RADIO MladiCe ([www.radio-mladice.rs](http://www.radio-mladice.rs))

Young people, who have overcome this serious illness, need to talk about their mutual experience. Only they can understand each other, regardless of age, education, interests. Often, friends and local community do not want to hear about their experiences. And they need not to, and should not. It is clear for MladiCe what the reasons are - it is mostly ignorance and fear.

Society does not care much for the children and families who have come face to face with a life-threatening disease. Every child who becomes a patient of oncology ward undergoes in person the suffering that can be compared with the sufferings of war, either through experience and perception of their own body changes, or as a witness. And those testimonies about the suffering of others are also traumatic. First of all there is separation from family and home environment, then loss of privacy, lack of personal space, the loss of some bodily functions or body parts, fear of pain, and eventually death.

What happens to them when they finish treatment? Is it only about saving their head on the shoulders or are we obliged to encourage them to take their life back and prepare them for all what life carries ahead? They should recover their way to live all aspects of
life. First of all, how to make up for the lost time? Again, after that, they become more mature in comparison to their peers and their views and appreciation of life becomes different.

After treatment they are often left alone together with their families. There is no system support, which would facilitate easy socialization and return to usual life routine after one, two or three years of treatment?

During one of the interviews with those young people, and ruminating over the ways how to articulate their desires and aspirations for connecting and working together, we were struck by the idea to create some form of radio programs that could be the link for all of them, and to use now widely spread and available media such as Internet to broadcast the voice of those young people in the air, so those who want to and should listen can hear them. The fact is that we are listening to them less and less and that we are still the ones who set the rules and guidelines and thus make their life worse for themselves...

These young people are neither contagious nor dangerous. They are beautiful, young, and happy, in love.... like everyone else. Then again, maybe they are a little different from the others. What binds them is the letter C in the medical record. But that is their letter C, and hence the working title of the whole project, "My name is not C40" where the idea for their informal hymn chosen by themselves – is a song of the group Vještice (The Witches) “Totally different from others.”
Throughout the world, those who have overcome this disease are known as “Survivors”. Serbian translation of this word sounds a bit rough “Preživeli”. We didn’t like it. And then, we came up with MladiCe, merging words Young "Mladi" and the letter C (in Serbian pronounced “tse”) as marker for the diagnosis of Cancer (mark according to international codes of the diseases). Although, now the name MladiCe can have other meanings and each one can be interpreted differently.

English synonyms:
scion
clapser
offset
offshoot
outgrowth
sapling
Young tree.
scion
seedling
Young plant or tree grown from a seed.
spire
sprig
sprout
tendril
graft

And thus linking socialization with the wishes of young people to be heard and to act independently while creating something, Internet radio “MladiCe” was born.

First broadcast took place on September 29th 2012 and since then each Saturday from 15:30 to 18:30 MladiCe tell their stories alive on the air. Each of the broadcasts is recorded and can be listen later on the website www.radio-mladice.rs or on the Facebook group page „MladiCe“
Association “Čika Boca“ (www.cikaboca.org) wholeheartedly stands behind this idea and heartily we did our best to provide the initial material resources for bringing this idea into life. We are here as technical and financial assistance, helping to find guests for radio-shows, finding donors for food during the broadcasts, as well as providing travel expenses since half of MladiCe lives outside of Belgrade... MladiCe choose the topics independently and often they are not related only to disease. Behind the whole story about MladiCe now stands also the Associations „Uvek sa decom“ ("Always with the children") and „Zvončica“ ("Tinker Bell") from Serbia.

Radio aims to put aside bad things such as sadness and misfortune and highlight the nice things like laughter, humor, happiness, beauty, youth so those things can come to the fore. Hence the topics of broadcasts - "What makes us happy", "What is humor", "How does music helps us", "Does your parents annoy you", "Love", "Friendship," "How does others see us", "Are we living too fast", "Why are the beds uncomfortable", "Which sport can I practice" and even "Do we understand what is nationalism and chauvinism" and other similar topics.

This unusual group of young people radiates positivity and hope and faith to those who are currently undergoing treatment. At the beginning of the project by promoting their work, they were surprised by themselves, but also thrilled to see the beaming faces of both children and parents, who did not believe that they were all being treated, and once were bald, pale...

All engaged on the project are volunteers. The idea is to help MladiCe to become self-sufficient and gather more young people who have had contact with the disease to be a part of this story, whether or not belonging perhaps to some other association. Idea is to encourage them to share their own stories, ideas, aware of the problem, starting with the trivial examples like transportation costs, and so on, leading towards life's more important issues, such as education, livelihoods. They need empowerment to become the driving force of all those who have been directly or indirectly confronted with this stupid cancer, as the driving force of youth who should lead this society.

PLAN IS TO EXPAND COOPERATION REGIONALY. WE HAVE RECEIVED ALREADY SOME INTERESTS AND ESTABLISHED CONTACTS. IF WE CAN EXTEND THE PROJECT AFTER JANUARY, REGIONAL COOPERATION WILL FOLLOW.
At the beginning, radio shows were done in groups. Imagine one better equipped room for the purpose, where we come, put tables, chairs and one laptop, plug one small microphone, connect to the internet and the broadcast starts.

After some time we provided mixer, more cords, better microphones... from one to the next broadcast we were all getting better and better both as moderators and with resolving technical issues. There were noises. Then MladiCe were also shy and spoke too quietly... in order to break their fear and make them relaxed, at the beginning, we have dressed up with a cheerful bright wigs, hats, little horns, sunglasses..

Our guests were always confused at the beginning of the broadcast. It is because everyone, when they hear the word CANCER, immediately thinks of a pathetic story, wailing over the fate and life. And then MladiCe breaks their prejudices in a split second. Their goal is to break taboos and prejudices at the first place. The problem with people is that they often feel sorry for them, but on the other hand those people who are informed about the course of treatment sometimes treat the subject as if it were some kind of fly, making it all too banal.

The phrase that is often repeated in our radio shows is well known role of Al Pacino in the movie "Scent of a Woman", which we adapted for our use as "Many have amputated an arm or a leg, but there is no prosthetic for amputation of a spirit."

When they have loosened up a little, we have started broadcasting programs with three different moderators and three teams. Again, interesting names:

„First Voice of MladiCe“ are Ivana, Sladj, Petar, Miloš, Dino, Dušan..
Second: „DNK“  Davor, Nikola and Kiza
Third: „Chitchat with 3M“  Milica, Milkica and Martina

Message to those around us: do not ignore those who are sick with cancer. They are not contagious, they are the same as everyone else... you don't necessarily die from it... statistics runs in our favor... survival rate in developed countries goes up to 80%, and in our country is slightly lower, around 65-75%. Not only drugs treat! Care, attention, positive attitude is a valuable and important factor in healing.

The disease takes something, but there are some things gained. These young people now appreciate their life more. Elevated, with gained friendships for life, they are more mature, spiritually enriched. They are not overwhelmed by big things, the little things are those that annoy them, they are medically trained... they have developed social intelligence... and they know how to approach others and help.

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