

## Regional Centre for advanced laser therapies in Ophthalmology

### 4. Reasons for cooperation

The aim of the proposed project is to set up a centre of excellence regarding the use of the latest, complex laser therapies in Ophthalmology: “Regional Centre for advanced laser therapies in Ophthalmology”.

Timisoara has an excellent geographic position in the western part of Romania, very close with the Serbian border. Timisoara is a cultural and educational center for both the Western part of Romania and the North Eastern part of Serbia. The population in this cross-border area is compounded mainly from romanians and serbians, but there are also germans and hungarians settled here centuries ago. Despite the border, the population is pretty homogenous with common history, traditions and habits. That's why they are sharing even the same diseases profile which is pretty different from other parts of the countries mainly because of the environment and habits. The project covers the entire cross-border area, with a population roughly estimated at 2 650 000 people.

Timisoara is a well-known scientific center with very good connections with other European universities. The “Victor Babes” University of Medicine and Pharmacy Timisoara has been a recognized center of education for students from Romania or abroad since its foundation. The number of foreign students is increasing year by year and this fact is an important contributor to the University international recognition. There is a strong involvement of the University also in educating residents and specialists by setting different programs of training. The quality of this kind of activities increased progressively in the last years due to the high professionalism and commitment of the university staff and also to the high technology equipment which was bought. Keeping updated with the newest technology and bringing together the best medical experts from different parts of the world in Timisoara is a continuous preoccupation of the University of Medicine and Pharmacy “Victor Babes”, because only raising the scientific standards could maintain the highest level of medical education. The influence of the cultural and academic life in Timisoara is overwhelming for the entire cross-border region, so a project which intends to address to this specific area comes naturally.

The transportation facilities in Timisoara and mainly the international airport are also contributing to the extended relations with different parts of the Europe and is a strong argue to set the Center here, for a better coverage of the entire region.

The project of developing a “Regional Centre for advanced laser therapies in Ophthalmology” is the first initiative of its kind in all South-Eastern Europe. Its remarkable advantages will consist not only in delivering high technology medical services for the patients and high level medical education for doctors, but also in identifying the best protocols for diagnosing and treating reference corneal and retinal pathologies, creating a common data base between Romania and Serbia, developing clinical guides for best practice in the field of the diabetic eye diseases, corneal and retinal pathology.

The project approach is completely new by using specialists from two countries delivering medical services for a specific area determined population with common habits and traditions. This kind of partnership will be beneficial for everyone involved because the exchange of knowledge and experience could only be positive. The development of a webportal with telemedicine applications will also be of interest for the project.

Collecting and organizing properly the medical informations using electronic medical records will allow to the project medical experts to analyze the reference diseases profile, to elaborate protocols of diagnosis and treatment, to develop policy proposals in the field of corneal pathology, retinal pathology and diabetic eye disease, to offer an exemple of succesfull collaboration between phisicians from different medical systems. If succesfull the project could be extended on a much larger area.

A very important aspect of the project is to give access to the patients from the interest area to technology and services not available till now.

For doctors is manadatory to be updated with the newest techniques and devices, training programs on quality materials and courses with acknowledged medical experts being crucial aspects which the Center will address.

As we stressed before the exchange of information between different medical systems will be beneficial in order to compare, to analyze, to identify what can be improve, to get a better expertise.

The patients, the diseases, the medical knowledge and practice have no borders. This is a fact. Maybe this project without borders will open another kind of policy and strategy for the governments more focused on the real problems of the medical system.