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CENTER
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SASTIPEN



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POLITICAL FRAMEWORK

The policies for promoting social inclusion of Roma people have been a constant direction of action of the Romanian Government and EU institution, but in reality they are missing. The Romanian Government is preoccupied to prove that is able to handle the Roma situation, but the reports shows us that is a false statement. The EU institutions tried to approach the Roma situation from the perspective of social inclusion but in fact the real problems are related with the diversity of Roma communities. Public health decision makers from Romania should recognize the potential of ESF to help re-orientate health and social systems that contribute to health equity. The public health authorities from Romania have to follow the lessons learned at the EU level

and must to be aware about the Structural Funds as a potential co-funding mechanism for initiatives that can promote public health objectives and improve health equity. The public health sector should raise its profile vis-à-vis ESF projects and other sectors, and make the necessary contacts and links in order to ensure the integrated approach.

ESF structure can be one of solution to improving the health of the Roma population. Based on the European model of using ESF programs, the European institutions have to put pressure on Romanian authorities to avoid the lack of engagement by the public health sector to use the potential of ESF in order to contribute to improving the health status of the Roma population.

European Funds and Roma Health

While Structural Funds offer opportunities to advance and finance public health objectives, the public health sector from Romania faces the challenge of getting involved in an area in which they have little experience. The EU institutions have to put pressure on Romanian health authorities to invest in fostering health experts who understand Cohesion Policy and the Structural Funds, as well as the social determinants of health and health equity, and who can convey this to others.

To maximize opportunities to use Structural Funds to improve health and reduce health inequalities among Roma population, public health professionals at national and regional level must lay the groundwork. The public health sector should advocate for systematic approaches to take health inequalities into account. The national health authorities should identify what areas and target groups in the country have the worst health status and monitor Structural Fund spending to ensure that it is reaching those in need. It should also develop initiatives that can improve the health of those in need, like the Roma. The public health sector should pursue opportunities available within the SF.

SASTIPEN PRIORITIES

Being aware about the Roma situation, the Roma civil society has attended counseling sessions organized by the Romanian authorities for reviewing of the national strategy for social inclusion of Roma population. Also, the Roma civil society tried to be a trustful partner for the Ministry of European Funds for designing of the first draft of the Consultation Partnership Agreement Romanian programming for 2014-2020.. Unfortunately, the Romanian authorities have decided not to consider the recommendations related with Roma population provided by the Roma experts. In this respect, the Roma civil society from Romania has decided to develop its own concept in the benefit of Roma population based on the reality from disadvantaged communities.

In this respect, in the health area, in the next 5 years, Sastipen has the following priorities:

- Development of the human capital that comes from Roma communities; Training programs for medical personnel.
- Combating prejudice, discrimination and all forms of exclusion of Roma in health area.
- Reducing the inequalities in terms of access of Roma to public health services.
- Advocacy for improving public health policies addressed to Roma population;
- Data collection and monitoring health ECHI indicators regarding the Roma population.
- Medical Service delivery through community centers developed at the local level.
- Reducing the risks associated with the diseases according with the dominant patterns of morbidity and mortality through the implementation of programs / preventive actions.
- In the context in which the Ministry of Health is debating a new reform in health, Sastipen will advocate for developing a plan of measures, which would contribute on long term to improving the health status of the population, based on the equal opportunities principle.

Conclusions

Considering the context that the Ministry of Health is permanently preoccupied with realizing a new reform in health, based on the principle of decentralization, there must be evaluated the capacity of the local authorities to manage the public health programs, and according to this evaluation to be initiated a program for training the clerks, thus we would be ensuring the fact that the population's health is a priority area and that the citizens will have access to primary medical care and emergency medical services, regardless of the socio-economic status and the ethnic belonging.

Another controversial subject amongst the members of the Roma civil society is the need to collect data regarding the diseases, which the Roma population is confronting with. Sastipen consider that in order to analyze coherently the need to develop interventions specific to the Roma population. One of the solutions would be to develop an observer of the health status, which would collect periodically data according to the ECHI indicators.