In order to establish a FAS diagnosis, many social and medical obstacles have to be overcome. The level of knowledge about FAS within the European continent among paediatricians and school psychologists is alarmingly low. The opinions of gynaecologists in the EU are inconsistent and they often do not warn pregnant women of the harmfulness of alcohol. Gynaecologists are not trained on how to take care of pregnant alcoholics. Even when paediatricians know about alcohol consumption during pregnancy and suspect FAS, many of these children are not sent for FAS diagnosis because of the stigma and the fear of the biological family’s reaction and resistance.

A final problem is the inconsistency of the international classifications. In Slovakia, the diagnosis of FASD is new in terms of the multidisciplinary approach. Due to the rising interest of the target group in this type of diagnosis and the need for new forms of treatment and prevention in the area of FAS/FASD among the children at preschool and school age, a diagnostic team was formed in 2012 at the Pedagogical Faculty, Catholic University, in Ružomberok, as a first step in the diagnostics of FAS/FASD. The Centre of Diagnosis, Treatment and Prevention of FAS at the Catholic University Faculty of Education provides comprehensive diagnostic, counselling, rehabilitation, preventive, methodological, educational, research, and development activities, including a set of special pedagogical interventions for children diagnosed with FAS/FASD, in order to reach the optimal development of their personality and social integration. The centre is set up according to the American model of the clinic at the University of Washington in Seattle, which is run within the Centre on Human Development & Disability and is called FAS DNP (Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Diagnostic & Prevention Network). Because for children with FASD accurate diagnosis is the first and most important step that changes the attitude of parents and teachers in order to seek help, the idea of our centre is to create a network of diagnostic and therapeutic centres.

References
Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Fact Sheet, *NIH*, October 2010.