



THEMATIC FUND HEALTH

BETTER HEALTHCARE PROVISION FOR THE ROMANIAN POPULATION



Homecare workers support elderly people in their own environment, helping them to cope with daily life and in all types of health-related and social matters. © SDC

The public health system in Romania faces major challenges, despite considerable progress in recent years. Switzerland's contribution to the enlarged EU therefore supports ongoing health reforms in a number of areas, helping in turn to improve overall basic healthcare provision in Romania.

Ten years after EU accession, the public health system in Romania is still in need of reform. The statistics are clear: despite a continuous reduction, infant mortality remains the highest in the EU as a whole with 8.4 deaths per 1,000 newborns. Moreover, Romania's life expectancy is low in relation to the EU average: women have a life expectancy of 78.7 years (EU: 83.6 years), while for men it is 71.4 years (EU: 78.1 years) (Source: Eurostat, 2017).

The significant migration of medical professionals to Western Europe as well as the difficult economic situation are an added burden on the health sector. The Romanian authorities therefore have a major interest in reforming the health system, not only to improve basic healthcare for the population, but also to make the labour market more attractive to Romanian nurses and doctors.

TARGETED PROMOTION OF HEALTH SECTOR REFORMS

With the enlargement contribution, Switzerland is supporting the Romanian government's efforts to reform the health sector. To this end, a thematic fund was set up which finances specific projects aimed at improving healthcare. The focus is on intensive care and emergency medicine as well as facilitating access to basic medical care in remote regions.

BETTER TRAINING THANKS TO REGA AND SIMULATION

As regards quality and access, there are still marked differences between different parts of the country in the Romanian emergency services. Switzerland is therefore supporting regional training centres in developing new and improving existing training methods.

The Swiss foundation Rega has, for example, provided Romanian helicopter pilots with training in order to improve safety in air rescue operations. Another project promotes joint training for the integrated fire and ambulance rescue services.

Intensive care for children and adolescents is also a key focus area of Switzerland's commitment to improving health services: many of the existing paediatric intensive care units are run by anaesthetists who trained to specialise exclusively in the care of adults. Switzerland is therefore supporting the Romanian authorities in developing and introducing a two-year professional development programme, enabling healthcare professionals to specialise in the intensive care of children and be better able to take their specific needs into consideration in intensive care units.

Also in the area of intensive care, Switzerland is funding a project to introduce patient simulators for education and training. Previously, only a few universities were able to afford the latest simulation technology to train their students. The project enables anaesthetists in all of the five leading universities to receive realistic training for an emergency.



REGA trainers practise techniques such as operating the winches during a flight with pilots in the Romanian air rescue service. © SDC

HEALTHCARE IN RURAL AREAS

In rural areas, access to healthcare services is often difficult. For this reason, integrated health and social care centres are being built or expanded through the thematic fund for health in seven Romanian municipalities. In these centres, community doctors, nurses and carers for the elderly work together with social workers to support the members of their communities in all health-related and social matters. Through the seven pilot projects, the concept of integrated health and social services is being worked out and tested in and with the local communities. On the basis of these models, the Romanian government intends to then introduce this type of community healthcare in other parts of the country.

CONTINUATION OF LONG-STANDING COOPERATION

Switzerland has many years of experience in project implementation and has been supporting Romania's health sector since 1992. Today, the project managers can draw on the knowledge and experience gained from previous cooperation. In addition, the ongoing projects are building on the progress that has already been achieved.

THE PROJECTS IN BRIEF

OBJECTIVE

Improving social security

SUBJECT

Thematic fund for health

COUNTRY

Romania

PARTNERS

Romanian Ministry of Health, municipal authorities, Center for Health Policies and Services, Geneva University Hospitals, Rega, European Society of Paediatric Neonatal Intensive Care (ESPNIC), The International Foundation for Integrated Care (IFIC)

STARTING POINT / BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The state health system in Romania is in need of reform, in terms of funding, organisation, training and equipment. The financial resources are currently lacking, however. In addition, many medical professionals migrate to Western Europe.

PURPOSE

Improve access to public health and social services and increase the quality of health services.

ACTIVITIES

- Training for medical staff, doctors and professional care providers
- Improve healthcare and social services at the community level

TARGET GROUPS

Doctors, nursing staff, the Romanian population and disadvantaged groups

COSTS

Total fund budget:
CHF 10 million

RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Romanian Ministry of Health and NGOs

DURATION

2011–2019
(differs according to project)

Additional information and documents

Information on all projects of the thematic fund for health can be found in the project database on the website of Switzerland's contribution to the enlarged EU.

SWISS ENLARGEMENT CONTRIBUTION
June 2017
www.erweiterungsbeitrag.admin.ch