

PRESS RELEASE**Enlargement and Modernisation of the European Society of Hypertension
Excellence Centre**

Belgrade, March 28, 2012 – The enlarged and modernised European Society of Hypertension Excellence Centre has been officially opened today in the presence of General Manager of the Serbian Clinical Centre Đorđe Bajec, Head of the European Society of Hypertension Excellence Centre Vesna Stojanov and Deputy CEO of Banca Intesa Marco Capellini. The ESH Excellence Centre, which has recently received the highest praise of the American Society of Hypertension, has improved its performance by obtaining additional premises and new machines for working with patients, owing to the fact that the Management of the Serbian Clinical Centre recognised the need for new capacities and the donation of Banca Intesa in the amount of RSD 6.58 million.

The enlargement and modernisation of the equipment of this Centre, which includes a new ultrasonic device and new blood pressure monitors, will enable both more effective and more efficient work with patients, raising the performance of the Centre to a higher level at the same time.

„As a leading bank in the local market, Banca Intesa is actively investing in social values, in order to help improve the quality of life in the social community. This commitment to the community is accompanied by the ability to recognise the most important needs of the society and the projects of the greatest significance. We have recognised this need and tried to make a contribution by donating this modern ultrasonic device“ – Deputy CEO of Banca Intesa Marco Capellini stated.

„We should emphasise that 6,000 examinations and 15,000 services were conducted in 2011 alone, which speaks of a significant increase in the number of patients examined. All examinations were conducted at out-patient departments, which substantially reduced the costs of treatment“ – Head of the Multidisciplinary Hypertension Department of the Serbian Clinical Centre, Ass. Prof. Dr Vesna Stojanov, underscored.

Patients with severe forms of hypertension (resistant, i.e. high level of blood pressure remaining even after the application of 3 medications, secondary hypertension – where we diagnose the causes of hypertension, endocrine and nephrogenic or hypertension leading to complications) come to see us. The examinations are free and patients need to bring a referral from a health centre internist. This way of organisation of work at the Multidisciplinary Department has significantly reduced the number of patients hospitalised because of hypertension, which is a substantial economic saving.

The Hypertension Department is the only department in our country which has united the work of several specialists (cardiologists, endocrinologists, nephrologists, neurologists, psychiatrists, ophthalmologists, vascular surgeons and nutritionists) and pays special attention to prevention, early and correct diagnosis, individual choice of anti-hypertension treatment, prevention, early diagnosis and treatment of complications caused by high blood pressure and the education of doctors and citizens.

The examination and treatment of hypertension patients are conducted according to top European standards, which has been acknowledged by the European Society of Hypertension at the European Hypertension Congress, held in Milan in June 2011, when the Serbian Hypertension Department was declared European Society of Hypertension Excellence Centre after it was officially awarded a certificate.