

UNDP launches the first Romanian HIV/AIDS Center

Bucharest, 8 August 2007. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNAIDS in partnership with the Romanian Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and the “Prof. Matei Bals” Infectious Diseases Institute launched the first Romanian HIV/AIDS Center. The Center, hosted by “Prof. Matei Bals” Institute, will ensure an integrated monitoring and evaluation system for the national response, working in close collaboration with the National HIV/AIDS Commission and following the guidelines of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy. The opening of this Centre represents the third and last step in achieving the “Three Ones” in Romania - one national AIDS framework, one national AIDS authority and one system for monitoring and evaluation.

The wide public-private partnership on which the Centre is based will allow it to reach national coverage, channeling interventions in the most effective ways. It will offer and facilitate access of both governmental and non-governmental organizations to the best technical assistance available at national and international level. The experience and best practices developed in HIV/AIDS field in Romania, as well as the technical capacity available in the country will be used in order to respond to the numerous requests for technical assistance coming from various SEE and CIS countries.



L/R: Mr. Vasile Ciurchea, President National Insurance House, Mr. Eugen Nicolaescu, Minister of Health, Ms. Soknan Han Jung, UNDP Resident Representative, Prof. Adrian Streinu Cercel, President of HIV/AIDS Commission

“Today, the Romanian HIV/AIDS Centre opens its doors. We all hope that next year it will become one of the main actors in HIV/AIDS field in Romania, with an important role in the facilitation of the national strategic planning process, while ensuring its transition from an externally assisted body to a self-sustainable mechanism”, said Soknan Han Jung, UN Resident Coordinator/UN Resident Representative, at the opening vent.

“The Romanian HIV/AIDS Center that we are opening today represents a step ahead in our fight against AIDS. Today, more than treatment or surveillance, modern medicine means prevention of diseases. This is the role of the Center. [...] The actual decreasing trend of the epidemic must be maintained by strengthening prevention programs targeting vulnerable population, especially young people and people living with HIV/AIDS. This will be our goal for the new National HIV/AIDS Strategy for 2008–2013, currently under development” Minister Nicolaescu pointed out.

Professor Streinu Cercel, President of the National AIDS Commission, presented the latest epidemiological data and trends underlining that the center will have a very important contribution to the surveillance of this disease. He highlighted that over 20% of the 12.000 people living with HIV/AIDS in Romania are young.

At the end of the event, important contributions in the field were acknowledged. On this occasion Prof. Streinu Cercel offered Ms Soknan Han Jung a special award for her entire activity and dedication to the fight against HIV/AIDS in Romania.

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