

Achievements in Implementing Orthoptic Services in Albania

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Introduction:

Albania has successfully implemented standardized Orthoptic services in the Public Health System, specifically at the Central Polyclinic of Tirana. Overcoming various technical challenges, significant progress has been made in developing and elevating the Orthoptics profession. With the invaluable support of the International Orthoptic Association (IOA), Albania proudly joins the global celebration of World Orthoptic Day 2023, recognizing the tremendous work accomplished in a short span of time.

Standardization and Official Recognition:

Albania has officially adopted a Clinical Guideline for Orthoptic services, establishing high standards, which has received approval from the Ministry of Health. This milestone was made possible through the expertise and assistance of dedicated orthoptist professionals from the International Orthoptic Association, in collaboration with the country's health institutions. The implementation of this guideline marks a significant achievement in formalizing and regulating the Orthoptics profession in Albania.



Orthoptic Screening Initiative:

In collaboration with the Municipality of Tirana, Albania has introduced its first Orthoptic screening program. This initiative focuses on identifying and addressing issues such as Strabismus and lazy eye (Amblyopia) among young children in kindergartens across Tirana. By utilizing screening models provided by the British Orthoptic Society, early detection, awareness, and timely intervention for various eye problems have already yielded positive results. Parents have expressed heartfelt gratitude for the improved quality of life, vision, and access to quality healthcare services for their children.

Future Endeavors and Acknowledgements:

While celebrating the accomplishments thus far, there is recognition that more work lies ahead. The International Orthoptic Association deserves sincere appreciation for their unwavering support throughout this process and in future projects in Albania. Collaboratively, efforts will continue to further develop Orthoptics, expand its reach, and enhance eye care services across the country. The dedication to ongoing collaboration, innovation, and the potential for transformative impact in the field of Orthoptics remains steadfast for the benefit of the community.

Conclusion:

Albania has achieved significant milestones in the implementation of standardized Orthoptic services, supported by the International Orthoptic Association. With the establishment of a Clinical Guideline and the introduction of an Orthoptic screening initiative in collaboration with the Municipality of Tirana, the country has made remarkable progress in early detection and intervention for eye problems. As World Orthoptic Day 2023 is celebrated, Albania remains committed to advancing the field of Orthoptics and expresses gratitude to all supporters involved in this transformative journey.