

Driving Early Diagnosis and Systemic Change: The Impact of HEMA-ONKO in Macedonia



HEMA-ONKO
Association dedicated to cancer patients and their caregivers

MPN (Myeloproliferative Neoplasm) patients in Macedonia face delayed diagnosis, low disease awareness, and limited access to specialized care. Misconceptions about rare blood cancers and a lack of education among healthcare providers often lead to long diagnostic journeys.

HEMA-ONKO is actively working to close these gaps by promoting early detection, reducing stigma, and pushing for systemic policy change to improve MPN care and outcomes



RESULTS

Key Activities

Workshops for Healthcare Professionals
Training for general practitioners and medical students to recognize early MPN signs and reduce misdiagnosis.

Public Awareness Campaign

Social media and digital outreach during World MPN Awareness Day, featuring educational content and patient stories to boost recognition and understanding.

In-Person Event

During Blood Cancer Awareness Day, a dedicated session on MPNs featured medical experts, patient stories, and consultations at Macedonia Square as part of our public education forum.

Advocacy Efforts

TV debates and meetings with the Minister of Health and Health Insurance Fund to push for policy changes and ensure MPN care is included in national cancer strategies.

End-of-Year Awareness Event

A fashion parade celebrating the strength of patients with blood cancers, raising visibility and recognizing their resilience.



METHODOLOGY

Aims

- Raise public and professional awareness of MPNs and their early symptoms
- Encourage timely diagnosis and reduce stigma around blood cancers
- Advocate for dedicated MPN treatment and monitoring within Cancer Plan 2025

Target Audience

- Healthcare professionals
- Policymakers
- MPN patients and caregivers



CONCLUSIONS

Key Outcomes

• Government Action

On World Cancer Day, the government announced the HEMA-ONKO Cancer Plan 2025, which includes increased funding for hematology services, with specific focus on MPNs.

• Higher Awareness

Workshops and campaigns have led to improved early symptom recognition among healthcare providers and greater public understanding of MPNs.

• Patient-Centered Collaboration

HEMA-ONKO now holds advisory roles in both the Hematology Clinic's Quality of Life Committee and the Treatment Procurement Committee, ensuring patients' needs are considered in national healthcare decisions.



MPN Horizons 10-12 October
Beyond Boundaries Marrakesh, Morocco **2025**
10th International Conference 

