



IMPORTANT HIGHLIGHTS RELATED TO MENTAL HEALTH POLICIES AND LEGISLATION IN ROMANIA

1. The adoption of the revised Action Plan for implementing the Mental Health Reform Strategy will be adopted by the mid of April 2006. The Action Plan elaborated in Twinning Light Project was complemented with an operational short term plan listing 6 priorities and the actions to be taken in a very short term and which can have an impact on the situation of the mental health institutionalized patients.
2. One of the priorities that as mentioned above will be acted upon in a very short term is the quality improvement of existing mental health hospitals as a short to medium term solution up to the moment when the community based facilities will develop. The measures regarding decreasing the cases of excess occupancy of beds will mainly refer on a short term to reducing the admissions of social cases in psychiatric hospitals and directing them to the social assistance services that have to find a solution for their cases.
3. The Intersectorial Committee meets every month and had its first meeting on the 9th of January 2006 (2 meetings so far). It is an informal body. The main task of the Intersectorial Committee is to coordinate the implementation of the mental health reform in the country, establishing priorities and giving support in different areas of expertise. The Intersectorial Committee has also an executive board that

implements the decisions taken. The executive board meets every Monday and Thursday each week since January 9th 2006. As a result of the meetings the revised Action Plan was issued, among the priorities being the adoption of the norms of implementation of the mental health law, the Minister's order regarding the set up of the Community Mental Health Centers, the Memorandum for funding the quality improvement of the actual psychiatric institutions.

4. The inventory was presented on the end of February 2006 and the findings will be used for determining what are the places where an urgent intervention is needed so that the situation improves in short term.
5. The norms of implementation that regulate the Romanian Mental health law will be issued by the end of March and we estimate that we will need another two months for the full enforcement of the norms in all psychiatric institutions of Romania.
6. The mental health strategy was adopted on June 2005 (see attached the English version of the mental health strategy).
7. Please find the attached list of psychiatric institutions (annex). The number of social cases as well as the number of involuntary treatment is not known as the data collection form does not include this information.
8. The evaluation of the patients from National Agency for Disabled People Protection/Ministry of Health institutions will take place once an agreement between the two institutions will be reached and a mixed committee will be set up. We hope that this evaluation will end by the end of 2006.

9. Monitoring systems do not exist at the moment and the Ministry of Health is trying to agree on the best way of monitoring and controlling the hospitals. In the Ministry of Health opinion an independent body that should be funded by the government and not by the Ministry of Health is the best solution for having an accurate evaluation and monitoring process of the psychiatric hospitals.
10. The training of the human resources is also among of the several priorities of the Revised Action Plan. We hope to get the report of the training needs assessment that has been done by WHO mission 13-17 March 2006 and starting from the findings of that document to decide what is the timeframe and what resources that will be made available this year can be directed to this objective.
11. The timeframe for employing the 110 social workers is May 2006.
12. The Ministry of health together with the Centre for Independent Journalism is developing training courses for journalists regarding health mental problems. The course will be attended by journalists, specialists in that area, representatives of Ministry of health and also of medical services consumers. The training schedule for 2006 it is composed of 3 courses; one of them already took place (February-March in 2 sessions). About 40-50 persons will attend this course. The training course program provide general information regarding: the structure and the organization of the mental health system in Romania, notions about mental illness, mental handicap, the community support concept, principles of community psychiatry, stigmatization, mental health reflected in Romanian press, the rights of patient with mental illness, rights violation, Helsinki declaration et