



Dolj - Vratsa HEALTH

Interreg V-A Romania-Bulgaria Programme

Starting



Common problems

- population: declining
- health services: affected
- some treatments: simply unavailable
- heart conditions: leading cause of death



Cooperation

Dolj and Vratsa cooperation background goes back to the early 2000s - focused on transport, emergency situations management, public administration, culture and heritage actions.

This is the first healthcare initiative.

Cross-border partnership

- ✓ **Dolj County Council**
- ✓ **Kozloduy Municipality**
- ✓ **Clinical Emergency County Hospital Craiova**
- ✓ **Vratsa District Administration**



1.483.009,98 euro - Interreg V-A Romania-Bulgaria Programme

2 years: April 2017 - April 2019

1. **Analysis: healthcare in Dolj and Vratsa**
2. **Case study: cardiology and cardiovascular surgery**
3. **Fully Operation Room for cardiovascular surgery - Emergency Hospital Craiova**
4. **Modernization + equipment for “Ivan Rilski” Hospital - Kozloduy**
5. **Conferences, mass-media and webportal for information and awareness**
6. **Cross-border health network among professionals**

**What are
we
doing?**

working together: 1 working group;
knowing each other: 1 analyze & 1 case study;
connecting stakeholders: 1 seminar;
future plans: cooperation agreement;
**people to people: professionals network, expertize
exchange visits**
**awareness and communication: internet portal for
public and professionals**

**How we
do it?**

Analysis of the current situation

Figures

18.000 euro / surgery – EU level
7.000 euro/ surgery - Bulgaria
2.000 euro/ surgery - Romania

Facts

Current healthcare systems have been created in 1998;

Healthcare Laws and Healthcare Ministries;

RO& BG transposed Directive 2011/24/EU in 2014;

Cardiovascular diseases are the first cause of mortality;

RO - life expectancy is constantly declining;

Negative demography.

Organization

RO: hospitals are public institutions subordinated to Healthcare Ministry or to the county/local councils;

BG: hospitals transformed into companies under the Trade Law, shares are owned by State, districts, municipalities.

Funding

RO: state/local/health insurances budgets mainly;

BG: national contracts - HM with each healthcare unit; monthly funding for real cost of services; the financial result affected; funding problem - equipment.

Analysis of the current situation

Access to services

Financial constraints, migration of workforce, management, lack of new technologies, policy issues etc. – affecting access to/quality of medical services;

Human resources: training and expertise exchange/share needs.

Education: Medical University of Craiova and Nurses School Craiova; Nurses College in Vratsa – exchanges opportunity;

Craiova Hospital - strategic, large unit (1,600 beds); smaller Vratsa units (Hristo Botev Hospital, “Ivan Rilski”-Kozloduy) and in NW BG;


5 medical branches - common challenges (equipment, staff): cardiology, surgery, Ob & Gyn, neurology, ICU;

BG: a ministry Commission for medical treatment abroad; dedicated fund for children treatment outside the country;

RO: treatment abroad by the National Health Insurances Office;

Different admission procedures: day/continuous hospitalization (RO) versus specific clinical pathway (BG).

Case study: Dolj-Vratsa – cardiovascular interventions

- 
- Craiova Hospital had no invasive cardiology department before 2018; neither at regional level;
 - All patients transferred to Bucharest, Timisoara or Targu Mures (closest @ 250km); air (helicopter) ambulance available at Craiova International Airport;
 - New Clinic for Interventional Cardiology and Cardio-Vascular Surgery opened in 2018;
 - Interventional Cardiology already functional (chronic); 2019 - the staff will be supplemented for emergency services;
 - 2 operation rooms for cardio-vascular surgery are being equipped; 1 through DJ-VR Health;
 - Staff problem: specialized staff from Craiova and Targu Mures; currently training in other cardiology centers; to be defined in 2019;
 - Patients' demand increasing.

Case study: Dolj-Vratsa – cardiovascular interventions

- In 2017 – “Hristo Botev” Hospital in Vratsa shuts down the invasive cardiology department;
- No interventional cardiology or cardio-vascular surgery units are available in Vratsa district;
- In NW BG, Vidin district hospital has the only invasive cardiology department (angiograph), but it copes with a trained staff deficit; Pleven Hospital provides 2+2 medical staff - 1 day/week;
- In Vratsa district, 50 beds are allocated for cardiology specialization and there are 14 specialists (doctors);
- Patients are transferred to Sofia and Pleven (400 km area);
- Air (helicopter) emergency in Vidin (contract with Sofia Company);
- Patients' demand increasing.

Case study: Dolj-Vratsa

Agreement



- Stakeholders Seminar in Craiova – how can the new cardiology Clinic from Craiova to play a role at cross-border level given the lack of medical services and specialized staff, versus the patients demand/need, both in emergency and planned care:
 - Hospitals
 - Health insurance administrators
 - Medical University
 - Local government

Cooperation agreement will be concluded with cooperation objectives:

- Work together. Exchange opinions. Know-how transfer.
- Analyze cases with the expertise from both sides of the border.
- Treat patients in the special unit created in Craiova, if necessary.

Cardiovascular Craiova

Surgery Room -

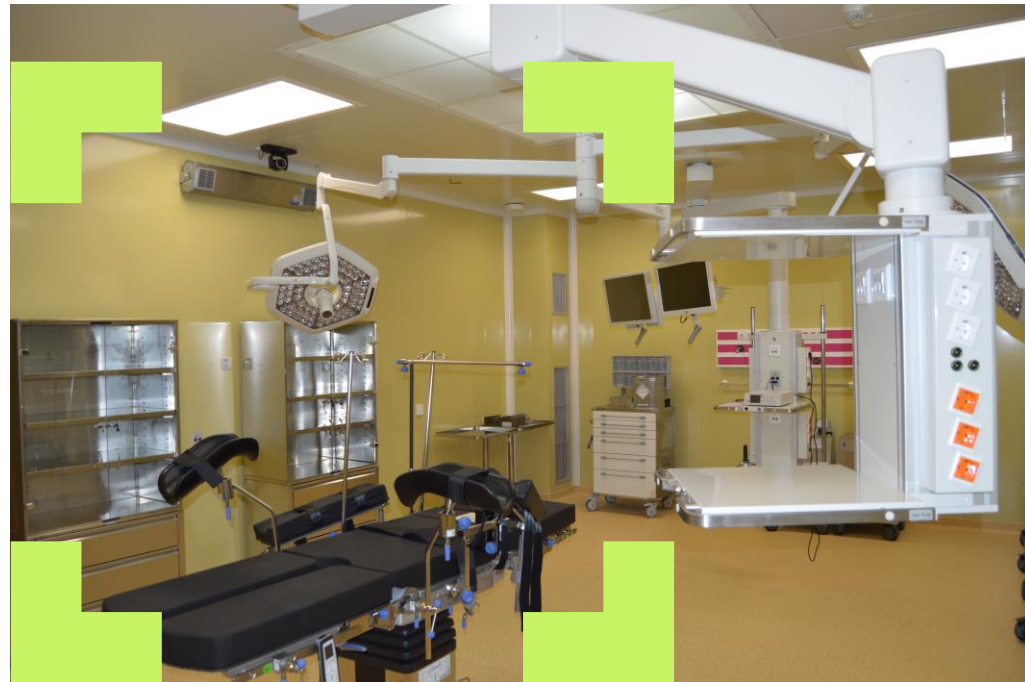
- ✓ Satellite surgical lamp & integrated video camera
- ✓ Operating table with accessories
- ✓ Digital system for the surgery room
- ✓ Bactericidal lamp
- ✓ External circulatory pumps
- ✓ Furniture and aseptic surgical sink



Cardiovascular Craiova

Surgery Room -

- ✓ High performance anesthesia device and vital function screening
- ✓ Brain IV monitoring device
- ✓ Measuring system for anesthesia depth
- ✓ Bipolar electrocautery with vascular sealing
- ✓ Surgical vacuum
- ✓ Pneumatic compression device for venous stasis
- ✓ Defibrillator (internal&external)



Ivan Rilsky Hospital in Kozloduy

- ✓ Modernization works
(including purchasing an elevator)

- ✓ Providing medical equipment for the following departments:
 - Diagnosis
 - Surgery
 - Internal medicine
 - Physiotherapy
 - Neurology
 - Intensive care unit
 - Gynecology
 - Anesthesia



Ivan Rilsky Hospital in Kozloduy

- ✓ Modernization works
(including purchasing an elevator)
- ✓ Providing medical equipment for the following departments:
 - Diagnosis
 - Surgery
 - Internal medicine
 - Physiotherapy
 - Neurology
 - Intensive care unit
 - Gynecology
 - Anesthesia



Professionals' networks cardiology, obstetrics & gynecology, neurology, general surgery and intensive care

- Work together and communicate
- Overcome obstacles
- Potential future projects cooperation
- 10 BG professionals/5 medical branches (5 medics and 5 nurses) from Kozloduy Hospital
- 3 days expertise exchange



Awareness and communication

- **Internet portal** (RO/BG): medical services available at cross-border region level, information on patients' rights, legislation and agreements, best practices, access to emergency services, joint EU-projects opportunities etc.
- **TV intervention, articles and leaflets**



Living proof

- Cross-border cooperation in health can work, our project is living proof
- What better reason to do a cross-border project?

Thank you! Here for any questions!

Daniela-Elena Baluta
Dolj County Council

