

Master Course in Heart Failure Skopje Skopje, North Macedonia, 17-19.09.2026

Directors:

Irena Mitevaska, MD FESC, Skopje
Tanja Anguseva, MD, FESC, Skopje
Jorgo Kostov, MD, FESC, Skopje
Thomas F. Lüscher, MD, FRCP, FESC, London

Under the Auspices of the National Society of Cardiology of North Macedonia
and Heart Failure Association of the European Society of Cardiology

Scientific Coordinator: Christine Lohmann, Zurich

Venue: Hotel Marriott Skopje

DAY 1, THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 17th, 2026

10:00 – 12:00 Session 1: Heart Failure: Update on the 2026 ESC Guidelines

Chairs: Thomas F. Lüscher, London and Jorgo Kostov, Skopje

10:00	Welcome by Course Directors	Irena Mitevaska, Jorgo Kostov, Skopje
10:10	Learning outcomes	Tanja Angjusheva, Skopje
10:20	Heart failure – the new 2026 ESC Guidelines	Sotiria Liori, Athens
10:40	2026 ESC Guidelines on Cardiovascular disease and chronic kidney disease	need speaker
11:00	2026 ESC Guidelines on Cardiac Rehabilitation	Maria Bäck, Linköping
11:20	2026 ESC Guidelines on 5 th Universal definition of myocardial infarction	Nicholas Mills, Edinburgh
11:40	Panel discussion	

12:00 – 12:30 Keynote Lecture: AI/ML in cardiovascular disease

Thomas F. Lüscher, London

12:30 – 13:15 LUNCH

13:15 – 14:30 Case-based Interactive Learning

(Breakout Sessions in three groups)

Advanced Echocardiography in HF

Assessment of congestion by ultrasound diagnostics

Stress echocardiography in coronary and non-coronary conditions

Alison Duncan, London
Planinka Zafirovska, Valentina Andova, Belgrade/Skopje
Rajdeep Khattar, London

14:30 – 15:45 Session 2: Assessing and Diagnosing Heart Failure

Chairs: Thomas F. Lüscher, London, Marija Zdravkovic, Belgrade

14:00	Clinical assessment of HF	Milka Klincheva, Skopje
14:20	Challenges in the diagnosis of heart failure ECG	Shouvik Haldar, London
14:40	Ergo spirometry in diagnosis of HF	Luke Howard, London
15:00	F.O.C.U.S.	Aleksandar Neshkovic, Belgrade
15:20	Differential diagnosis of cardiomyopathies	Benjamin Meder, Heildeberg
15:40	Panel discussion	

15:55 – 16:15 COFFEE BREAK

16:15 – 18:00 Session 3: Cardio-oncology

Chairs: Aldostefano Porcari, London, Marija Busheva, Skopje

- 16:15 The size of the problem
- 16:35 The ESC Guidelines on Cardio-oncology: what happened since?
- 16:55 Cardiotoxicity in heart failure
- 17:15 Amyloid heart disease
- 17:35 Panel discussion

need speaker
Thomas Suter, Bern
Sebastian Szmit, Warsaw
Aldostefano Porcari, London

DAY 2, FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 18th, 2026

09:00 – 11:00 Session 4: The Cardiometabolic Syndrome

Chairs: Petar Seferovic, Belgrade, Marjan Boshevski, Skopje

- 09:00 Obesity and heart failure: effects of GLP-1 agonists
- 09:20 Diabetes and heart failure: effects of SGLT-2i
- 09:40 CKD and cardiovascular risk: assessment and management
- 10:00 Hypertension: Lifestyle, medication or intervention?
The 2024 ESC and ESH Guidelines
- 10:20 LDL-C and Lipoprotein (a): novel therapeutic options
- 10:40 Panel discussion

John Deanfield, London
Petar Seferovic, Belgrade
Irena Mitevska, Skopje
Sofie Drouwers, Aalst

Florian Kronenberg, Innsbruck

11:00 – 11:30 COFFEE BREAK

11:30 – 13:15 Session 5: Arrhythmias and Cardiomyopathies

Chairs: Benjamin Meder, Heildeberg, Ivan Trajkov, Skopje

- 11:30 Atrial fibrillation in HF: epidemiology and prognosis
- 11:50 Patient selection for CRT-D or CRT-P: the 2024 ESC Guidelines
- 12:10 Catheter ablation of Afib: radiofrequency, cooling or PFA?
- 12:30 Current management of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy: devices and/or medication?
- 12:50 Panel discussion:

Lidija Poposka, Skopje
Vassil Traykov, Sofia
Daniel Scher, Graz
Benjamin Meder, Ger

13:15 – 14:00 LUNCH

14:00 – 15:15 Case-based Interactive Learning

(Breakout Sessions in three groups)

- Advanced Echocardiography in HF
- Assessment of congestion by ultrasound diagnostics
- Stress echocardiography in coronary and non-coronary conditions

Alison Duncan, London
Planinka Zafirovska, Valentina Andova, Belgrade/Skopje
Rajdeep Khattar

15:15 – 15:45 COFFEE

15:45 – 17:15 Session 6: Valvular Heart Disease

Chairs: Alison Duncan, London, Anna Sonia Petronio, Pisa

- 15:45 The 2025 ESC Guidelines on valvular heart disease
- 16:05 Multimodality imaging before, during and after valvular interventions
- 16:25 TEER for mitral and tricuspid regurgitation
- 16:45 Ultrasound diagnostics in aortic valvular disease

Anna Sonia Petronio, Pisa
Alison Duncan, London
Sotiria Liori, Athens
Elizabeta Srbnovska, Skopje

17:05 *Panel discussion:*

17:15 - 17:30 COFFEE

17:30 – 18:45 Session 7: Pulmonary hypertension and HF

Chairs: Irene Lang, Viena, Hristo Pejkov, Skopje

17:30 Pulmonary hypertension in HF

17:50 How do we treat PAH, when do we need triple therapy

18:10 Balon pulmonary angioplasty -state of the art

18:30 *Panel discussion:*

Tanja Angjusheva, Skopje

Hristo Pejkov, Skopje

Irene Marthe Lang, Vienna

DAY 3, SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 19th, 2026

09:00 – 10:45 Session 7: Interventions in Heart Failure

Chairs: Marija Polovina, Belgrade, Tanja Angjusheva, Skopje

09:00 PCI works in ischemic cardiomyopathy in selected patients

09:20 Medication is better than PCI in ischemic cardiomyopathy

09:40 Micro axial pump, ECMO or LVAD in acute HF

10:00 Cardiogenic shock after acute myocardial infarction:
current management and prognosis

10:20 *Panel discussion:*

Jorgo Kostov, Skopje

Marija Polovina, Belgrade

Ivan Knezevik, Ljubljana

Zarko Hristovski, Skopje

10:45 – 11:15 COFFEE BREAK

11:15 – 12:30 Case-based Interactive Learning

(Breakout Sessions in three groups)

Advanced Echocardiography in HF

Assessment of congestion by ultrasound diagnostics

Stress echocardiography in coronary and non-coronary conditions

Alison Duncan, London

Irina Kotlar/Ana Chelikik, Skopje

Rajdeep Khattar

12:45-13:00 Closing Session

Wrap-up and Adjourn

Tanja Angjusheva & Irena Mitevaska & Jorgo Kostov

13:00 LUNCH

**The programme might be subject to change.*