The first EFNS Regional Teaching Course in Ohrid, Republic Macedonia, took place 16-18 May, 2013. There were 91 participants (10 speakers, 81 students). Very well-known Speakers from Germany, Austria, France, Italy, Switzerland and also from Macedonia gave us their most modern and evidence based data during their big talks and smaller workshops. First two days morning sessions were followed by afternoon workshops. Lessons were given in English language. Each lecture was followed by many questions and discussions by audience, and especially fruitful discussions took place in the afternoon workshops.

The students were mainly from Macedonia, but also from Albania, Kosovo and Serbia. Each participant received a RTC-folder with information about the EFNS, its future events and all the material of the course including a CD with all the presentations.

The first day was dedicated to Epilepsy:

Professor Hermann Stefan (Germany) talked about “Epilepsy Diagnosis, what is useful and necessary”. Afterwards, Dr. Emilia Cvetkovska (Macedonia) held her lecture about “Antiepileptic drug therapy: when to start and when to stop”. From Austria, Professor Christoph Baumgartner gave his presentations on “Side effects and interaction in epilepsy therapy” and on “Epilepsy surgery”.

Prof Baumgartner giving a lecture about side effects of antiepileptic drugs
Dr Emilija Cvetkovska: practical approach to introduction of antiepileptic drug treatment

Practical approach

- individuals with risk factors (epileptiform EEG, discharge, evidence of a structural CNS abnormality, when the first seizure has the characteristics of status epilepticus)
- initiation of treatment

- situations to deferral of treatment (e.g., pregnancy)
- patients performing potentially dangerous activities

In either case, the patient should be involved in the decision

Participants
Workshop on epilepsy with Prof H. Stefan
The topic of the second day was **Stroke**:

Professor Valeria Caso (Italy) started the day with her lecture on “Diagnosis of stroke”, followed by Dr Fabienne Perren (Switzerland), who specializes on “Ultrasound examination”. Professor Theodor Landis (Switzerland) gave his presentation on “Post-stroke Dementias” while Professor Anita Arsovska from Macedonia finished the morning courses with her talk on “Treatment of ischaemic cerebrovascular disease”
Prof Arsovska about time window in treatment of stroke

The Audience is listening
Participants were very interested and intrigued by Prof Landis’ afternoon workshop.
The final day had various topics to cover, namely a lecture of the EFNS General Secretary and Professor of Neurology, Professor Detlef Kömpf, talking about “differential diagnosis of oculomotor syndromes”. Our well-known speaker from Macedonia, Professor Stojcev, spoke about “Dementia, their diagnosis and treatment”. And the last speaker for the Regional Teaching Course was Professor Christian Lucas from France, who gave a lecture on “Vascular risk in migraine“.

Professor Detlef Kömpf holding his lecture
Professor Stojcev defining dementia

Professor Lucas talking about vascular risk in migraine
EYANT representative - Antonija Mismas presented activities and opportunities for young neurologist provided by their organization.

The first course day, a special social event, enjoyed by all the participants, was a get-together party with traditional Macedonian music and dancing.

Traditional Macedonian dance at get-together party
The participants also took the opportunity to use the spare time to visit the old and beautiful town of Ohrid.

The atmosphere during the course was relaxed and friendly, a lot of friendships were made, and speakers mingled with participants and were available for informal discussions during the whole time. Due to the successful course and great time together, we are all looking forward to another Regional Teaching Course in future.

Dinner with the faculty: V. Caso, C. Lucas, F. Perren, T. Landis, E. Cvetkovska, D. Kömpf, A. Arsovska

Emilija Cvetkovska

Local Organizer