



## Joint 5th Joint AEMH-FEMS General Assembly 10-11 May 2024, Berlin, Germany

### Members reports

Please name 3 main current concerns of the healthcare system in your country :

- **Opening an excessive number of Medical and Dental Schools**
- **Inadequate healthcare infrastructure due to rapid and uncontrolled population growth.**
- **Insufficient hospitals, doctors, healthcare personnel and health budget**

1. The last official census in the north of Cyprus took place on December 4, 2011, and the population living in the northern part of the island was determined to be 286,257. In 2021, according to the "projection" by the Statistical Institute in the north, the population was calculated to be 382,836. Today, the actual population is estimated to be between 800,000 and 1 million. This means there is an average of one doctor for every 1,000 people. With the increasing number of faculties, the number of students and graduates is also increasing. Apart from the difficulties that the increase in numbers will bring, what truly concerns us is the quality of education provided and the competence of the graduates. Due to the limited diversity of patients, young doctors graduate without sufficient experience and expertise to start practicing. It is obvious that this will have disadvantages for both the doctors and the patients. Due to their lack of experience, inexperienced doctors may not be able to cope with complications that arise during interventions with patients, potentially causing harm to patients, leading to serious disciplinary investigations and even disqualification from the profession. In addition, harm to patients could result in court cases leading to compensation or even imprisonment. Of course, this situation saddens us greatly. Recently,

there has been a diploma scandal in our country. Many arrests have been made due to incidents of fake diplomas issued by a university. The Higher Education Council has initiated serious inspections in response to these incidents.

2. In recent years, the number of foreign students coming to our country, especially to universities, is reported to be 100,000, while the official figure for foreigners coming to work is 160,000. However, it is known that the actual numbers exceed the officially announced figures. State inspections are very inadequate, and illegal immigrants are discovered in any criminal case, traffic accidents, or traffic inspections. This population increase greatly increases the workload of employees due to the insufficient number of hospitals and healthcare workers. In addition, criminal cases and traffic accidents have increased.

3. There are 6 districts in Northern Cyprus. Our largest hospital, located in the capital Nicosia, is inadequate in terms of both physical infrastructure and equipment, as well as doctors and healthcare workers, for the current population. Although a decision was made 7 years ago to build a new hospital in Nicosia, construction has not yet begun due to insufficient budget allocation. Only 3 out of 6 districts have hospitals. The others operate as health centers. Patients are constantly referred from districts without hospitals to the hospital in Capital city Nicosia. Especially, despite starting the construction of a new hospital in the Güzelyurt region approximately 7 years ago, it has still not been completed. The construction of a hospital, which started under a university located in the Girne, could not be completed due to financial reasons and was transferred to the Ministry of Health in 2020, has also not been completed yet. Nearly 10% of the budget has been allocated for health in 2024. This budget not only means that the existing situation cannot be improved but also indicates that it will not even be sustainable, and the same problems will persist.

