

## COLORECTAL CANCER EARLY DETECTION PROGRAM IN MONTENEGRO

**Background:** The colorectal cancer early detection program has been conducted in Montenegro since June 01, 2013. In the beginning, the program was conducted in 14 municipalities, the population consisted of insured persons of both sexes registered with the chosen doctor for adults in the 60-64 age group (21.720 participants). In the following year, the program has spread to the rest of the territory of Montenegro (23 municipalities), the 31.363 participants in the 59-64 age group. In the third year the target group consisted of 30.183 participants in the 57-66 age group, it included those who had to repeat the iFOBT (6.978 participants in 14 municipalities).

**Methods:** The primary screening test is iFOBT (Immunochemical Fecal Occult Blood Test) with a defined Cut-off of 100 ng/ml. After positive result of the iFOBT colonoscopy is performed.

**Results:** In the past three years (01.06.2013-31.05.2016.) of the colorectal cancer early detection program, implementation group had a total of 83.266 persons of both sexes, 70.267 people or 84.39% of them were invited (91.97% in the first year, 82.13% in the second year and 81.28% in the third year). The uptake was 52.982 persons or 75.40% (70.94% in the first year, 72.81% in the second year and 81.75% in the third year).

Colonoscopies have been conducted (641/I-year, 576/II-year, 620/III-year), during which polypectomy or biopsy have been performed in 197 persons (30.73%)/I-year, 163 persons (28,3%) /II-year and 102 persons (16,45%)/III-year.

By histopathological examination colorectal cancer was discovered in 22 persons, adenoma high-grade dysplasia in 110 persons.

**Conclusion:** The presented uptake rate (75.40%) in colorectal cancer early detection program in Montenegro is significantly above desirable level (>65%) defined by European Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Colorectal Cancer Screening and Diagnosis, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition, 2010.