

# Kosovo nurses gain practical insights from EAUN fellowship

## A valuable observation training in Leuven, Belgium



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**The sub-unit of the Department of Surgery at the District Hospital of Gjakova (Kosovo) was established in 1992 under the innovative approach and wonderful work and initiative of Dr. Nexhat Rexha of the Urology Unit.**

The pioneering work has enabled the unit to develop a model of service to meet the needs of patients whose urological problems until then have remained totally neglected. Much of the effort thus far was focused on establishing the necessary infrastructure, systems and networks required to provide a service and initiate the work.

European Association of Urology Nurses

We went through obstacles from the very beginning since we needed to train nurses for the unit and the operation theatre. Directed by Dr. Rexha, the Urology Unit has strengthened many collegial networks, and in 1997 two of our scrub nurses have been trained for a month at the University Hospital in Ljubljana (Slovenia). Since then the collaboration between the medical and nursing personnel of our unit and the Urology Department of the University Hospital in Ljubljana has become stronger.

Initially, and for a long time, we had a lot of infections following endoscopy procedures. This problem has now significantly declined, but still remains a big issue that has to be solved by replacing the sterilisation system which is very old.

In 2001 I participated for the first time at the EAUN urology congress in Geneva, Switzerland. Since then I have been looking for or a fellowship or an opportunity to get trained. In the spring of 2009, from May 25 to June 19, I and another colleague, Adelina Dafota, finally had the chance to do an EAUN Fellowship at the University Hospital in Leuven, Belgium.

I consider this fellowship a wonderful chance and opportunity to see and be a part of a modern way of organising nursing and surgical work in a urological unit, observe the use of new instruments and how the workflow is maintained within the unit.



Shpresa Deva, Prof. Hein Van Poppel and Adelina Dafota

On the first day we had a general briefing from Prof. Hein Van Poppel and from Mrs. Chantal De Geyter regarding the urology department and the surgical theatre. Head nurse Mrs. Erna Ruers also kindly briefed us on the hospital's Outpatient Clinic and Observation Department. The rest of our fellowship was spent on observation and assistance in the OR theatre.

My colleague Adelina made notes and actively followed everything what happened around the operation table from early morning until late afternoon whilst I, as head nurse of the operating theatre at our large community hospital in Gjakova, was more interested on how the infrastructure works. In our last week we were also closely observing the ward procedures and learned or updated our knowledge on intermittent catheterisation techniques.



Just before we went to the OR

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I can say with certainty that this training has expanded my knowledge regarding effective organisation of the work, and management of the workflow at the operation theatre. Moreover, I was acquainted with the use of the instruments and new suture materials. I particularly took note that a systematic approach is incorporated in the everyday OR routine work, and consequently such a thorough approach will have an impact on the health, wellbeing and comfort of our patients.

We are very grateful to the EAUN for offering this opportunity and can certainly recommend to other EAUN members to apply for a fellowship, an experience I consider very valuable.

**Next Fellowship  
Application  
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