

Regional Centre for advanced laser therapies in Ophthalmology

8. Durability of project outputs and results

The high quality diagnosis and surgery services will continue to be supplied to the target groups after the ending of the project. The project partners will remain the owners of the equipment procured through the project and will maintain within their personnel structure the medical staff involved in the diagnosis and surgery activities and trained through the project's activities. Thus, the technical and human capacities will be maintained, so that the services will continue to be supplied to the target groups.

Furthermore, the gratuitness of the services will be maintained as well, as the project partners will cover the costs not being reimbursed from the insurance funds. In the case of the Lead Beneficiary, the activities will be integrated with its specific research and educational activities (the Lead Beneficiary performs medical investigations and surgeries with its own personnel for the purpose of demonstrating to the medical students and of doing research). Based on the protocol signed between the Victor Babes University of Medicine and Pharmacy Timisoara and the Timisoara Municipal Hospital, the hospital will continue to ensure the infrastructure (space, auxiliary personnel, access to utilities, etc) necessary to carry on with the diagnose and surgery activities free of charge, and will cover from its own budget all remaining current expenses (maintenance, utilities, materials, etc.).

As shown, in the targeted field, the qualification of the doctors is equally as important as the performance of the equipment for the quality of the medical act. With that taken into consideration, an activity within the project (3.3) is focused solely on developing a network of specialists in ophthalmology over the cross-border region. New techniques in the field of the ophthalmologic diagnose and surgery are being developed continuously all over the world. The adoption of such techniques will increase significantly the quality of the medical act even without new investments in equipment. The network will always bring together texts, photos, tutorials about the latest procedures. The web infrastructure created through the project will be essential for the dissemination of knowledge. The members of the network will continue to post information about particular cases and solutions, exchanging opinions and offering assistance to one another. Common yearly conferences will be organized by ophthalmological experts from both sides of the border through the network, under the coordination of the Lead Beneficiary. Professional exchanges for the transfer of best practices will continue to be organized. Trainings for the members of the network will be organized either by the more qualified members, either by inviting internationally recognized medical experts in the field.

The sustainability of the network's activity (as presented above) is ensured mainly by the strong need of all expert ophthalmologists from the region for such initiatives. The Lead Beneficiary will continue to ensure the administration of the online platform and will make available the space and equipment necessary for conferences or trainings (on its own expense).

As the research activity is one of the most important parts of the Lead beneficiary's mission, it will continue to finance research in the field of best practices and cost - benefit analysis in ophthalmology.

Under strict obedience of the personal data laws, the databases with the symptomatology of the patients will be used in research activities as a screening tool by the Victor Babes

University of Medicine and Pharmacy Timisoara. Important insights about the prevalence of different symptoms throughout the cross-border region will be obtained.

The findings will be communicated to the members of the network through materials posted on the portal, through training sessions, annual conferences, video conferences, professional exchanges. With medical education being the central part of the Lead Beneficiary's mission, the medical services performed with the equipment procured through the project will continue to serve as demonstrations for medical students and residents. Medical residents will be invited at conferences and training sessions organized by the network of specialists under the administration of the Victor Babes University of Medicine and Pharmacy Timisoara.

Under these circumstances, outputs 2 - 11 will continue to be produced for the foreseeable future, for the benefit of all 10 target groups.