



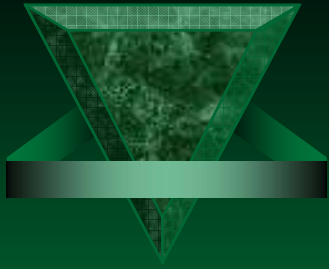
# ROMANIA

## Implementation of Communication on HIV/AIDS

### *Reactions and idea for the future*

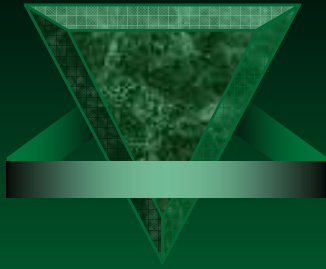
*Luxemburg, 25<sup>th</sup> April 2007*

*TT meeting*



# HIV/AIDS activities – legal framework

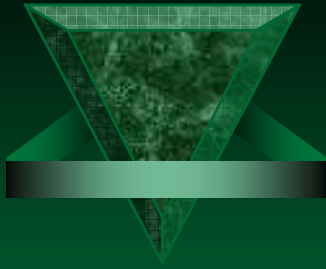
- ✔ **Public Health Law No. 95/2006;**
- ✔ **Ministerial Order No. 115/2004; Romanian National Clearinghouse Center;**
- ✔ **Law 584/2004 (regarding AIDS prevention and protection of people living with HIV);**
- ✔ **National Plan for Universal Access to HIV/AIDS Treatment and Care (2001);**
- ✔ **Ministerial Order 570/2007: Health National Programs founded by Ministry of Public Health.**



# Surveillance and control of HIV / AIDS infection

## ✓ Objectives:

- ✓ 1. Monitoring HIV / AIDS infection;
- ✓ 2. Decreasing of mother to child HIV transmission;
- ✓ 3. Increasing the period of life through early diagnostic of HIV / AIDS infection;
- ✓ 4. Limiting of transmission through early diagnostic, including in active supervisor and counseling.
- ✓ 5. Introduction of second generation supervisor in the frame of current activities of monitoring HIV / AIDS infection.
- ✓ 6. Prevalence of HIV estimation in general population and in at risk sub – population.



# Surveillance and control of HIV / AIDS infection

## ✓ **Activities:**

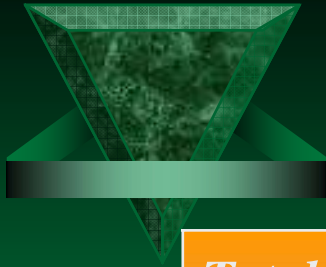
- ✓ 1. Find out of mother to child transmission.
- ✓ 2. Find out of HIV / AIDS infection in risk group, according with the laws in vigor.
- ✓ 3. Find out of HIV / AIDS infection: volunteer testing with counseling pre and post testing.
- ✓ 4. Assurance of diagnostic tests; eligibility for treatment and monitoring;;
- ✓ 5. Counseling activities pre and post testing (the assurance of informative materials, condoms)
- ✓ 6. Improvement of a sentinel system for pregnant women testing, ill people with STI from the clinics of dermato – venerology, person with TB.
- ✓ 7. Monitoring the efficiency of the epidemiologic supervision.

**Ministry of Public Health ROMANIA**  
**“PROF. DR. MATEI BALȘ” Infectious Diseases Institute**  
**Compartment of HIV/AIDS Monitoring and Evaluation**  
**31<sup>st</sup> December 2006**

<b><i>TOTAL AIDS CASES (CUMULATIVE)</i></b>	<b>10.264</b>
Children AIDS cases* - total:	7384
- In life	3.536
- Death cases	3.766
- Lost from data base	92
Children AIDS cases* - total:	2.880
- In life	1.767
- Death cases	1022
- Lost from data base	91
<b><i>AIDS Deaths cases TOTAL</i></b>	<b>4.745</b>
<b><i>TOTAL HIV INFECTION CASES (CUMULATIVE)</i></b>	<b>6.613</b>
Children HIV infection cases*	4.488
Adults HIV infection cases	2.125
HIV infection cases lost from data base (adults + children)	384

\*0-14 years old – diagnosis time

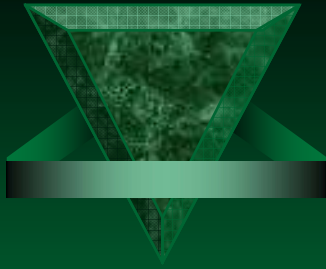
Source: Compartment for HIV/AIDS Monitoring and Evaluation. “Prof. Dr. M. Balș” Infectious Diseases Institute



**Ministry of Public Health ROMANIA**  
**“PROF. DR. MATEI BALȘ” Infectious Diseases Institute**  
**Compartment of HIV/AIDS Monitoring and Evaluation**  
**31<sup>st</sup> December 2006**

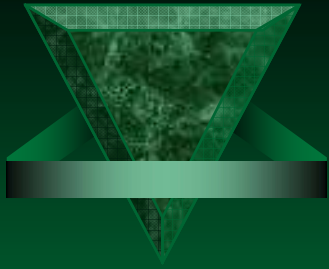
<i>Total patients included in active evidence (HIV+AIDS) – 30<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2006 (with minimum one control)</i>	<b>8.641</b>
<i>Children (0-14 years old*)</i>	358
<i>Adults (&gt; 14 years old*)</i>	8.283
<i>Total patients under ARV treatment and non-ARV treatment – JUNE 30<sup>th</sup> 2006</i>	<b>6.846</b>
<i>Children (0-14 years old*)</i>	280
<i>Adults (&gt; 14 years old*)</i>	6.566

\* Age at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2006



**GOVERNMENT OF ROMANIA**  
**NATIONAL STRATEGY for surveillance, control and prevention of HIV/AIDS cases 2004 - 2007**

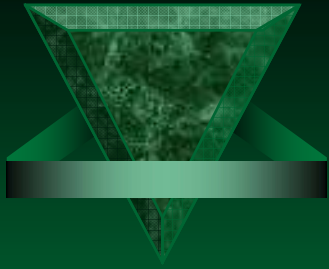
- The *strategy of Ministry of Public Health* proposes **three major intervention areas**:
- **1. Prevention of HIV transmission** – the main goal is to **maintain the HIV incidence in 2007 at the 2002 level**.
- Within this area there are foreseen **eight priorities** determining the focus of the whole strategy towards prevention activities, especially the prevention of HIV transmission among young people and groups with risk behaviors associated with commercial sex or injecting drug use.



## **GOVERNMENT OF ROMANIA NATIONAL STRATEGY for surveillance, control and prevention of HIV/AIDS cases 2004-2007**

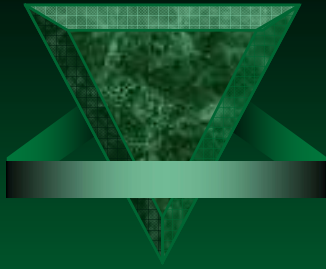
- **2. Access to treatment, care and psycho-social support services for people infected, affected or groups vulnerable to HIV/AIDS.**
- This second major area aims to: ensure access to universal treatment, care and social support for PLWHA, as well as reinforcing the health care system for sexually transmitted infections and substance abuse.
- This intervention area has four priorities focused on the promotion and respect of the rights of PLWHA and vulnerable groups.





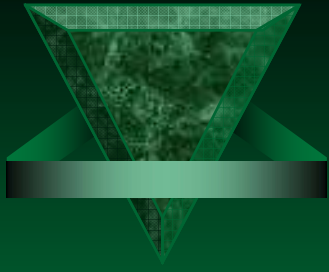
## **GOVERNMENT OF ROMANIA** **NATIONAL STRATEGY for surveillance, control** **and prevention of HIV/AIDS cases 2004-2007**

- **3. Surveillance of HIV and associated risk factors.**
- The goal of the third priority area of the strategy is to develop and maintain efficient surveillance systems for HIV/AIDS and associated risk factors, to provide timely information regarding the epidemic and the determinants of its evolution and to allow development of appropriate programmes and interventions, including social intervention for PLWHA and vulnerable groups.



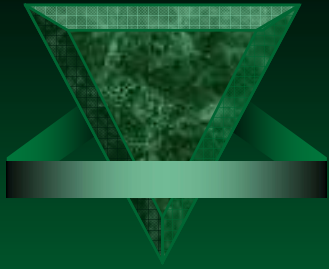
## The main objectives of National HIV/AIDS prevention policy

- ✓ Within this area there are foreseen **eight priorities** determining the focus of the whole strategy towards prevention activities, especially
  - the prevention of HIV **transmission among young people** and
  - **groups with risk behaviors** associated with commercial sex or injecting drug use.



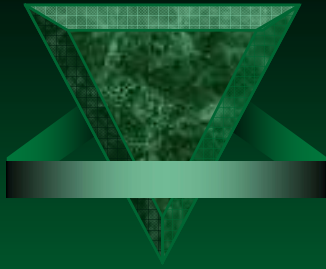
## **Main approaches of national HIV-AIDS policy**

- ✓ **I. The main target groups of National HIV/AIDS prevention policy:** young people, prostitutes, IDUs, prisoners, homeless, MHSM, pregnant women, Rroma communities, medical staff.
- ✓ **II. The main approaches of National HIV/AIDS prevention policy**



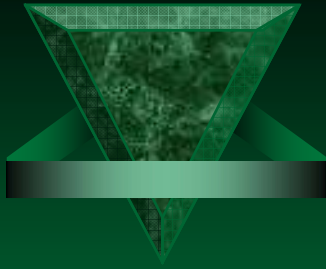
# Main approaches of national HIV-AIDS policy

- ✓ **II. The main approaches of National HIV/AIDS prevention policy**
  
- ✓ **1.1. Prevent the transmission among young people**
- ✓ **Goal:** Reducing the number of new HIV infection cases among young people. The youngsters will know how to avoid HIV infection and will have the power, means, and desire to act on this knowledge.
  
- ✓ **a) Change of individual behavior and group norms**
- ✓ **b) Condom use promotion**
- ✓ **c) School education**
- ✓ **d) HIV/AIDS prevention in the military units (of the Defense Ministry and of the Ministry of Administration and Internal Affairs)**



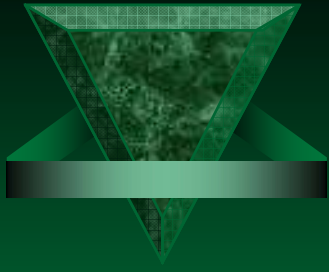
## **Main approaches of national HIV-AIDS policy**

- **1.2. Prevention of HIV transmission associated with the commercial sex (commercial sex workers – CSWs)**
- **Goal: Reducing the CSWs' vulnerability to HIV/AIDS and STIs**
  
- **a) Creating an enabling environment for development of efficient programs**
- **b) Expansion of HIV/AIDS and STIs prevention programs targeting CSWs at national level**
- **c) Increase awareness of CSWs on HIV/AIDS, STIs and other occupational risks**



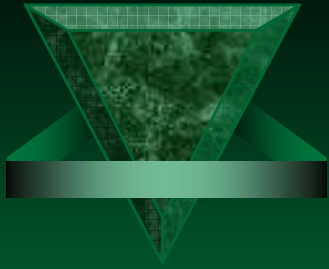
## **Main approaches of national HIV-AIDS policy**

- **1.3. Prevention of HIV transmission among IDUs**
- **Goal:** Prevention of HIV outbreak among IDUs and reduce the infection rates of viral hepatitis and sexual transmitted infections.
- **a) Demand reduction**
- **b) Reduction of risks associated with drug use**



## **Main approaches of national HIV-AIDS policy**

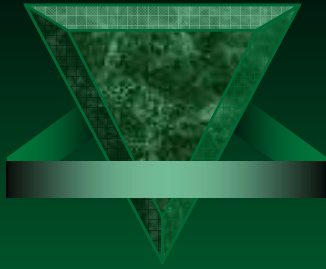
- ✓ **1.4. Prevention of HIV transmission in the prisons**
- ✓ **a) Development of the framework needed for the implementation of appropriate programs**



## **Organizational network of National HIV/AIDS programme**

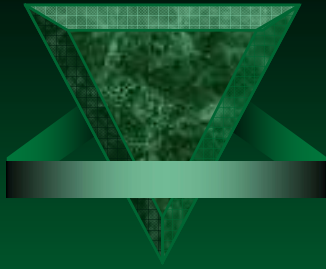
- **Romania has a National AIDS Commission under the authority of the Prime Minister - coordinate the activities in HIV/AIDS field.**
- **Ministry of Public Health/Authority of Public Health: coordinate the activities in health sector (prevention, diagnosis and treatment).**
- **Compartment for HIV/AIDS Monitoring and Evaluation. “Prof. Dr. M. Balș” Infectious Diseases Institute ([www.cnlas.ro](http://www.cnlas.ro))**





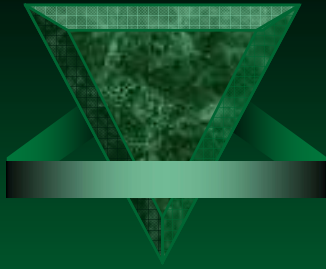
## Organizational network of National HIV/AIDS programme

- ✓ **Activities developed by IPH Bucharest in collaboration with „Prof. Dr. Matei Balș” Institute:**
- ✓ 1. Monitoring and evaluation at the national level of the program, using indicators of methodological evaluation;
- ✓ 2. Assure the technique and methodological coordination of the program;
- ✓ 3. Report to the Authority of Public Health from the Ministry of Public Health the quarterly and yearly indicators; make proposals for improvement of unrolling program.



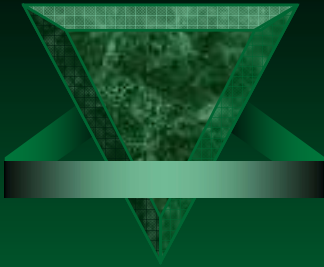
## **Organizational network of National HIV/AIDS programme**

- ✓ **41 Public Health District Authorities and HAD of Bucharest city**
  - health promotion activities;
  - local center for HIV support and advising (HIV testing on requested basis (with pre- and post-testing consultancy)).



# Organizational network of National HIV/AIDS programme

- ✓ **HIV/AIDS Information/Documentation Center founded by HIV/AIDS Projects Implementation Unit (HIV/AIDS - PIU)**
- ✓ The Center belongs to IPH Bucharest and was created according with Ministerial Order 115/2004 and having the financial support of Global Fond for AIDS, malaria and TB.
- ✓ HIV/AIDS – PIU is a specialized unit of Ministry of Public Health.
- ✓ **Mission:** the management and projects coordinated implemented by Ministry of Public Health; **improvement of communication and experience exchange regarding HIV/AIDS prevention/drugs abuse between experts from public health domain and civil society.**
- ✓ [www.pub-health-iasi.ro](http://www.pub-health-iasi.ro), link: [colaboratori](http://colaboratori): [www.informathiv.ro](http://www.informathiv.ro)

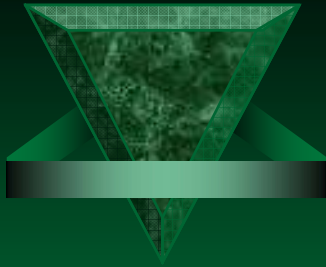


✓ **Romanian National Clearinghouse in HIV/STI/Drug abuse**

<http://www.informathiv.ro>

- established in 2004

- ✓ funding from Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
- ✓ implemented as a HIV/SIDA PIU project
- ✓ located within the Bucharest Institute of Public Health, working closely with:
  - ✓ - Institute Departments: Public health department, Hygiene department
  - ✓ - “Carol Davila” University of Medicine and Pharmacy
  - ✓ - University Hospital
  - ✓ - Centre for Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases
  - ✓ - Non - governmental organizations



## Mission of Romanian National Clearinghouse in HIV/STI/Drug abuse

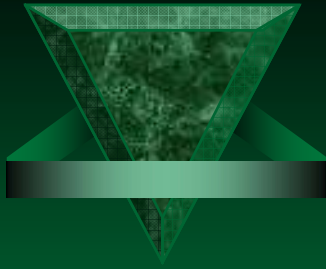
- ✓ *Developing and strengthening the communication and knowledge exchange regarding STIs/HIV/AIDS/drugs addiction between health professionals by encouraging the participation of specialists and broad public.*

## Vision of Romanian National Clearinghouse in HIV/STI/Drug abuse

- ✓ *The center will function as a network between the medical environment, decision makers, local communities and broad public.*

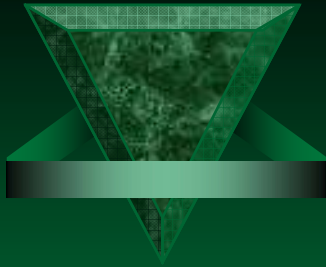
## Goal of Romanian National Clearinghouse in HIV/STI/Drug abuse

- ✓ *To promote the information exchange and collaboration between institutions, NGOs and other similarly centers and also between the persons interested in STIs area, especially HIV/AIDS.*

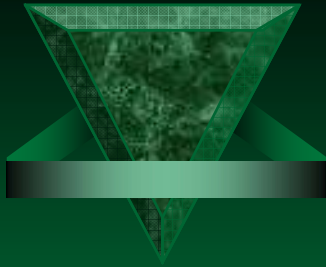


## ✓ *SERVICIES*

- ✓ As a clearinghouse, it collects and disseminates information on field.
- ✓ We do this through an integrated service comprising:
  - Clearinghouse library
  - Clearinghouse electronic library
  - Clearinghouse website
  - Other services
  - Free information products: Flyers, posters, brochures



- ✓ *CLEARINGHOUSE LIBRARY*
- ✓ A comprehensive HIV/AIDS collection in Romania
- ✓ Over 5000 books in following areas:
  - HIV/AIDS/STIs, Drugs
  - Health promotion, Mental health
  - Epidemiology, Infectious diseases
  - Psychology, counseling
  - Social assistance, Communication
  - HIV/AIDS program assessment
- ✓ Anyone with an interest in HIV/AIDS issues can browse the library.
- ✓ The library is open from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday, and can be visited at 1-3, Dr. Leonte Street, Bucharest.
- ✓ Our resources are updated regularly.



## ✓ *CLEARINGHOUSE ELECTRONIC LIBRARY*

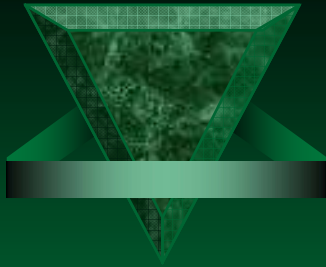
### ✓ **PROQUEST data base**

- Online access to full-text articles, abstracts
- Interconnectivity of articles
- Search engine for subject, author, key words, publications
- Need endowment for printing of selected articles
- Free access for visitors

### ✓ **Full-text articles/abstracts on CDs**

### ✓ **Flyers, posters, brochures, TV adds - realized by NGOs**





***CLEARINGHOUSE WEBSITE*** – over 25,000 visitors in 2006 and 7,580 in 2007 (January, 1st – April, 17th)

Center's presentation

Information regarding HIV/AIDS symptoms, treatment, prevention, testing

The list with existing books, in the center, with the possibility of fast search

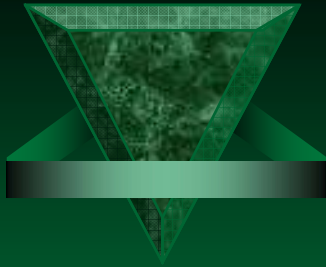
Presentation of the NGOs which activate in the area

Events

Links to national and international institutions in field

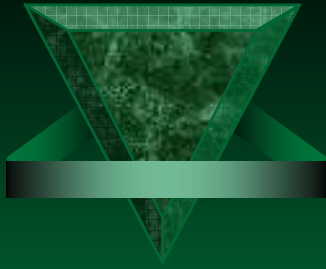
Data base regarding the IEC campaigns

Monthly electronic newsletter



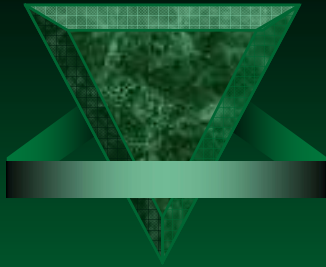
- ***OTHER SERVICES***

- Printing informative materials which cannot be borrowed
- Printing PROQUEST materials
- Sending electronic information by email
- Internet acces
- Hosting related courses
- Writing materials/information on CDs
- Scanning



## ✔ Who are Clearinghouse target audiences?

- ✔ NCH primarily targets workers involved in HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and support for people infected or affected
- ✔ practitioners, researchers and policy makers from government and non-government sectors:
  - **individual beneficiaries:** students, physicians, residents, sociologists, psychologists, social workers, teachers, NGOs and other institutions involved in HIV/AIDS/STIs/drugs addiction, health promotion, mental health, persons affected by diseases mentioned above;
  - **institutions beneficiaries:** Universities' libraries, Schools' offices, Counseling offices, Family planning offices, Hospitals, clinics, Schools, Professional associations from medical, social areas, psychologists, etc.



## ***FUTURE PLANS:***

### **An Advisory Partners' Group:**

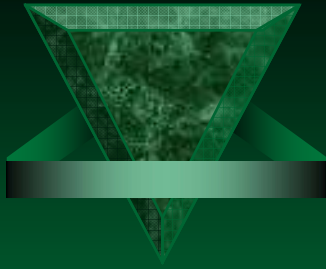
- assisting in the ongoing development of the Clearinghouse
- ensuring that our services meet the needs of our key target groups
- including representatives from the key program areas/agencies

### **Quality assured information:**

- employing/training professional staff from disciplines including information management, psychology, youth work, community work, health promotion, education and communications.

### **Membership:**

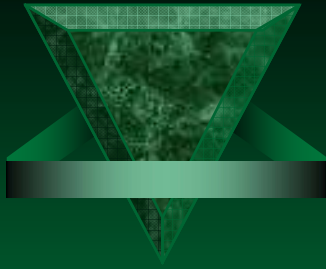
- everybody with an interest in field, can get involved by becoming a member of the Clearinghouse (providing feedback and contribute ideas about services provided, contributing to the NCH newsletter, etc.)



## ✔ Contact details

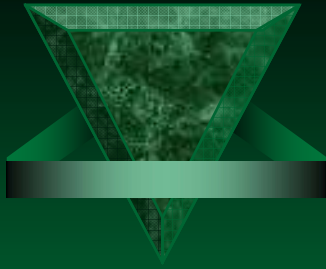
### **Romanian National Clearinghouse in HIV/STI/Drug abuse**

- ✔ **Address:** 1-3, Dr. Leonte Street, Bucharest, Romania
- ✔ **Website:** <http://www.informathiv.ro>
- ✔ **Telephone:** +021 318 36 17
- ✔ **Fax :** +021 318 36 17
- ✔ **Email:** office@informathiv.ro



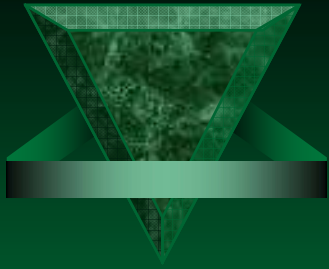
# NGOs in Romania

- ✓ **Romanian Angel Appeal Foundation (RAA), [www.raa.ro](http://www.raa.ro)**, is one of the most important providers of medical services and psycho-social support for children and young people in need, affected by chronic conditions, subject to discrimination and social exclusion.
- ✓ It's main activity and expertise areas are:
- ✓ Direct multidisciplinary services for children and young people affected by HIV/AIDS or with special needs;
- ✓ Training programs;
- ✓ Distance and residential learning programs for staff working in the medical and social field;
- ✓ Development of social involvement initiatives;
- ✓ Education and prevention on HIV/AIDS and other STDs;
- ✓ Consultancy and training for governmental institutions, small and medium sized enterprises;
- ✓ Medical and behavioural studies.



# NGOs

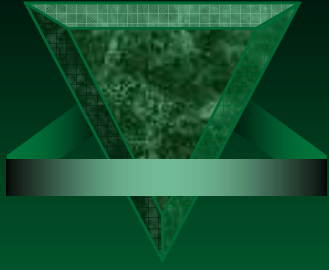
- ✓ **ARAS – Asociația Română Anti SIDA (Romanian Association Against AIDS)**
- ✓ Web: [www.arasnet.ro](http://www.arasnet.ro)
  
- ✓ **PSI – Population Services International,**
- ✓ PSI Romania: program: (1) HIV-AIDS reproductive health; (2) HIV-Aids prevention (Condom social marketing; Youth program; Men who have sex with men (MSM) Program; Roma Male Youth Program; Risk Net Regional Program); (3) Reproductive health (Family Planning)
- ✓ [www.psi.org](http://www.psi.org)
  
- ✓ **TNT – Tineri pentru tineri (Youth for Youth)**
  
- ✓ **Romanian Harm Reduction Network- RHRN**
- ✓ Web: [www.rhrn.ro](http://www.rhrn.ro)
  
- ✓ **National Union of Associations of the infected and affected person with HIV / SIDA (UNOPA)**
- ✓ [www.unopa.ro](http://www.unopa.ro)



# Perspectives

- ✔ Stronger cooperation between MoPH and others “actors” from HIV/AIDS field;
- ✔ To have an important role in the region as border country (partner of neighbouring countries in preventing HIV/AIDS and research, including FP7);





Thank you!



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