Respiratory Disease in Croatia

Introduction

The IRC, a coalition of respiratory clinicians, patients and industry partners, aims to transform post-pandemic respiratory care and reduce mortality by a third globally by 2030 - in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The IRC is calling on governments and policy makers to establish funded national strategies, which include prevention, new models of care, ambitious measurable targets, and accountable leadership to improve lung health by focusing on:

**Better...**

1. Prevention of respiratory diseases
2. Access to the right treatment at the right time
3. Action on reducing inequalities
4. Prioritisation of research, data and insight to improve care

As a part of Croatia’s wider national health strategy, the country implemented in October 2020 the first early lung cancer screening programme in the EU that is both targeted to relevant populations and fully reimbursed. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, there remain a vast number of neglected and undiagnosed cases which put serious burden on the health system, with COPD notably remaining one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality.

The IRC welcomes the Croatian Health Ministry’s work on this initiative and is also committed to collaborating with all relevant stakeholders in promoting lung health across Croatia by developing national strategies.

**Societal economic cost by disease:**

- **Asthma** €106.2 million
- **COPD** €510.8 million
- **Interstitial Lung Disease** €12.4 million
- **Lower Respiratory Tract Infections** €116.9 million
- **Mesothelioma** €19.9 million
- **Lung Cancer** €864.9 million
- **Tuberculosis** €17.4 million
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- **Tuberculosis** €17.4 million

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Data taken from IRC Lung Facts https://international-respiratory-coalition.org/lung-facts/diseases/