

LOW VISION

VISION 2020 AND WHO GLOBAL ACTION PLAN 2014-2019 TOWARDS UNIVERSAL EYE HEALTH

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In May 2013 the 66th World Health Assembly approved the Global Action Plan (GAP) for the Prevention of Avoidable Blindness and Visual Impairment 2014-2019 - [Towards Universal Eye Health \(WHA66.4, <http://www.who.int/blindness/actionplan>\)](http://www.who.int/blindness/actionplan). Its global target is to reduce the prevalence of avoidable visual impairment by 25% by 2019, and the actions are structured along three objectives: 1. to generate evidence on the magnitude and causes of visual impairment and use it to advocate increased commitment from countries, 2. to implement integrated national eye health policies, plans and programmes to enhance universal eye health, 3. to strengthen eye health with multisectoral engagement and effective partnerships.

IAPB-Europe "Towards Universal Eye Health" GAP Meeting was a great success in Vienna in June 2015 in connection with the SOE Congress. Presidents or representatives from National Societies of Ophthalmology participated as well as representatives from ICO, WHO, IAPB and SOE, and their further actions are necessary to fulfil the GAP requirements and targets in Europe and in their countries.

European region is in lack of reliable epidemiological data, as a result, Rapid Assessment of Avoidable Blindness (RAAB) surveys are needed to conduct. After the first survey in Moldova, the Hungarian RAAB study with Diabetic Retinopathy module (DR) has just finished.

The aim of IAPB Europe is to improve the coverage of eye health care and to prevent blindness across Europe. IAPB Europe focuses on two eye diseases - retinopathy of prematurity (ROP), diabetic retinopathy (DR) - and vision rehabilitation.

After the 1st Black Sea Regional ROP Workshop in June 2014 in Budapest, a regional session on ROP for the 18 SEEOS countries was held in October 2014 in Bucharest. Also national (Russian, Bulgarian, Romanian) ROP workshops were organized, and this possibility is open for other countries, as well. Last year, a Hungarian ROP case study was published in the World Sight Day Brochure. The main aims are to establish national ROP screening programs and fundus laser therapy.

Diabetic retinopathy teaching course in the Lions Ophthalmology Educational Center in Prague, partially supported by IAPB, was popular among young ophthalmologists. Implementation of DR telemedical screening programs and laser therapy is a highly recommended way of decreasing the prevalence of DR related visual impairment.

TOWARDS UNIVERSAL EYE HEALTH IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA: A GLOBAL ACTION PLAN 2014-2019

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Introduction: The prevalence of low vision and vision impairment was found to be 19.5% in people aged over 50 years in a Rapid Assessment of Avoidable Blindness and Diabetic Retinopathy (RAAB+DR) survey conducted in Moldova in 2012.¹ This means that there are approximately 169 000 people over the age of 50 years who have some form of low vision. The major causes of

blindness and severe vision impairment are cataracts, glaucoma, age related macular degeneration and other posterior segment causes. The main causes of moderate visual impairment are refractive errors followed by cataract. Diabetic retinopathy was found in over half of the people aged 50 years and over who had diabetes, with 14.6% suffering from sight threatening retinopathy. These findings highlight the need to develop a national action plan on eye health care.

Aim: To develop a National Eye Health Plan for Moldova.

Method: A National Eye Health Plan based on the Global Eye Health Action Plan² adopted by the Sixty-sixth World Health Assembly will be developed for Moldova to address the causes of avoidable blindness and rehabilitation needs of those with permanent or untreatable vision impairment.

Discussion: The goal of Global Action Plan is to reduce avoidable visual impairment as a global public health problem and secure access to rehabilitation services for the visually impaired. The Moldovan National Eye Health Plan will incorporate strategies in line with the Global Action Plan focusing on comprehensive services that include treatment, health promotion, prevention and rehabilitation services. Integration of eye care and rehabilitation services into the health system with proper development of human resources, financing, medicines and technologies will be a feature of the Eye Health Plan. This will also include strategies to improve access to eye care and rehabilitation services for all. The National Eye Care Plan will contribute to reducing visual impairment and ensuring equitable and affordable access for all to good quality eye care and rehabilitation services in Moldova.

RETINOPATHY OF PREMATURITY. 10 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE.

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VISION2020 is a global initiative of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness, whose mission is the elimination of avoidable blindness by the year 2020. The key elements of VISION2020 are a) strategies for the control of the major blinding eye diseases (cataract, trachoma, onchocerciasis, blindness in children, refractive errors, and low vision), b) infrastructure development and supplying and maintaining equipment, c) human resource development, and d) community participation. Blindness from ROP is recognized as a priority for the whole world. Globally there are estimated to be 60,000 children who are blind from ROP. Retinopathy of prematurity (ROP) is a potentially avoidable cause of blindness in children. ROP is an actual problem for perinatologists and ophthalmologists concerning the progress in neonatology for the past years.

The first steps in the ROP screening and diagnose were made as a part of the project „Avoidance of possible blindness in children” sponsored by WHO and LIONS CLUB in 2005. There were prepared specialists in ROP. Necessary equipment was bought.

In 2013 the team from Moldova participated at the ROP workshop for Black Sea region under the guide of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB). During this visits have been reported preliminary datas and directions of activity in the field of ROP.

In 2014 grateful to the support of Kinder Sollen Sehen (Germania) organization the ophthalmology service from Moldova that deals with ROP has been totally assured with the necessary equipment. There were organized meetings with experts from Lithuania and neonathologists regarding ROP issues.

In 2015 was approved the National Protocol in ROP. Two of our specialists has undergone a training in ROP diagnose and treatment in Turkey (with the support of TIKA-Turkish Cooperation