

Belgrade, August 30th, 2021

BELhospice Center for Palliative Care and Palliative Medicine

Communication on Engagement with the United Nation's Global Compact

Description of actions

In the first quarter of 2020, BELhospice has worked intensively on the implementation of goals set out in the BELhospice Strategic Plan 2019-2022 through services: "Home Care Assistance" and "Hospice Day Care Centre". We managed to provide free of charge support to many cancer patients and their families, who are the most vulnerable social group in Serbia, and yet insufficiently recognised as such. To ensure a comprehensive and coordinated service for beneficiaries, cooperation with institutions of the social and health care system has been established.

Within the implementation of the project "Improving skills of social care professionals in the field of palliative care" supported by the German Development Agency GIZ, BELhospice realized trainings for 120 social care professionals for representatives of 19 municipalities in the Republic of Serbia.

"Advancing human rights through improved palliative care services" was another BELhospice project where we promoted the importance of improving palliative care as a basic human right, advocated for amendments to rulebooks and proposed legislation amendments to implement palliative care standards and practices ensuring thus a more efficient implementation within our system.

With the help of Erste Foundation Austria and Erste Bank Serbia, BELhospice also published a brochure featuring useful advice for the family of the patient suffering from an incurable illness.

Hvala Vam što podržavate BELhospice
Thank you for supporting BELhospice



The spread of coronavirus during 2020 posed a significant threat to our beneficiaries and a challenge to BELhospice. We managed to engage all our professional resources and our volunteers, in order to help the most vulnerable group of citizens, cancer patients, who have been isolated and discharged from hospitals that were turned into COVID units, scared and helpless. These services, which extended far beyond Belgrade, included support to patients in managing their pain symptoms, psycho-social support to overcome anxiety caused by the illness and social isolation. Also, assistance adopted to the needs of our patients was intensive in this period and included the provision of special equipment, transport of patients to hospitals for chemotherapy, radiotherapy and other medical appointments and provision of protective equipment such as gloves, masks and disinfectants.

Our planned charity events, one of the key sources of funding for our organisation, have been postponed due to the adopted measures to prevent the spread of the virus and the ban of public gatherings. Therefore, financing the operational costs of the organisation has become a huge challenge.

Group 484, with the financial support of the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Belgrade, approved funds in this period to support the BELhospice project "Emergency response to COVID-19 crisis to protect the most vulnerable groups – cancer patients and their family members". Support has been provided in treating pain symptoms and advice to patients and their family members helping them overcome more easily mental states caused by fear of isolation. BELhospice staff received protective equipment, while hygiene kits and protective equipment has been secured for patients and families, as well as aids, wheelchairs, anti-decubitus mattresses that will help families provide quality care for their loved ones.

We also implemented the project "Palliative care community support" from December 2020 to February 2021, supported by the British Embassy in Belgrade for at least 150 cancer patients who received palliative care from BELhospice nurses and caregivers. Additionally, 20 volunteers have been trained through this project to help those patients and their family members.

Best regards,
Ksenija Milovanovic