ROMANIA
Implementation of Communication on HIV/AIDS
Reactions and idea for the future
Luxemburg, 25th 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);
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.
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 dermatology – venerology, person with TB.

✔ 7. Monitoring the efficiency of the epidemiologic supervision.
**TOTAL AIDS CASES (CUMULATIVE)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children AIDS cases* - total:</td>
<td>7384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- In life</td>
<td>3.536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Death cases</td>
<td>3.766</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Lost from data base</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children AIDS cases* - total:</td>
<td>2.880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- In life</td>
<td>1.767</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Death cases</td>
<td>1022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Lost from data base</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AIDS Deaths cases TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>4.745</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL HIV INFECTION CASES (CUMULATIVE)</strong></td>
<td>6.613</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children HIV infection cases*</td>
<td>4.488</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults HIV infection cases</td>
<td>2.125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV infection cases lost from data base (adults + children)</td>
<td>384</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*0-14 years old – diagnosis time

Source: Compartment for HIV/AIDS Monitoring and Evaluation. “Prof. Dr. M. Balș” Infectious Diseases Institute
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total patients included in active evidence (HIV+AIDS) – 30th JUNE 2006</strong></td>
<td>8,641</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children (0-14 years old*)</td>
<td>358</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults (&gt; 14 years old*)</td>
<td>8,283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total patients under ARV treatment and non-ARV treatment – JUNE 30th 2006</strong></td>
<td>6,846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children (0-14 years old*)</td>
<td>280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults (&gt; 14 years old*)</td>
<td>6,566</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Age at 30th June 2006

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

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)
Organizational network of National HIV/AIDS programme

- Activities developed by IPH Bucharest in collaboration with „Prof. Dr. Matei Balş” 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.

Romanian National Clearinghouse in HIV/STI/Drug abuse

- 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.
SERVICES

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
- Interconectivity 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](http://www.informathiv.ro)
- **Telephone:** +021 318 36 17
- **Fax:** +021 318 36 17
- **Email:** office@informathiv.ro
Romanian Angel Appeal Foundation (RAA), 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.

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