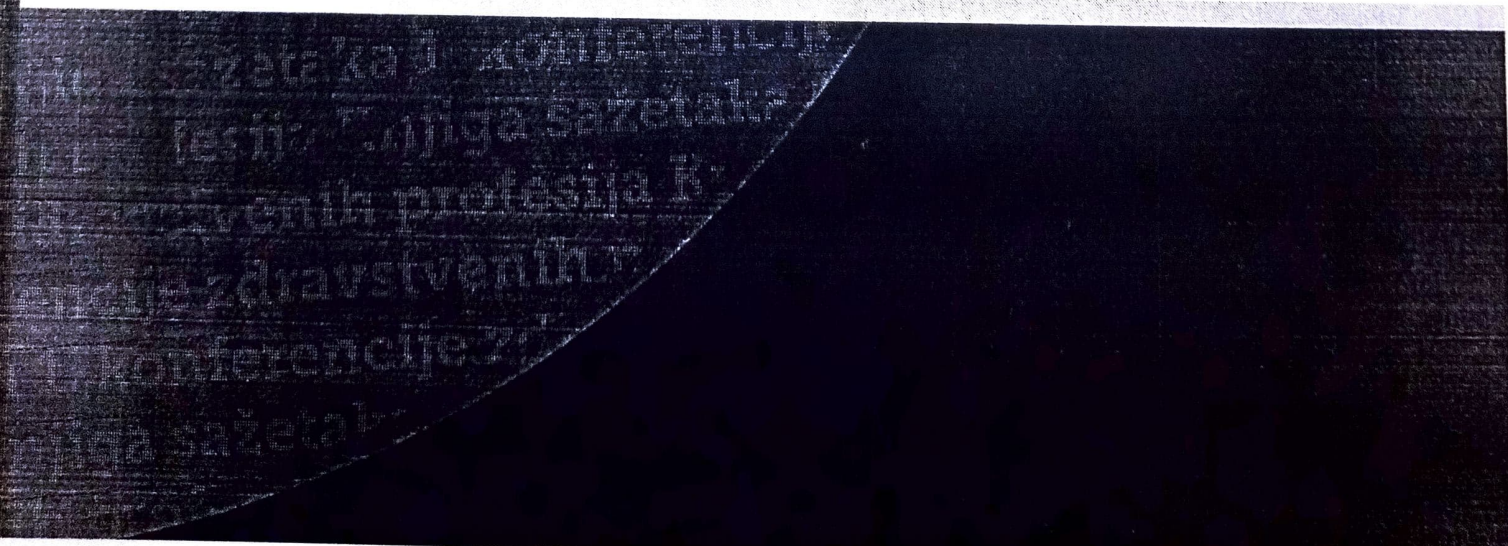


# Knjiga sažetaka 1. konferencije zdravstvenih profesija

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# CHALLENGES FOR NURSING EDUCATION IN REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

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The Higher Medical School in Bitola was established in the academic 1988/1989 year as the first institution to provide 2 year professional university education for nurses in Republic of Macedonia. In 1991/1992, a study program for midwives was established, and in the next three years, new study programs followed (medical-laboratory analysts 1996/1997, physiotherapy and radiological technologists 2007/2008).

The health professionals' education was reformed in 2002, with the adaptation of the law for higher education; the education of healthcare professionals was transformed into 3 years professional education. Another milestone in the health professionals' education in Macedonia happened in 2013 when a regulation passed that enabled health professionals to enroll in one year specialization in their professions.

Following the DIRECTIVE 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the recognition of professional qualifications, the Higher Medical School adapted the nursing and midwives education according to the Directive requirements. The nursing/midwives education still remains professional and, as such, obstructs the graduates to pursue academic career. The nursing education remains in the hands of medical doctors and other professionals, where the nurses and midwives have professional contribution without the open possibility to become independent professors in their own profession.

The Higher Medical School together with the nurses and midwives professional organizations, continuously places efforts towards achieving academic level of education, establishment of master and PhD studies of nursing/midwifery in Republic of Macedonia. There were two occasions when a new Law-Proposal for Nursing and Midwives education and practice, entered Parliament of Republic of Macedonia, however it did not pass the early parliamentary procedures.

Key words: nursing education, health professionals education, specialization in profession