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HEALTHGROUPE RESEARCH UNIT

Physicians unsatisfied with the reforms in the healthcare sector in Macedonia

(preliminary results)

Skopje, (8 February 2012) – International project www.healthgrouper.com has conducted electronic survey among doctors in the Republic of Macedonia in the period from 25 January to 7 February. The survey was aimed to determine the main factors that contribute towards the physician's job satisfaction. These are the preliminary results of the survey.

The great majority of respondents 75% when asked **"What is your satisfaction with the reforms in the healthcare sector and their influence over your work as a doctor?"** replied that they are unsatisfied. Out of them 34% stated that they are **"extremely unsatisfied"**, 28.5% are **"unsatisfied"**, while additional 12.3% are **"partially unsatisfied"**. Only 15% of the surveyed doctors are satisfied with the reforms.

75% of the doctors are unsatisfied with the reforms implemented in the health sector;

45% of the doctors consider changing their work place;

Large number of 57% of those that want to change their workplace, consider going abroad;

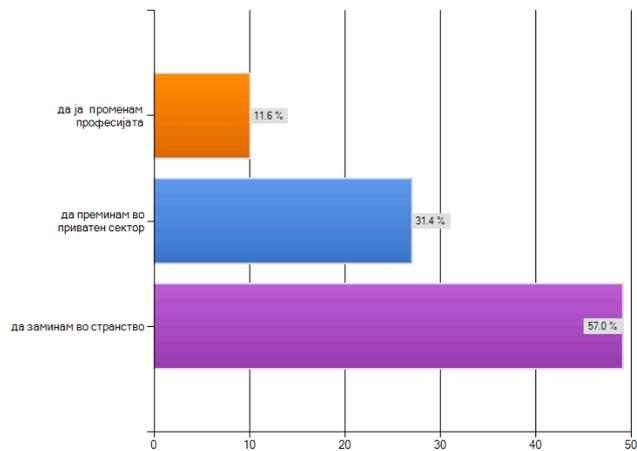
Most satisfied are doctors that work in the private sector that is not IITF

Most satisfied are the doctors who work in private practices and have no contract with the Health Insurance Fund. Great majority of them or 84% stated that they do not consider changing their workplace, and 52% stated that they are satisfied of their work as a doctor in Macedonia.

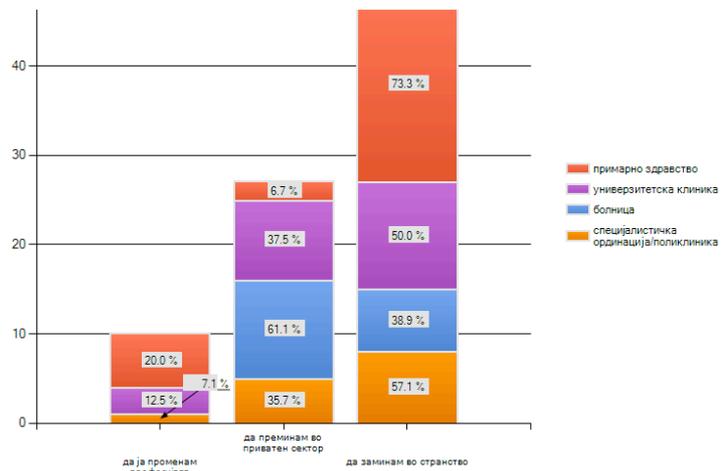


45% of the total number of surveyed doctors stated that they consider changing their workplace. Of those, **31.4%** consider moving from public to private health sector, while a worrying **57%** stated that they consider leaving the country and going abroad. The remaining 11.6% of the doctors state that they even consider changing their profession (Figure 1).

Графикон 1. Каде би сакале да работите?



73.3% of the doctors that consider changing their workplace and that are currently working in primary healthcare, also consider going abroad. Also 50% of the doctors that currently work in the University clinics consider going abroad. A total of 61% of the doctors that currently work in public state-owned hospitals consider migrating from public to private sector (Figure 2).



Regarding the doctors' age structure, an interesting result is that young doctors with 1-4 year working experience, as well as those with over 20 years working experience plan migrating to private sector. Opposite of those, doctors that are specialists with remarkable 5-19 year working experience consider going to work abroad.

“It is the first time that there is data based on actual research showing that the majority of the doctors are unsatisfied with the reforms implemented in the health sector. It is concerning that the dissatisfaction is almost equally distributed between doctors working in the public and private health sector and have contracts with the



HIF. This is defeating data for all of us who have worked to develop and implement health reforms to improve the conditions. Even more worrying are the facts that almost half of the doctors consider changing their work place and most of them are considering going abroad. Next week Healthgrouper will publish the final results, which we hope would open an arena for wider professional and public debate” stated d-r Vladimir Lazarevik, the founder of www.healthgrouper.com .

About the survey

The survey involved 216 medical doctors, which is about 4.0% of the total number of doctors that work in the public and private health sectors. The survey covered doctors that work in the primary care (32%), secondary specialist practice (16%), and tertiary hospital care (52%). Of the total number of surveyed doctors, 49% are in public sector, 39% in private sector that is HIF contracted, and additional 12% in private sector that is not HIF contracted. 47.6% of the surveyed doctors are women, while 52.4% are men. Regarding age groups, surveyed doctors were grouped in several groups: under 35 (21.2%), 36-50 (50.4%), while over 51 were total of 28.4% of the surveyed doctors. For the detailed description of the methodology, please click [here](#).

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About Healthgrouper

Healthgrouper is an Internet platform for communication between doctors and it provides integrated information about health providers in South-East Europe to the patients. Healthgrouper conducts surveys in all countries where the project is active, in order to make comparative analyses for the conditions in the health systems in the region and promote the quality of health care. Final results of the surveys are published online and available on following [link](#). For more information, please visit www.healthgrouper.com .

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