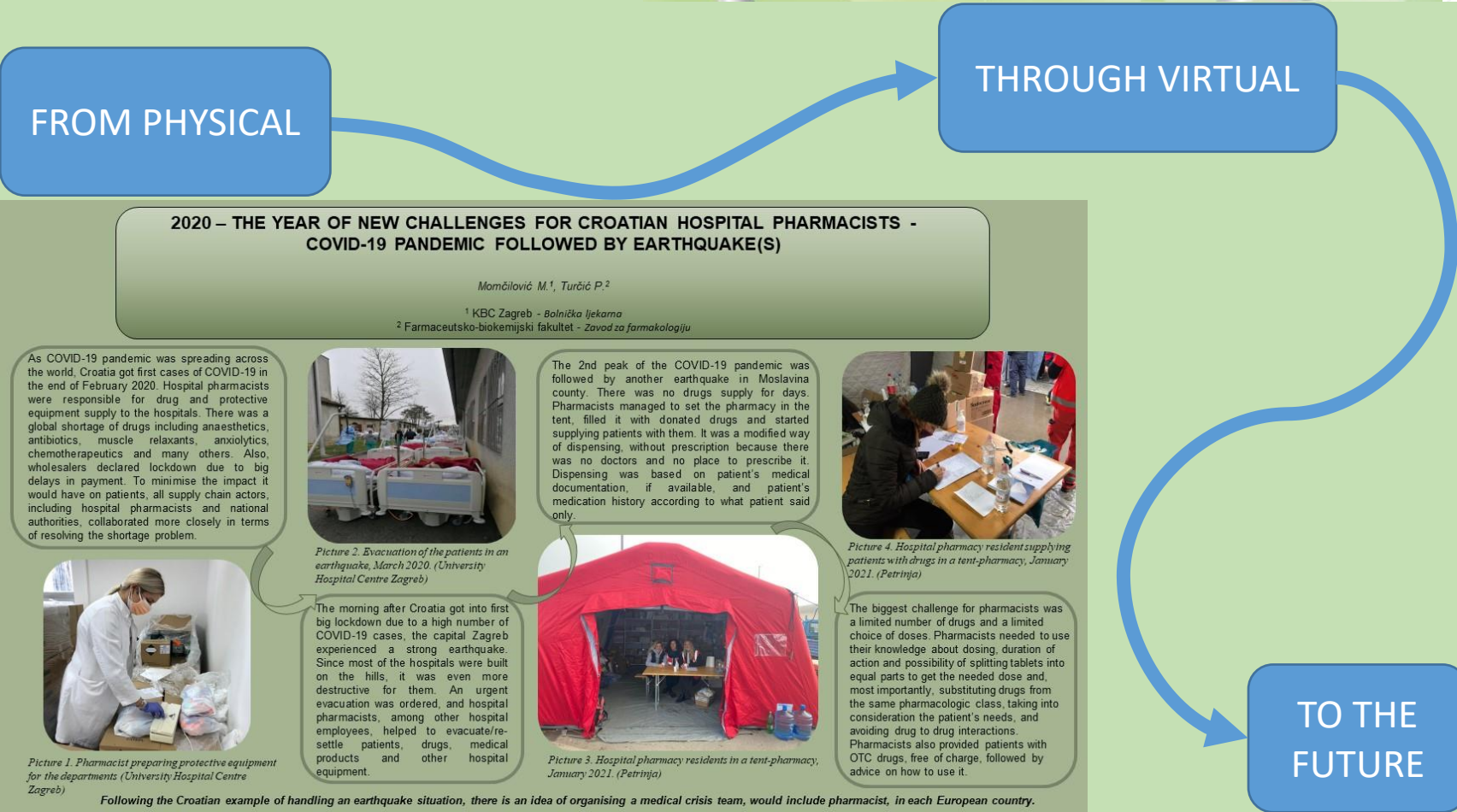


Country report Croatia 2021.

GODIŠNJA KONFERENCIJA FARMACEUTA HRVATSKE
POVJERENJE - TEMELJ USPJEŠNE FARMACEUTSKE SKRBI
PharmaCRO 2021
S MEĐUNARODNIM SUDJELOVANJEM
 23. – 25. rujna 2021.
 Organizator: HRVATSKO FARMACEUTSKO DRUŠTVO

HRVATSKI VIRTUALNI KONGRES ONKOLOŠKE FARMACIJE
 S MEĐUNARODNIM SUDJELOVANJEM
 7. – 10. listopada 2021.

CROATIAN VIRTUAL CONGRESS OF ONCOLOGY PHARMACY
 WITH INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION
 7th - 10th October 2021



2020 – THE YEAR OF NEW CHALLENGES FOR CROATIAN HOSPITAL PHARMACISTS - COVID-19 PANDEMIC FOLLOWED BY EARTHQUAKE(S)

Mamčilović M.¹, Turčić P.²

¹ KBC Zagreb - Bolnička ljekarna
² Farmaceutsko-biokemijski fakultet - Zavod za farmakologiju

As COVID-19 pandemic was spreading across the world, Croatia got first cases of COVID-19 in the end of February 2020. Hospital pharmacists were responsible for drug and protective equipment supply to the hospitals. There was a global shortage of drugs including anaesthetics, antibiotics, muscle relaxants, anxiolytics, chemotherapeutics and many others. Also, wholesalers declared lockdown due to big delays in payment. To minimise the impact it would have on patients, all supply chain actors, including hospital pharmacists and national authorities, collaborated more closely in terms of resolving the shortage problem.



Picture 2. Evacuation of the patients in an earthquake, March 2020. (University Hospital Centre Zagreb)

The 2nd peak of the COVID-19 pandemic was followed by another earthquake in Moslavina county. There was no drugs supply for days. Pharmacists managed to set the pharmacy in the tent, filled it with donated drugs and started supplying patients with them. It was a modified way of dispensing, without prescription because there was no doctors and no place to prescribe it. Dispensing was based on patient's medical documentation, if available, and patient's medication history according to what patient said only.



Picture 4. Hospital pharmacy resident supplying patients with drugs in a tent-pharmacy, January 2021. (Petrija)

The morning after Croatia got into first big lockdown due to a high number of COVID-19 cases, the capital Zagreb experienced a strong earthquake. Since most of the hospitals were built on the hills, it was even more destructive for them. An urgent evacuation was ordered, and hospital pharmacists, among other hospital employees, helped to evacuate/resettle patients, drugs, medical products and other hospital equipment.



Picture 3. Hospital pharmacy residents in a tent-pharmacy, January 2021. (Petrija)

The biggest challenge for pharmacists was a limited number of drugs and a limited choice of doses. Pharmacists needed to use their knowledge about dosing, duration of action and possibility of splitting tablets into equal parts to get the needed dose and, most importantly, substituting drugs from the same pharmacologic class, taking into consideration the patient's needs, and avoiding drug to drug interactions. Pharmacists also provided patients with OTC drugs, free of charge, followed by advice on how to use it.



Picture 1. Pharmacist preparing protective equipment for the departments (University Hospital Centre Zagreb)

Following the Croatian example of handling an earthquake situation, there is an idea of organising a medical crisis team, would include pharmacist, in each European country.

CROATIA'S RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE PLAN

€6.3 billion

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C5.1. R4-I1	Central preparation of all parenteral preparations in 8 hospitals
C5.1. R4-I2	Introduction of a unit dose system in 40 hospitals
C5.1. R4-I3	Introduction of computerised physician order entry through health facilities
C5.1. R4-I4	Development of a system for monitoring and preventing drug shortages in Croatia