**LOW VISION Services, a Global Right**

**Setting the Standards in Europe**

 **EBU Low Vision Conference**

**14-17 June 2018, Laško, Slovenia**

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**Abstract**

**The role of ophthalmologists in the implementation of the Standards for low vision services**

Presentation of the work of the National Center for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (NC CRSS).

CRSS has been enacted in Slovenia since 2008, in Article 23 of the Health Care and Health Welding Act. Thus, rehabilitation has become a health service and with this rehabilitation is enabled for all groups of blind and partially sighted, regardless of age, employment status, etc.

The enacted comprehensive rehabilitation of blind and partially sighted people is based on the developed CRSS program, which defines service standards for the implementation of the program and runs CRSS with a multidisciplinary approach and individualized plans. In 2017, at the Eye Clinic, a National Center for CRSS (NC CRSS) was established, which is now starting to work on the basis of experience and findings of a pilot project already carried out.

NC CRSS enables multidisciplinary treatment and thus complete rehabilitation for the blind and visually impaired, in a manner that is familiar to all developed and less developed countries. In NC CRSS there is a multidisciplinary team of various experts: ophthalmologist, graduate nurse, educator of blind and visually impaired, psychologist, social worker.

Referral to NC CRSS is done by ophthalmologists exclusively. Patients referred are visually impaired or blind according to the Slovenian definition, from children to the elderly.

Makedonka Atanasovska Velkovska and Eva Škrlec Velkavrh



This event is co-funded by the "Rights, Equality and Citizenship" Programme of the European Union.