

# Croatian Unit

# World Bioethics Day 2018

# Report

It was a great pleasure for The Croatian Unit of the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics to traditionally celebrate the World Bioethics Day 2018. This year the event took place on 30<sup>th</sup> October at the University of Zagreb and centred around the topic of *the principle of solidarity in healthcare*. It is important to point out that this is the third time UNESCO Chair in Bioethics organizes such an event. Distinguished members of the academic society took great joy in discussing the subject with each other and with the students who attended the lectures.

The event started with the welcome addresses by the vice-dean of the Faculty of Law of the University of Zagreb, prof. Tereza Rogić Lugarić and the vice-rector and the Head of the Centre for Excellence in Integrative Bioethics of the University of Zagreb, prof. Ante Čović. Furthermore, assist. prof. Sunčana Roksandić Vidlička (Head of Unit), made an introduction to the topic.

After the welcome addresses had been presented, there was a series of lectures by relevant experts in various fields related to the topic.

The first lecture was given by Ksenija Turković, an eminent expert and a judge of the European Court of Human Rights. She presented the topic “Principle of solidarity in providing health protection”. Professor Turković has been talking about judicature of the ECHR and pointed out the most significant cases related to the given topic, such as the case of Valentin Campeanu vs Romania. Professor also stressed the most important problems in providing health protection that are related to solidarity (public health, global solidarity etc.)

Professor Selma Šogorić (member of the Unit), provided insight to the topic from a medical perspective while pointing out the challenges of her profession in connection to the subject of discussion. Her lecture was named “Solidarity through health policy in Croatia”. She was talking about equity and solidarity as the two main concepts of the strategy “Zdravlje 2020”. After an empirical and factual analysis by prof. Šogorić, professor Stjepan Baloban from the Faculty of Catholic Theology looked at the topic from a theological viewpoint (title:”Solidarity

in Catholic church”) and explained a chronology of events which are crucial to understand the Catholic perspective of the principle of solidarity.

After a break, the event continued with a presentation by a Local representative of the UNESCO Chair, prof. Iris Goldner Lang (Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb) who presented a topic: “Principle of solidarity in the European Union”. Her presentation made us acquainted with the legislation of the European Union and the rights of EU citizens concerning health issues related to the principle. The main problem professor emphasized is that the European Union is not allowed to draft legal acts concerning health care.

Last, but not least, prof. Hrvoje Jurić (Faculty of Social Sciences) broadened our horizons while leading us through the abundance of philosophical ideas related to the subject. His topic was named: “Importance of principle of solidarity”.

After a series of lectures given by the professors, Lana Knežević, a former student of the Faculty of Law talked about her experience with the Croatian healthcare system. Unfortunately, the experience led to some negative consequences and she is thinking about pressing charges.

The final part of the event was a student debate. The students of the Faculties of Law, Social Sciences and Medicine organized a debate which involved two opposed groups (ten students were present in the debate). The subject of the debate concerned informed consent and medical error made by doctors and connected to the before mentioned consent. The students devised an imaginary case which was inspired by the real case of Lana Knežević. A team of *doctors* debated against a team of *patients*.

The team of doctors tried to explain and justified the actions of the doctor. Furthermore, they emphasized the importance of informed consent and did so both from the patient’s and the doctor’s viewpoints. The team focused on the significance of informing the patients of a possibility that a situation isn’t necessarily covered by the standardized rules which concern informed consent. There are many positive consequences of such activities.

On the other hand, the *patients team* supported a claim which concentrated on the patient’s right to his own choice. Lastly, they said that medical authorities should inform the patient of all the consequences related to a medical procedure, instead of focusing solely on the physiological aspect.

After the debate, some of the participants have been awarded for their contribution in the mentioned debate. The award winners were: Mislava Batur, Matej Kalajdžić (Faculty of Law), Marko Ferber (Faculty of Social Science) and Mladen Sorić (Faculty of Medicine).

Dora Mršić, Nikša Vojvoda, Ivan Kaliterna









