



Government of Romania
Ministry of Health

DRAFT NORMATIVE ACT

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Approved

Călin Popescu – TĂRICEANU

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Theme:

Approving this draft normative act regarding the measures for the physical rehabilitation and improvement of medical assistance in the field of mental health and psychiatry in 2006-2009.

The Ministry of Health, considering the following:

1. Mental Health represents one of the six priorities of the Ministry of Health's national public health strategy, a strategy approved by means of the Minister of Health order no. 923/16/06/2004 published in the OJ no. 662 from 22.07.2004;
2. Romania, along with 51 other European countries, is the signatory of the Declaration from the Mental Health Conference from Helsinki organized by the World Health Organization's Regional Office for Europe. In this declaration, it was stated that mental health promotion and mental health problem prevention, treatment, care and rehabilitation represent a priority for the World Health Organization member states;
2. The transformation of the EU into a society based on science and innovation, and the maintenance of its competitiveness at a global level will be based on the capacity of the EU to completely mobilize its human, economic and social resources. For that reason, health in general and Mental Health in particular become key resources for the EU in ensuring the quality of its citizens' life, at a level sufficiently high for generating the increase of work productivity, economic development and social progress;

4. The recommendations made to the Government by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Other Inhuman or Degrading Treatments or Punishments, by Amnesty International, as well as by representatives of ONG and the civil society, regarding the measures necessary in order to ensure adequate life conditions for patients suffering from mental diseases and observe human and patients' rights;
5. The recommendations made to the Ministry of Health by the European experts within the Twinning Light Phare Project, materialized in the Strategy and Draft Action Plan for the implementation of the Mental Health Reform;
6. The European Union Letter from 7.11.2005, warning the Romanian Government and claiming the increase of its efforts to improve the care of people with mental affections and disabilities;
7. The European Union comprehensive monitoring report on Romania, from October 2005, specifying that the life conditions of people hospitalized in psychiatric units are inadequate and the budget resources allotted to psychiatric care are limited;
8. The recommendations to the Government, made by the special observer Paul Hunt – of the Human Rights Commission of the Economic and Social Council within ONU, where, among other things, the Romanian Government is recommended to improve and expand communitarian mental health care and other services supporting individuals with mental disabilities;

And taking into account:

9. The increased sensitivity and interest aroused, at the level of the EU member states' governments and the members of the European Parliament, by the difficult problems faced by Romania regarding Mental Health;
10. The EU delegation's visit from February – March 2006 in order to control the results obtained in 2005 and the beginning of 2006 in care improvement in the field of Mental Health, and the report underway;
11. The country report underway for May 2006, which needs to include the concrete measures initiated by the Romanian Government for solving the specific situations specified in the above mentioned documents; submits to the Government's attention the following immediate measures plan, along with the related costs, meant at solving the problems presented above:

1. Rehabilitating the psychiatry infrastructure and providing immovable property and other goods:

- 1.a. Founding 2-4 Communitarian Mental Health Centres in each county, depending on the population, according to the Phare experts' recommendations of 1 centre per 150,000 inhabitants, with a total number of 150 centres at a national level, as follows:
 - Turning 15 Mental Health Laboratories, with independent locations, from a number 15 cities (see annex), into 15 Communitarian Mental Health Centres, with an estimated value of one hundred thousand euros per centre – totalizing EUR 1,500,000;
 - founding 135 new Communitarian Mental Health Centres, (see annex) with an estimated value of four hundred and sixty thousand euros per centre – totalizing EUR 63,000,000;

We must mention that these are structures lacking they own legal personality, and operating within the legal person medical centres to which they are distributed,

- 1.b. Rehabilitating the psychiatry medical centres represented by 37 hospitals with unique psychiatric profile and 75 psychiatry sections from other types of hospitals, totalizing 112 units both with the ambulatory and the hospital circuit, to an estimated total value of EUR 200,000,000;
- 1.c. Founding the National Mental Health Center within the Bucharest Health Research and Development National Institute, as a technical and methodological forum of activities for promoting, monitoring and evaluating the mental health activities necessary for the Ministry of Health to elaborate mental health policies, with an estimated value of EUR 5,000,000.

2. Improving medical assistance:

- 2.a. The financial resources required by the personnel from the 150 Communitarian Mental Health Centres will be ensured by means of separate additional acts to the contracts concluded by the medical centres having their own legal personality, where the Centres are distributed, with the County Health Insurance Funds, in order to deduct the communitarian mental healthcare services.

These communitarian mental healthcare services represent medical services and are deducted separately by means of the social health insurance system.

The minimum number of personnel necessary for the Communitarian Mental Health Centres according to the Phare experts' recommendations is 11 employees per

centre, totalizing 1,650 employees. The estimated amount necessary for the payment of their annual salaries is EUR 8,140,000.

- 2.b. Continuously training and perfecting the medical and auxiliary staff by elaborating a specific curriculum and organizing courses in order to gain competences in the communitarian psychiatric care, legislation, procedures, human and patient's rights, and other mental health subjects according to the Phare experts' recommendations, will be incumbent on the Ministry of Health, by means of the Sustained Medical Training and Improvement Center (check the denomination) in cooperation with the Bucharest Health Research and Development National Institute (INCDS), The College of Physicians, the Order of the Medical Assistants and Midwives, as well as other certified non-government organizations. The training budget for the 1,650 employees amounts to an estimated value of EUR 792,000.

3. Conclusions:

Considering the above, we claim:

- 3.a. The approval of this memorandum regarding the measures for the physical rehabilitation and improvement of the medical assistance in the field of mental health and psychiatry in 2006-2009.
- 3.b. The financing with the total amount requested to the value of EUR 278,432,000, to be ensured from the special reserve fund placed at the Government's disposal, or from other sources held, by means of the Ministry of Health budget (rehabilitation, equipmen