [www.healthpowerhouse.com](http://www.healthpowerhouse.com)

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