

EFC – LGDSA 2nd Baltic Colposcopy Conference

From 19th April to 20th April 2018 the 2nd Baltic Colposcopy Conference took place in Riga, Latvia. More than 80 delegates from Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia participated in that meeting. The conference was organised in the collaboration with European Federation for Colposcopy (EFC).

Latvia besides two other Baltic countries- Lithuania and Estonia - has one of the highest cervical cancer incidences in Europe. All three countries share common problems.

During the meeting, president of Latvian Colposcopy Society Irina Jermakova, board member of Estonian Colposcopy Society Aleksandra Shavrova and chair of the Colposcopy subsection of the Lithuanian Association of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists Kristina Jariene introduced the development of the colposcopy in their countries. President of EFC Charles Redman gave insight in to the role of colposcopy in the era of HPV vaccination and testing. Professor Franco Borruto stressed the multiple aspects of HPV-associated diseases. Lead colposcopy specialists from the United Kingdom (UK) Esther Moss and Panos Sarhanis pointed out the impact of the migration of Eastern European population on the public health in UK and analyzed the barriers to participation in the national Latvian cervical cancer screening programme. Extensive discussions at the clinical cases sessions improved the knowledge about diagnostic and different treatment approaches of CIN, VIN, VAIN , also for special groups of patients, like pregnant, in menopause, etc.

Recently there have been many developments in the field of cervical cancer prevention – new, effective vaccines, HPV tests, diagnostic devices etc. Whatever screening tests are used, nevertheless at some point colposcopy is still going to be an important step for correct diagnosis and treatment of cervical precancerous changes – even in the vaccinated population. The exchange of the experience between specialists of the three Baltic countries and international experts in the field of cervical cancer prevention during the 2nd Baltic Colposcopy Conference was an important step towards improvement of the colposcopy service in the Baltic region.

