***Ljiljana Bojičova, MD, PhD***

Liljana Bojičova, MD, PhD – has been the most distinctive personality of the medical assessment service in the Czech Republic in last 25 years and is well known even abroad.

It was just Bojičova, MD who headed up the integrated Medical Assessment Service (MAS) as part of the newly created Czech Social Security Administration in 1993. She meaningfully participated in the introduction of united methodology of appraising state of health and work ability, regular education of assessment doctors, and organizational management of the MAS as well.

She substantially participated in the change of the approach to the appraisal of state of health and work ability from 1996 when the general assessment criteria were introduced in cooperation with professional medical associations. In the Czech Republic, taking into consideration progress in medical science, these principles are still a basis of assessing work ability with emphasis on functional disorder and not on diagnosis.

As a Director and Head Director of the MAS of the Czech Social Security Administration, Dr. Bojičova was successful in pushing through systematic procedures for the MAS. She propagated the principles of assessment medicine in healthcare, lectured and educated doctors across specialities. She asserted the high requests for education of assessment doctors, improvement of the position of assessment medicine and for the change in its perception by the professional and general public. Dr. Bojičova also published her work and was awarded Jan Evangelista Purkyně Honorary Medal for her long-year work in the development of assessment medicine which granted by the Czech Medical Association in 2007.

Dr. Bojičova was well aware of the need of mutual cooperation and continual development, search for new possibilities and inspiration even abroad. She successfully joined international cooperation with other specialists and professional companies, including EUMASS. The current membership of the CSSA would not exist without Dr. Bojičova’s enthusiasm. In 2000, she participated in the EUMASS Congress in Gent, Belgium and in 2001, she contributed to the CSSA proper membership of this organization. While she was working in the CSSA, the meetings of the EUMASS Council were organized twice in Prague; in June 2008, she was instrumental in the organization of the 17th EUMASS International Congress in Prague hosted by the CSSA with the patronage of the Czech top politicians. The main topic of the congress was “Chronic Illnesses and Their Impact on Healthcare and Social Security, Including Economic Terms”. At that time, 292 doctors from 25 countries took part in the congress talks; some of the doctors came from far countries (Brazil, Canada, USA, Netherlands Antilles). This congress was organized in the new EU member country for the first time and its participants evaluated it very positively. As the appraisal of her work, she was elected a Vice-President of EUMASS and later, in October 2008, she became a President of EUMASS – she replaced Professor Freddy Falez from Belgium.

Dr. Bojičova is a very strong personality of the Czech medical assessment service and after she left her position as the Chief Director of the CSSA MAS, she will remain deeply imprinted on the medical assessment service.