

## **MEDIA INFORMATION**

*The Renovation of the Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery Department of the University Children's Hospital*

### **The Donation Banca Intesa worth 25 million dinars**

**Belgrade (14<sup>th</sup> June)** – Under the sponsorship of Mrs. Tatjana Tadić, great friend of the children of Serbia and the initiator of numerous humanitarian projects, Banca Intesa will donate 25 million dinars for the renovation of the University Children's Hospital in Tiršova. The Bank will finance the works as envisaged by the project, but also the equipment of the cardiology and cardiac surgery department of the University Children's Hospital. The renovation of this part of the Hospital will begin in July, and the completion of the works has been planned for September this year.

“We firmly believe that one of the obligations of all actors in society is to treat the needs of the youngest with special attention and responsibility. If we take a look at the entire health care system, we will agree that maternity hospitals and institutions in which children are being treated should have priority in receiving aid”, stated Draginja Đurić, President of the Executive Board of Banca Intesa.

The cardiology and the cardiac surgery departments are among the most burdened departments of the clinic. Children with different heart diseases, primarily complex heart defects are being treated. The departments are on the area of 415 square metres, comprise sick rooms with 36 beds and were last rebuilt in 1997.

The state on the cardiology and the cardiac surgery departments is one of the worst in the Hospital. Around 20,000 children pass through these two departments, of which 1,500 stay at the hospital for treatment. The majority of these young children are babies and small children, which according to their age and the nature of illness are children with the most serious illnesses of children's age.

“The quality of accommodation of patients in the Departments is extremely bad, primarily due to the excessive number of beds and patients. Mothers and children lie on the same bed, and in the majority of 18- square meter rooms 6 beds each per room have been put in. Children and mothers eat on their laps, they do not have the minimum of privacy, and the plumbing is worn out. The donation of Banca Intesa will not only provide a significant improvement of accommodation conditions for this part of the Hospital, but also treating

young patients with dignity”, considers Prof. Dr Ida Jovanović, head of the University Children’s Hospital.

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*University Children’s Hospital in Belgrade is the oldest institution on the Balkans which treats children. From the professional point of view we are dealing with one of the most modern and the best pediatric health institutions in this part of Europe. It was founded in 1924, and the building in which it is located was completed just before the Second World War. At that time it was one of the most beautiful buildings of the modern type, and for this reason it is under the protection of the Cultural Heritage Preservation Institute. Due to the difficult economic situation, technical maintenance of the building was not possible, and a huge number of patients are being treated in it annually; therefore, from the technical point of view the building is in a bad state. In the past ten years the management of the University Hospital in Tiršova has been continuously making effort to refurbish the building and to ensure a minimum acceptability level of children’s accommodation.*

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