

Report about 11th EAPC congress from OSI grantee Jovita Demskyte

I had a chance to participate in the 11th EAPC congress in Vienna on the 7-10 of May 2009 I got a grant from OSI, which covered travel, registration and accommodation. I am a nursing teacher at Kaunas University of Medicine and a nurse (part time) at Kaunas Nursing Hospital/Hospice, Lithuania. I presented 2 posters in the congress.

From the first steps of participation in this conference I was accepted with very good organization: information and directions were clear, I could get all answers to my questions from registration desk.

I liked very much the place where congress took place – it was easy to reach from different places of Vienna, also all lectures, workshops and poster presentations could be in the same building.

I understand that is very difficult to hold audience of over 2000 participants from the Palliative Care family from whole the world, but organizers succeed very well.

Opening ceremony of the 11th EAPC congress was very solemn, but at the same time very warm and welcoming. It was extraordinary to see and to here welcome words from such important persons from the world and also from the palliative care family. But especially I was touched by the speech of the Sweden queen Silvia: her personal sharing about the sickness and loss of her family members and also how interest of so important persons can influence the development and recognition of palliative care.

The plenary sessions were very useful and helpful with getting answers and proposals for us and our colleagues. The themes of the lectures were presented very interestingly. Sometimes was pity that it was not possible to get into some workshops: rooms were too small for accepting all the interested in the topic. For me it was a little amazing to meet so many researchers and professionals, who are so devoted to palliative care. Also I was impressed by so big number of poster presentations. And for me poster presentation place was a place, where I could make new contacts, could discuss with others and not only to share, but to see and to listen how professionals from all over the word are raising the quality of palliative care.

I am still very impressed by this congress, by meeting so different and on other hand so comparable professionals, by town of Vienna. And all this impression is much bigger than one unpleasantness with accommodation. For me it was unusual to stay in same room with persons of both genders. It really shocked me little on the first day. It was easier for me, because I was with 3 colleagues from Lithuania in same room plus 4 unknown persons, when 3 of them have changed every night.

I am very thankful to Open Society Institute for grant and for possibility to participate in such a great event. Participation in 11th EAPC congress helped me to broaden my understanding and knowing of palliative care family, to get new experience, to meet an experts, to make new contacts, to share.

Sincerely,

Jovita Demskyte