ENTOG exchange in Slovenia

ENTOG stands for European Network of Trainees in Obstetrics and Gynaecology and they organize an exchange program every year in different countries. I had the opportunity to go to the exchange in Slovenia in the beginning of June 2017 for one week.

Slovenia is located in the northern Balkans, in Southeast Europe bordered by Austria, Croatia, Italy och Hungry. The population is about 2 million.

From the capital of Ljubljana I took the train two hours in the north east direction to the country's second largest city Maribor. We were seven trainees in gynecology and obstetrics from different countries in Europe; Latvia, Estonia, Norway, Denmark, Ukraine, Austria and Sweden, who met up in the University hospital of Maribor. All together we were trainees from 25 different countries spread out in different hospitals in Slovenia.

The local trainees who were our hosts, made an ambitious schedule for our four days, to make sure we would see as much of Slovenian women's health care as possible. They were especially proud of the policlinic hysteroscopy that was very interesting to see. I also had the opportunity to see some procedures in operation room, gynecology and perinatology ultrasound, colposcopy and pregnancy check ups. Most things were similar to how we do it in sweden but some things were different. The biggest difference was the controls of pregnant women were the doctor do much more in Slovenia than in Sweden, were the midwife take care of all the controls in normal pregnancies, even the ultrasound. In Slovenia the ultrasounds and five clinical controls is made by the doctor during a normal pregnancy.
It was a great opportunity to do the ENTOG exchange. I got some great friends and the hosts were amazing welcoming us with open arms into their homes. After four intense days at the university hospital of Maribor we went back to Ljubljana for one day of scientific meeting. The program was very interesting and educational. It was an intense debate for and against forceps, were the voting after the debate was for the benefit of forceps. We participated in interactive work shops; “How to deal with a difficult colleague” and “How to prevent burnout”.

Thank you NFOG for the opportunity to go for the ENTOG exchange in Slovenia. It was a great experience I made friends and I learned that we all do the same thing but in a slightly different way!

Cecilia Allansson, trainee in obstetrics and gynecology
Karlstad hospital, Sweden