



Parlamentul României
Senat

Bucharest, 30th September 2014

Courtesy translation

OPINION

**of the ROMANIAN SENATE, on the
COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION
On effective, accessible and resilient health systems**

COM(2014) 215 final

The Senate of Romania has examined the **Communication from the commission on effective, accessible and resilient health systems** COM(2014) 215 final, according to the provisions of the Treaty of Lisbon (Protocol no.1).

Taking into account the report of our permanent Committee on European Affairs **the Plenum of the Senate**, during its session on the 30 September 2014, has established the following:

(1) Several recommendations that are set out in this Communication of the Commission regarding the new paradigm on which the health system is due to be built have already been implemented in Romania.

(2) *Regarding the accessibility to the national health system*, the Romanian law defines in the framework of the basic health service packages and in the minimal services package the types of services for insured and uninsured individuals. Through the national public health programs and the national health curative programs, the citizens, contributors or not to the health insurance system, are provided with certain medical services, drugs and medical devices for diseases with a major impact on the state of health of the population. Romania seeks to promote efficient investments in the health and human resources field by appropriately developing the e-health system and by efficiently using the available EU financial resources that can contribute to the innovation of the health system and to the reduction of the health inequalities.

(3) At the Council Meetings on Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Protection, Romania considered that the investments in modern technologies are a driving force for growth and allow substantial structural and systemic changes. *The use of health technologies has the potential to contribute to the sustainability of the health systems* by increasing the efficiency, the effectiveness, the transparency, the equality in terms of access to services, in addressing the challenges of cross-border healthcare, the aging population and shortage of medical personnel, but also by developing innovative models of care. Thus, the implementation of interoperable solutions in the health care field is a priority on the national agenda.

(4) *The computerization of the health system is a part of the health sector reform plan, with the final objective of improving the management and the financing of the health sector, allowing a better control of the distribution of financial resources, strengthening the possibility of control, making a more efficient system and improving the quality of care.*

(5) The Order of the Minister of Health and of the President of the National Health Insurance no. 1571/1047/2010 with subsequent amendments approved the measures of implementing the e-Romania strategy and e-health. As action directions we can mention a number of initiatives implemented or being in progress:

- a) *the electronic prescription system is operating since January 2013;*
- b) *at the health insurance level, the Integrated Information System for the registration of the insured persons and for the management and the administration of the funds was implemented and is operational;*
- c) *the project of the electronic patient file is under implementation, tests on the installation and configuration of the infrastructure and the standard software being carried out;*
- d) *the electronic prescription became mandatory starting with 1 January 2013. Since 1 June 2014, in order to increase the accessibility of the patients to prescriptions, the option of fractional prescription was introduced, in the sense that the chronic patient with a determined treatment scheme and whose medical prescription was issued for 3 months, can monthly go to the pharmacy to take the needed medication without first needing to go to the family doctor or specialist for a prescription.*
- e) *another project under implementation is that of the health card, for which the installation of the IT solution was finalized, the technical tests on the functioning of the cards were performed and the implementation - pilot phase was finalized. This attests that the possessor is card is insured by the health insurance system.*
- f) *The Ministry of Health together with U.S. Trade and Development Agency developed a pilot project on the expansion of the telemedicine network to the rural areas. This project builds on the important experience held by Romania in the implementation of the telemedicine system for the emergency care sector. Romania has implemented the first pilot project of telemedicine in 2009, in Targu Mures. The implemented system implies the existence of a system for interconnecting audio-video and data, through which smaller hospitals in the country can receive from a coordination center located in Targu Mures support and medical advice for the transfer of critically ill patients.*

The development of the *e-health solutions* is a necessity for the health systems in the current context of the single market and the liberalization of health services. It is intended to develop through the e-health services those electronic services targeted to respond to the needs of citizens, for a more efficient use of his time, as well as to create more efficient public health services through the development of national databases on the health of patients in hospitals, the medical practices and the development of services that can continuously monitor the health of patients heart, diabetes and other diseases, as well as persons with disabilities.

p. President

Cristian – Sorin Dumitrescu