

Dear students, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

I have very special privilege to welcome you at the biggest event of EPSA congress in Kranjska gora Slovenija as the dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy University of Ljubljana. University, which is not only the oldest, the biggest and the best university in Slovenia, but is also among 3% of the best universities in Europe.

I am delighted that I can welcome you in Slovenija. This is not the first time that students of pharmacy from Slovenija hosted EPSA activities. In 1978, when the French Pharmacy Students' Association invited students from other European countries to their Annual Congress and the idea of European pharmacy students association had sprouted, I had just decided to study pharmacy. Few years later, there was the meeting in Slovenija in the process of transforming initiative council through European Sub-Committee at IPSF to European Pharmaceutical Students' Committee and in to EPSA in 1993.

The main idea of the first meetings was to discuss the forthcoming European Community directives on the mutual recognition of pharmacy degrees and to compare studies between different countries. It took decades, but heavy and important task had been reached. The mutual recognition of pharmacy degrees in Europe is reality. But the path is not finished. New challenges are in front of all of us: The project Quality assurance in European pharmacy education and training held by European association of faculties of pharmacy and supported by European commission addressed just some of them. How to teach in 5 years everything what population expected from a pharmacy professional? How to balance competences from different fields inside the pharmacy? How to put the patients' needs in the center of pharmacists' activities not to forget that they include safe and effective medicines, which production should be under control of pharmacists? Pharmacist is and should stay the real master, or if you wish, landlord of medicines in all phases: from research and development through production, quality assurance, testing and regulations to patients counseling, pharmacovigilance and back to the cycle from research and again and again and again for the benefit and wellbeing of the European and world population.

You, students, are the future. Do not forget the wide spectrum of your expected competences, which are not separated to drug oriented or patient oriented pharmacy. Patients' needs are universal and our knowledge and skills should be wide enough to support them.

Academia is the community of teachers and students, and activities of students are activities of academia as well. Your achievements, dear students, are also achievements of institutions you belong.

Students of Faculty of pharmacy in Slovenija are well organized in several associations. What is more important is fact that they all collaborate with each other's with the main task, to exchange good praxis and experiences, to promote pharmacy as important field for human wellbeing and to become competent professionals.

They have organized several international meetings, summer camps, workshops and congresses: as mentioned earlier meeting congress of European subcommittee of International Pharmacy student federation in Šmarješke toplice in 1986, EPSA congress in 2003, IPSF congress in 2010. And now, the jubilee fortieth congress of EPSA here in Kranjska gora. I am proud to be their dean.

So, I wish you fruitful meeting and pleasant stay in Slovenija. And you are warmly welcome back in Slovenija with your friends and families in the next years.

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