

EUROPEAN EPILEPSY DAY 2014

*Epilepsy
is more
than
seizures*

10 FEBRUARY 2014
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VITOMIRA LONČAR Actor CROATIA

**I had two seizures
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Well-known actor, Vita was diagnosed with Partial Complex epilepsy at the age of 15 and she has been on medication since then. Her acting career began in 1977 and between 1989 and 1997 she also had a daily live show on national TV, in addition to stage and film work. However, her career took a major change of direction when she began to have seizures caused by stage lighting (photosensitive epilepsy).

"I had my last opening in autumn 2004. I had two seizures on stage and then I realised that it was the end..." But while the curtain closed on one career, Vita looked for new opportunities. She now focuses on stage production; runs her private theatre; and is assistant professor at the Music academy of Zagreb.

She explains that epilepsy stigma is still a big issue in Croatia although, personally, she received good public support.

"When I came 'out of the shadows', my daughter was 12. School kids were cruel to her. She was also stigmatised because I was on the front page of magazines. In Croatian we have a politically incorrect term for people who have epilepsy and they called me that.

"In Croatia, 50% of the population, at that time, thought that epilepsy was a psychiatric disease". She is still the only Croatian celebrity to have gone public with her epilepsy.



 European Advocates for
epilepsy

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European Epilepsy Day is organised by Epilepsy Advocacy Europe Task Force,
European Advocates for Epilepsy MEP special interest group,
and by national epilepsy associations across Europe