

## Regional Centre for advanced laser therapies in Ophthalmology

### 9. Transferability of project outputs and results

The project of developing a “Regional Centre for advanced laser therapies in Ophthalmology” is the first initiative of its kind in all South-Eastern part of the Europe. This center will be unique not just in the cross-border area, but also in this part of the Europe, being able to offer high quality medical services and specific high tech laser treatments, for Romanian and Serbian patients, regarding the targeted diabetic eye disease, corneal and retinal pathology.

The project is addressing also to the doctors from both countries - Romania and Serbia - by organizing specific training activities for the Romanian and Serbian ophthalmologists regarding the use of new laser therapies for corneal and retinal pathology (keratoconus, myopia, hypermetropia, astigmatism, diabetic retinopathy, central serous chorioretinopathy retinal vascular diseases and age-related macular degeneration), using the “train the trainers” concept., workshops, wetlabs, drylabs etc. The crossborder dissemination of the new medical services will be ensured also by conferences and workshops on both parts of the border, involving international experts, local specialists and also patients and media representatives. Developing a network of specialists in corneal pathology, retinal pathology and diabetic eye disease is a strong objective of this project. Setting high standards for the teaching programs will allow the Center to transfer them to other organizations interested in partnerships.

The center’s activities will allow to his specialists to elaborate informative materials for patients and doctors, to identify the real trends of incidence and prevalence for the reference diseases and also to promote policy proposals in the field of corneal pathology, retinal pathology and diabetic eye disease.

An important issue which has to be addressed by the project is to develop a webportal, as an educational tool for both patients and doctors, but also as an efficient instrument to collect,organize and analyze patients’ data. Telemedicine applications could be successfully adapted to the webportal in order to facilitate the patient medical data transmissions between doctors, including the high resolution images of the fundus of the eye or corneal topographies, to increase the diagnosis accuracy and to ensure, whenever it will be needed, the experts’ online assistance for certain surgical procedures. Collecting and organizing properly the medical information by using electronic medical records will allow 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 example of successful collaboration between physicians from different medical systems. If felicitous, the project could be extended on a much larger area. As we already mentioned the patients, the diseases, the medical knowledge and practice have no borders, so the communication, the opening to changes and improvements and most of all the cooperation will be the key elements of the project success.

The pathology addressed by the Center is not geographically determined. Obviously there are some specific patterns influenced by the environment and habits, but the project results and outputs could be for sure transferred to other organisations/regions/countries outside of the current partnership.The screening, diagnostique and treatment protocols which will be designed by the Center experts could be extrapolated and implemented to

any other part of the world, giving the central element of interest - the human being. The webportal will be an excellent device to disseminate everywhere in the academic world the knowledge get by the project specialists, but also developing clinical guides for best practice in the field of the diabetic eye diseases, corneal and retinal pathology could be an excellent instrument for education and collaboration, too.

The project will generate a bulk of data, which have to be refined, organized and analyzed. The results will consist in specific protocols of screening, diagnose and treatment for referred diseases (corneal and retinal), clinical guides for best medical practice in the areas of interest, educational programs for patients and doctors and the output will be reflected on informal materials and health policy proposal and recommendations to every interested institution or organization.

Surpassing the borders for fighting with a universal enemy - the disease - has to be the common approach everywhere. The project intends to set a model of success regarding this aspect.