



**Macedonian Brain Council – a planning meeting
Skopje, Macedonia, 18 June**

On 18 June 2013 a planning meeting to create a Macedonian Action Group for Brain (MAG) was held in the Skopje Clinic of Neurology, Skopje, Macedonia. 14 participants attended the meeting. Tadeusz Hawrot represented EBC and co-chaired the meeting with Anita Arsovska, President of the Macedonian Society of Neurology.

LP	Name	Affiliation
1	Aleksandar Dimovski	Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Skopje
2	Anita Arsovska	President, Macedonian Society of Neurology
3	Bojan Boshkovski	University Clinic of Neurology, Skopje
4	Emilija Cvetkovska	University Clinic of Neurology, Skopje
5	Menka Lazareska	University Clinic of Radiology, Skopje
6	Tadeusz Hawrot	European Brain Council
7	Igor Kuzmanovski	Head, University Clinic of Neurology, Skopje
8	Nikolina Tanovska	University Clinic of Neurology, Skopje
9	Sasho Stojchev	General City Hospital, Skopje
10	Tatjana Boshkova-Petkovska	University Clinic of Neurology, Skopje
11	Tatjana Chepreganova-Changovska	University Clinic of Neurology, Skopje
12	Vasko Aleksovski	University Clinic of Neurology, Skopje
13	Vjolca Aliji	Vice-President, Association for Medical Imaging University Clinic of Neurology, Skopje
14	Vladimir Bojkovski	University Clinic of Neurology, Skopje

The agenda was as follows:

09.30 Participants introduction

09.45 European Brain Council: Background and aims; National Action Groups and National Brain Councils

10.50 Situation of brain research and those affected by brain diseases in Macedonia – presentation of different fields and open discussion

12.45 Conclusions and way forward

Tadeusz Hawrot welcomed everyone and presented apologies for EBC's Executive Director Nick Deeming.

The participants briefly introduced themselves.

Following the introductions, Tadeusz Hawrot presented the EBC structure and its projects and illustrated the National Action Groups and National Brain Councils activities so far.



Igor Kuzmanovski presented department of Neurology in Skopje University Clinic, and the projects that the Clinic is involved in.

A discussion followed on the public health and brain situation in Macedonia. The most urgent issues concern the financial problems of the hospitals and their huge debts, the brain drain that severely affects the country, a lack of research projects and considerable fragmentation.

The participants discussed the need for a MAG and what potential areas it could get involved in. It was felt that such an organization would be of help to unite all voices in the field of the brain in Macedonia and enter into an active dialogue with the various stakeholders.

Possible areas that could be addressed by the MAG are: standards of care and involvement of patients who – according to those present, often are ashamed over the conditions they live with. Patients need to be educated and stigma needs to be addressed. The formation of patient associations is to be encouraged.

A consensus was reached that the MAG could be a useful group to address the many challenges that the field is facing. It was felt that it would be important to include more stakeholders such as psychiatrists and neurosurgeons.

Participants will look into broadening the group by involving relevant organizations and a next meeting will be set up.

The meeting was adjourned at 12.20