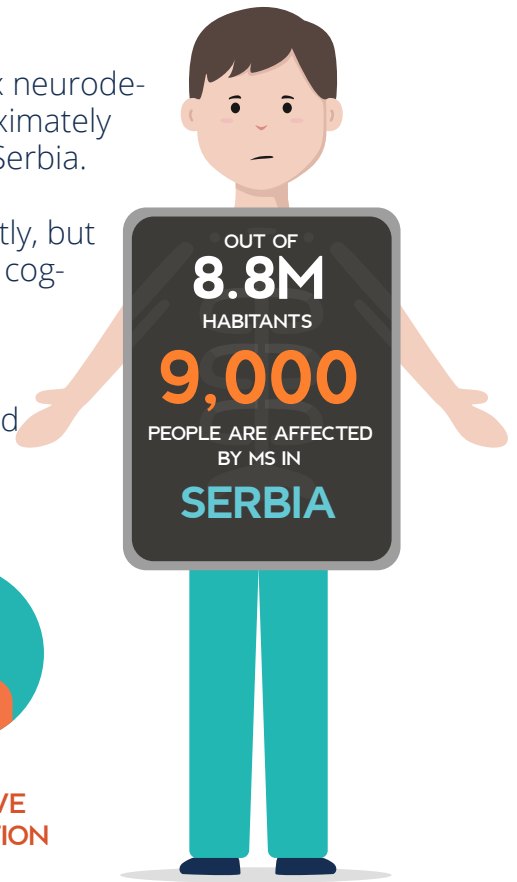


WHAT IS MS?

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a complex neurodegenerative disease affecting approximately 9,000 of the 8.8 million¹ people in Serbia.

Each person will experience this unpredictable disease differently, but common symptoms include pain, fatigue, reduced mobility and cognitive dysfunction.

There is currently no cure for MS; however, optimal treatment and support have a significant effect on disease progression and quality of life for people with MS.



PAIN



FATIGUE



REDUCED MOBILITY



COGNITIVE DYSFUNCTION

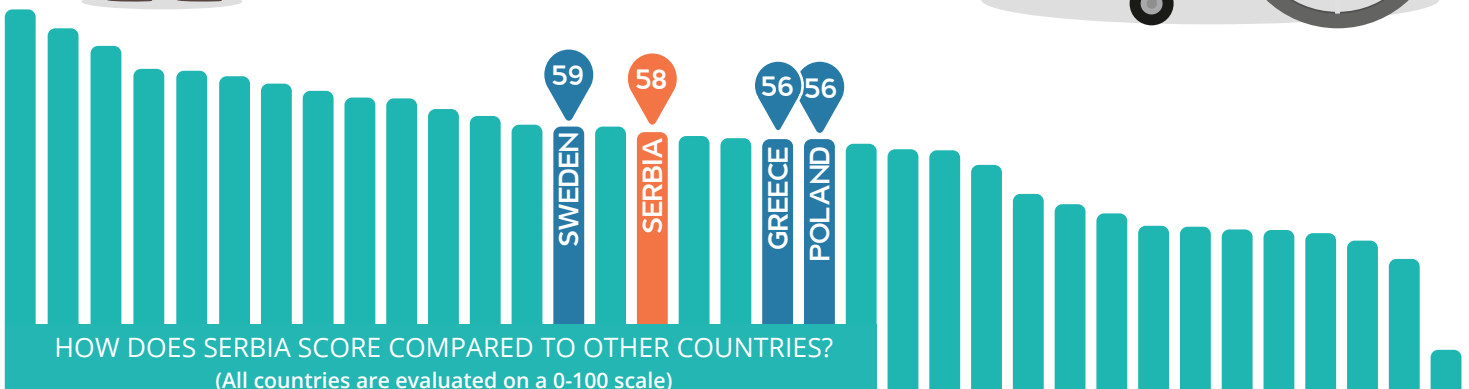
COUNTRY CONTEXT



Serbia has social health insurance providing near-universal coverage.² However, this is supplemented by significant out-of-pocket spending, and unmet needs persist as a result of geographical disparities between urban and rural regions, as well as a shortage of health specialists.



COUNTRY RANKING



HOW DOES SERBIA SCORE COMPARED TO OTHER COUNTRIES?

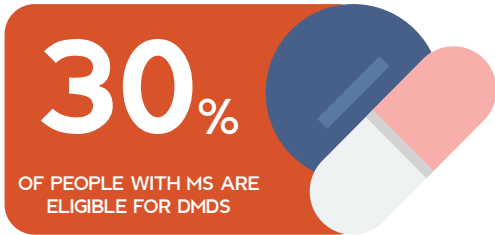
(All countries are evaluated on a 0-100 scale)



WHAT DID THE BAROMETER FIND?



In late 2019, Serbia approved reimbursement of almost all MS disease-modifying drugs (DMDs), greatly improving access to these essential therapies. However, barriers to availability of DMDs, care and support persist:



Only an estimated 30% of people with MS are eligible for DMDs.



There is no reimbursement for therapies for key symptoms, such as fatigue and pain.



Serbia has no legal provisions to protect people with MS against dismissal from employment due to their condition.



POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Develop a national neurological disease plan that includes a comprehensive approach to MS with an adequate budget for implementation.



Increase awareness of the needs of people with disabilities throughout the employment and education systems, and establish legal protection against dismissal from employment due to disability.



Revise reimbursement criteria to ensure all people with MS can access approved DMDs and symptomatic therapies at the point of diagnosis.



More information can be found at www.emsp.org or contact sutovic.ilic.dragana@gmail.com

EMSP would like to thank the sponsors which have financially supported this project including Almirall, Biogen, Bristol Myers Squibb, MedDay, Merck, Mylan, Novartis, Roche, and Sanofi Genzyme. EMSP retains editorial control of the Barometer.

