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Executive summary

Activity of the National School of Public Health, Management and Professional Development Bucharest during the year 2015 has been achieved according to the objectives of the annual activity plan, corresponding to the institutional Development Strategy for 2010-2015. The operational objectives followed, are:

- Conceptual development of new training programmes, according to current requirements
- Continuous improvement of the training programmes in order to cover the requirements of our trainees
- Adapting the course content to the training needs and legislative changes related to the health system organization and functioning
- Improving training methods and applying the techniques for adult learning
- Orientate the training programmes to practical applicability
- Implementing a new specialization program for nurses
- Organizing new certificate-programmes of complementary studies
- Training our personnel in order to increase the institutional performance
- Contributing to the development of European strategy regarding collaboration in the field of HTA
- Participating in development of EC requirements in the field of patient safety, as formulated within the PaSQ Project
- Participating in the CORDIS European study “Addictions and life styles in contemporary Europe – project regarding a new classification of addictions”
- Contributions to the study regarding reduction of hospital readmissions and supporting continuity of care after hospital discharge for mental patients
- Developing the Patient Classification System RO DRG
- Studies/analysis in support for increasing the health system performance
- Improvement the DRG system for patient data collection and reporting
- Impact analysis of modified lists of day hospitalization services and introducing a validation system
- Increasing the eligibility for research-development programmes/projects at national and international level
- Increasing the visibility of research results acquired
- Conserve our management journal in international databases as currently and initiate the process of indexation in other international databases.
The Specific Objectives proposed for year 2015 have been attained through the following:

- Conceptual development of two new programmes: Training Program for Hospital Evaluators and Professional Development Program for Hospital Evaluators
- Reviewing the existing training programmes, adapting the content of courses and improvement training methods for the Training Program in Hospital Quality Management and the Training Program in Community Medical Care
- Signing protocols with hospitals for practical activities for our trainees
- Initiating endeavors for developing an E-learning program
- Implementing a new specialization program for nurses in the field of hygiene and public health
- Organizing new training programmes within five new partnerships
- Training our research staff in the field of health technology assessment (HTA) and in health services quality assessment
- Participating in activities specific to European Network for Health Technology Assessment (EUnetHTA) and European Union Network for Patient Safety and Quality of Care (PaSQ)
- Participating in activities of the Project ALICE RAP
- Participating in activities of the Project CEPHOS LINK
- Updating the software application DRG National
- Updating the format of data collection and reporting for minimum patient dataset for day-hospitalization (SMDPZ)
- Improving the validation system for data sent by the hospitals corresponding to their day-hospitalization activity
- Elaborating a set of indicators for evaluating the activities of hospitals and hospital morbidity reports and their quarterly publication on our dedicated webpage www.drg.ro
- Publishing 16 scientific articles in journals indexed in international databases, out of which 10 articles published in scientific journals with impact factor
- Ten publications in the category of manuals and guides for practical activity
- Seven presentations to international scientific events, five presentations to national events
- Ten systematic reviews
- One workshop organized within the international conference ECOSMART 2015
- 31 articles, out of which 16 by foreign authors, published in our journal „Management in Health”.
I. Training and professional development activities achieved for health system professionals

Training is one of the three main functions of NSPHMPDB, together with the scientific research and technical assistance in the field of public health and health service management. Besides training in public health and management, NSPHMPDB also organizes training and development programmes for health system professionals also from other health fields than public health.

Main objectives related to our training activity for the year 2015:

- Conceptual development of new training programmes, according to the current requirements
- Continuous improvement of the training programmes in order to meet the requirements of trainees
- Adapting the content of courses to the training needs and legislative changes related to the health system organization and functioning
- Improving the training methods and applying adult learning techniques
- Orienting the training programmes to practicality
- Implementing a new specialization program for nurses
- Organizing new competency programmes of complementary studies.

2015 Objectives related to the training activity have been achieved through:

- Conceptual development of two new programmes: the Training Program for hospital evaluators and the Professional development Program for hospital evaluators
- Reviewing the existing training programmes, adapting their course contents and improving the training methods for the following training programmes: Hospital Quality Management and Community Care
- Signing agreements with hospitals for practical applications
- Initiating steps in order to develop an e-learning program
- Implementing a new specialization program in public health and hygiene for nurses
- Organizing new training programmes within five new partnerships

At the level of each of the technical structures of NSPHMPDB, training and professional development activities are achieved:
- The Center for Management and Health Promotion Center (CMHP) runs the programmes of training in public health and health management
- The Center of Research and Evaluation of Health Services (CREHS) develops mainly the DRG training courses, but also courses on other health services topics
- The National Center for Professional Development in Health (NCPDH) organizes programmes, courses and trainings in various other areas of health.

The Center for Management and Health Promotion has delivered, during the year 2015, a number of 5 training programmes, amounting 15 series and 527 course participants, as shown in the Table 1 below.

**Table 1. Number of series and number of course participants by program type provided by the CMHP during 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Program name</th>
<th>Program Code</th>
<th>Number of program series</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Number of participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Competency in health services Management (certificate)</td>
<td>AT</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Bucharest</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Timisoara</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Iasi</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Hospital Management</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Bucharest</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Management for hospital care directors / chief nurses</td>
<td>AMD</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Bucharest</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Quality Management in hospitals</td>
<td>MQ</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Bucharest</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Training for the hospital evaluators</td>
<td>FEV</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Bucharest</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>527</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Within the **Training Program for Competency in health services management**, 6 course series have been trained during the year 2015, out of which 3 were in Bucharest, 2 in Iasi and one in Timisoara. One series din Bucharest, one series from Timisoara and one from Iasi have started in 2014, while one series in Bucharest and another one in Iasi are to be finalized during the year 2016. The total number of course participants in our certificate training programmes for getting the competency in health services management during 2015, was 241.

During 2015, CMHP has organized and provided 3 course series within the **Training Program in Hospital management** of 129 participants.

One course series of **Training Program in hospital management for health care directors and hospital chief nurses** during the year 2015 of 18 participants has been organized.
The training Program in *Hospital Quality Management* has been reviewed and provided again during 2015, to a series of 27 course participants. Program review included both the adaptation of the content to the training needs and legislative changes related to the hospital organization and functioning, and also the improvement of training methods and course materials.

In 2015, CMHP has finalized the conception of two types of new programmes: *the Training Program for hospital evaluators* and *the Professional Development Program for hospital evaluators*, both of them being organized in collaboration with the National Authority for Health Quality Management (NAHQM). 4 course series of 112 participants have been trained within the program for hospital evaluators.

Since 2015, NSPHMPDB has initiated collaboration protocols with hospitals in order to activities practice within the courses. Curriculum and methodology of these activities have been elaborated for the training and professional development programmes aimed for hospital evaluators, but they are to be developed also for other training programmes.

The Project ”EFIACCES” ID 127671, financed from the Human Resources Development Operational Programme 2007 – 2013 of the European Social Fund, with the purpose of increasing the access of unemployed nurses on the labor market, has been conducted at NSPHMPDB level through the CMHP between 2014 – 2015. The Project partners were: the Association for Development and Socio-economic Promotion CATALACTICA, NSPHMPDB, Caras-Severin District Agency for Employment and Mures District Agency for Employment ([http://www.efiacces.ro](http://www.efiacces.ro)).

The Project consisted in providing a program of integrated services for the unemployed nurses looking for a job, in order to use and correlate their personal aptitudes and professional experience, with current requirements and socio-economic context. NSPHMPDB role within this project was to develop and provide the *Continuous Professional Training Program for community nurses* - one component of this integrated program. The Program was built on the experience of a previous
project, and has been supported in three training centers for 17 series totalizing 377 course participants, as shown in Table 2 below. Within this project the following course materials have been elaborated and published: “Practical Guide for community medical assistance”, a Trainer book and a Trainee book – for each of the 8 modules of this Program.

**Table 2. Number of series and number of participants in the Continuous professional Training Program for community nurses developed in 2015 through EFIACCES Project**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Training Center</th>
<th>Number of series</th>
<th>Number of participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Bucharest</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Targu Mures</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Timisoara</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>377</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Within the training programmes provided by the CMHP in 2015, a number of 2396 evaluation questionnaires (level I evaluation) have been applied, out of which 920 have been returned filled in, and their processing allowed the course curse participants to assess the training programmes from the perspective of training methodology and effectiveness, training needs etc. The results got out of this survey are to be used in order to improve the structure and format of each training program. Therefore the general conclusions of our course participants were as following:

- The content of training is appropriate to the training needs;
- Participants ask for turning the activities from the theoretical perspective to the practical field, suggesting *more practical, applied experiences* within the training programmes;
- Participants would like to continue their training in terms of offering *continuous training programmes* with topical updates.

In order to develop new training and professional development programmes, meeting the needs identified by the NSPHMPDB or expressed by the health professionals, actions have been initiated for organizing a program of health communication (MCo) and the professional development for hospital evaluators (PEV) in partnership with the NAHQHM.

The Center of Research and Evaluation of Health Services, in collaboration with the CMHP, provided a training program in DRG field, titled “Reporting, contracting and reimbursing the hospital services”, with 76 course participants.
Analyzing the evolution of training programmes provided by the NSPHMPDB during 2011-2015 (see Figure 1 below), the increasing number of course participants comparative with the previous year and also increasing the number of training programmes, are found.

*Figure 1. Distribution of the numbers of participants on training program types, during 2011-2015*

NSPHMPDB trainers have held 1216 course hours, increasing from 2014 (928 course hours) out of total 2078 hours, representing 59% out of total number of course hours in year 2015. CMHP trainers held 848 course hours out of the total of 2078 hours, representing 41% of the total number of course hours during 2015 and respectively 70% of number of course hours held by NSPHMPDB trainers.

**The National Center for Professional Development in Health** has organized 55 series of training in order to get competency certificates for complementary studies, 45 continuous medical education programmes (EMC), out of which 18 for medical doctors and other 27 continuous education programmes for nurses and ambulance staff, 5 training of trainers programmes, 28 internships, and 22 specialization programmes for nurses, totalizing 3525 participants (see Table 3), increasing since precedent year (3045 participants).

*Table 3. Professional development programmes organized by NCPDH during 2015*
During the year 2015 the training programmes organized by the NCPDH have been diversified, in terms of initiating partnerships in new fields of training, especially for competency in complementary studies, in many university centers:

- Certificate in the field of Uro-gynecology, Oradea University Center
- Certificate in the field of Couple infertility Treatment - assisted Human Reproduction - in vitro fertilization, Bucharest University Center and Iasi University Center
- Certificate in the field of Medicine maternal-fetal, Bucharest University Center
- Certificate in the field of Laparoscopic surgery, Bucharest University Center
- Certificate in the field of Pediatric laparoscopic surgery, Bucharest University Center.

The training programmes for general and pediatric nurses, specialization in: laboratory, physiotherapy and spa, radiology and medical imaging, nutrition and dietetics, during 2014-2015 the specialization in hygiene and public health, has been added. Specialization programmes for nurses organized in many university centers: Bucharest, Cluj, Iasi, Craiova, Sibiu, Galati, Constanta, had the following structure: physiotherapy and spa - five programmes, laboratory - six programmes, radiology and medical imaging - seven programmes, nutrition and dietetics - three programmes, hygiene public health - one program.

In order to diversify NCPDH activities, the e-learning compartment has been created at this level and 8 employees of this center have graduated the course as e-learning developer on Moodle platform, in order to initiate online programmes starting with year 2016. For this purpose, a training needs assessment of the health professionals has been achieved by applying a questionnaire to 500 medical doctors and nurses, with 225 respondents revealing an increasing interest for more professional training fields, such as health management, family medicine, emergency medicine, diverse fields of complementary /alternative medicine.

All the activities in the field of training and professional development have been accomplished according to the approved institutional plan of activity and development strategy, both as volume
and from the perspective of the objectives established, for professional development at highest level for din health system professionals and increasing the NSPHMPDB visibility at national level through a closer collaboration with faculties from many university centers.

II. Research and development activities

Research & development activities are achieved according to an annual NSPHMPDB program for research and development, comprising specific actions aimed to developing the internal research capacity, broadening of the national and international cooperation, increasing the visibility of our research activities and providing scientific evidences for health policy decision making. The main objectives for our research activity in 2015 were the following:

- Training our own personnel in order to increase the institutional performance
- Participating in the development of the Strategy for European Collaboration on Health Technology Assessment
- Participating in developing the EC requirements in the field of patient safety as formulated within the Project PaSQ
- Participating in the European study “Addictions and Life styles in Contemporary Europe – Reframing Addictions Project”
- Contributions to the study about decreasing the hospital re-admission and supporting the continuity of care post-discharge for the mental patients.

The research & development objectives for 2015 have been accomplished by:
- Training our research personnel in the field of health technology assessment and in quality of health services assessment
- Participating in activities of the European Network for Health Technology Assessment (EUnetHTA) and the European Union Network for the Patient Safety and Quality of Care (PaSQ)
- Participating in ALICE RAP Project activities
- Participating in activities within the Project CEPHOS LINK

In 2015, NSPHMPDB contributed in four research projects with external financing from the European Commission programmes:
- PaSQ (DG SANCO) 2012-2015, “European Union Network for Patient Safety and Quality of Care”

„European Network for HTA - Joint Action 2” (EUnetHTA JA2)

Financing source: European Commission - DG SANTE and own sources
Project duration: 2012-2015
Partners: Project EUnetHTA JA 2 is conducted by a consortium of 51 partners from 30 countries (28 EU member states, Norway and Switzerland), coordinated by the Danish National Board of Health. Besides the partners, EUnetHTA Network has also 18 associate members who participates in scientific activities of the network unpaid within the project.
Website: http://www.eunethta.eu/

The purpose of this project is to create an efficient and sustainable collaboration network in the field of health technology assessment that brings added value at the European, national and regional level.

Current collaboration is continuing the previous project EUnetHTA Joint Action 1 (2010-2012), that developed the tools specific to the health technology assessment process. The current Project aims to consolidate these tools by transnational collaboration activities between the members of the network, resulting in three HTA reports following the standardized model elaborated in phase 1 of the project (“Core Model HTA”).

Thereafter, network
members will further adapt and apply the model to the existing conditions at local level.

The EUnetHTA JA2 Strategic Objectives are:

- Improving and strengthen the practical application of tools and approaches to cross-border HTA collaboration
- To aim at bringing collaboration to a higher level resulting in better understanding for the Commission and Member States (MS) of the ways to establish a sustainable structure for HTA in the EU
- To develop a general strategy, principles and an implementation proposal for a sustainable European HTA collaboration according to the requirements of Article 15 of the Directive for cross-border healthcare.

NSPHMPDB participates within this project in 3 working groups: training and dissemination (2), producing HTA reports by cross-border collaboration (4), and developing the model used for producing HTA reports (8). NSPHMPDB experts have participated in main actions within the working groups during 2015, thus contributing to the finalizing activities in order to reach the project objectives.

Within the working group for training and dissemination (group number 2), the following have been achieved:

- Providing two new training sessions in utilization of EUnetHTA tools and methods for health technology assessment: one training session for employees of project partner institutions, and one session for the stakeholders (health technology producers, healthcare providers, financiers, patients associations etc.). Programmes have been elaborated during the first year of the project and delivered in total 3 training sessions for each type. The analysis of each training sessions, based on evaluation questionnaires filled in by the course participants, pointed out necessary changes for each program, which have been adopted before the organization of each training session. NSPHMPDB experts also participated in the training sessions dedicated to the employees of partner institutions in the project;
- Finalizing and testing course materials specific to distance learning: webcasts, slide casts, virtual classroom;
- Finalizing the training strategy based on the feedback got after the training sessions and also from discussions between the project partners and with the stakeholders;
- Finalizing the internal and external project communication strategy;
- Activities of dissemination of the project results, both external dissemination by participating in actions aimed to make visible the project and its results, and also the information exchange between the project partners. For this reason, a virtual meeting space – the Community of HTA reports – has been created.

Within the working group related to test the HTA report producing by cross-border collaboration (group number 4), the activities were as following:

- Finalize the HTA Report for the second theme - „Using IV immunoglobulin in Alzheimer disease treatment“;
- Elaborate the HTA Report for the third theme - „Telemonitoring for patients with chronic cardiovascular diseases”;
- Elaborate the national HTA Report. According to the project planning, 40 HTA reports will be elaborated at national level up to the project end. These are the reports elaborated at European level and adapted to the specific country conditions. NSPHMPDB has adapted to Romania the Report on subject “Fecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) vs. Fecal Occult Blood Test (FOBT) in rectal cancer screening”. The Report has been uploaded both on the EUnetHTA website, and also on the NSPHMPDB website at [http://www.snspms.ro/images/download/fit%20versus%20fobt%20in%20screening-ul%20cancerului%20colorectal.pdf](http://www.snspms.ro/images/download/fit%20versus%20fobt%20in%20screening-ul%20cancerului%20colorectal.pdf)

Within the working group on developing the HTA Core Model used in producing HTA reports (group number 8), during the year 2015 the following has been continued:

- Consultations within the project and public consultations regarding the improvement of Core Model for the health technology assessment (HTA Core Model);
- Develop the Core Model for the health technology assessment;
- Testing and updating the on-line application for using the HTA Core Model;
- Elaborating a policy for getting the license for commercial use of the HTA Core model;
- Identify the way to support the development of HTA reports at national level.

Participation of the NSPHMPDB in this project contributed to development of new capacity and expertise within a field of great contemporaneousness at European level, namely health technology assessment. According to article no.15 of the EC Directive related to Cross-border medical care, each member state of the European Union should have a Health Technology Assessment Agency, and these institutions will have to collaborate with each other and exchange information within a European network. EUnetHTA Network, including NSPHMPDB,
contributes to the implementation of this article. As a result of their involvement in this project, the School currently develops a training program in Health technology assessment and using the EUnetHTA tools. NSPHMPDB also offered and offers technical assistance to the Ministry of Health in this area.

At the same time, the NSPHMPDB has been invited by the EUnetHTA partners to participate in a new joint action on this area, EUnetHTA JA3, and to participate in elaboration of the project proposal, for this purpose.

"Joint Action for Patient Safety and Quality of Care" (PaSQ)

Financing source: European Commission - DG SANCO and own sources
Project duration: 2012-2015
Partners: Project is carried out by a Consortium made of 44 health organizations from 39 countries (28 EU members and Norway), in the present case organizations accountable for the quality of medical services. NSPHMPDB represents Romania within this partnership. The project Coordinator is Haute Autorite de Sante (HAS).
Network website: http://www.pasq.eu/

The project goal is to promote organization of platforms for patient safety and quality of health care in all European countries, by exchanging information, experience and implementing good practices in the field of patient safety and quality of care.

General Objective of the project is to contribute to the improvement of patient safety and quality of medical services, by supporting the implementation of EC Patient Safety Recommendation, through cooperation between the member states, EU and international organizations for quality and patient safety. It will be accomplished by dissemination of knowledge, experience and good practices, and exploring their transferability between the countries, with the support from the European Commission and other relevant organizations.

Specific Objectives of the project:

- Creating a mechanism for good clinical practice exchange (SCP - safety clinical practices) in the fields of patient safety and quality management strategies at the level of health organizations (GOP - good operational practices) from the member states;
- Creating a web platform to facilitate SCP and GOP exchange;
- Implementing good clinical practices for safety and quality in the member countries (based on criteria of feasibility, transferability, patient involvement etc.);
- Collecting information on impact of the implementation of good clinical practices for quality and safety;
- Improvement mechanism for cooperation and good practice exchange.

Expected Results:

- Health Professionals (clinicians, administrators, responsible de quality management) will gain new knowledge and experience in the area of safe clinical practices and will have the chance to exchange experience on these practices. An interactive web tool and a system for exchanging good clinical practices and experience will be created. Therefore, each project partner will be able to find, through a wide collaboration between their countries, the information and practices that fit the best the context and specific needs within their clinic, hospital etc.;
- For health administrators, decision makers and health professionals a web platform will also be created, comprising the best practices quality management systems, and a system for exchanging experience will be developed, through collaboration between member states, expressing their availability to know or share these experiences. Project partners will have the chance to choose which of the quality management fields (accreditation, risk management, patient involvement etc.) are of interest for the particular situations found in their country;
- The European Commission aims to support the collaboration between the member states, drawing added value at national and regional level for Europe. As a result of the added value recognition, the expected impact is to consolidate a permanent network for patient safety in Europe.

Project activities within the working packages with NSPHMPDB participation, during 2015, have been as following:
- Finalizing the Glossary of terms;
- Identifying good clinical practices and good practices related to quality management systems in Romania, and uploading them on the project web-site;
- Participating to the review of clinical practices according to reviewing recommendations for patient safety practices from the manual; 13 clinical practices have been reviewed;
- NSPHMPDB experts have participated in events for exchanging good practices, as organized by other countries;
- Elaborating a proposal for permanent collaboration in the field of patient safety and quality of health care.

This project also contributed, to development of new capacities, determining the accumulation of new theoretical and practical knowledge about safety patient and quality of care. This new expertise has been utilized in augmenting and updating the corresponding modules within our Training programmes, and also in the consultancy and technical assistance provided to the Ministry of Health, the National Authority for Quality Management in Health and hospitals.

“Comparative Effectiveness Research on Psychiatric Hospitalization by Record Linkage of large Administrative data Sets” (CEPHOS-LINK)

Financing source: European Commission - FP7 and own sources
Project duration: 2013 - 2016
Partners: Consortium of seven partners from six European countries (Finland, Austria, Romania, Norway, Italy, Slovenia) under the coordination of the National Institute for Health and Welfare in Finland.

The project goal is to reduce rehospitalizations and support the continuity of care after discharge for mental patients.
General Objective of the project is to compare different types of health services in terms of differences registered between the results of rehospitalization, in adults discharged with psychiatric diagnostics and identify the factors related to patient, medical services or health system that could affect the rehospitalization models. It will be achieved by comparative data analysis regarding daily practice from six European countries, therefore improving the level of knowledge and elaborating support tools for decision making in mental health.
Specific Objectives:
Within an observational study, to compare the results of rehospitalization of discharged patients with principal or secondary psychiatric diagnostic, regarding the treatment in two different hospitals from six European countries:

- treatment of patients in one hospital/ psychiatric ward
- treatment of patients in hospital/ non-psychiatric ward and identify the specific rehospitalization factors at patient, medical service and system level, within 18-months-period

- Compare the results of patients with principal or secondary psychiatric diagnostic discharged from one psychiatry ward/hospital out of six European countries, having two different types of post-discharge interventions:
  - post-discharge registration by an outpatient psychiatric service;
  - absence of specialized medical care and the influence of it and of other factors related to rehospitalization, within 18-months-period.

- Develop a set of tools to achieve this kind of registration studies in mental health in and between European countries, with the purpose to improve the evaluation of mental health services in Europe.

- Elaborate recommendations, practice guides and a set of tools for decision makers in mental health, in order to improve the comprehension over the factors influencing the rehospitalization of psychiatric patients.

During 2015, NSPHMPDB has participated in the following activities:

- Select and check the relevant variables in data base;
- Elaborate research methodology and protocols;
- Achieve a systematic review on: the Impact of using community mental healthcare post-discharge, on rehospitalization rates;
- The NSPHMPDB has organized a workshop and a project meeting in Bucharest in March 2nd–4th, 2015.
Therefore, this project could be considered among the initiatives having as collateral effect the development of new capacities and expertise. By getting information about psychiatric practice and their analysis together with other factors, and also by comparison with other countries, a set of recommendations, practice guides and tools to support those decisions which might contribute to the improvement of health services, will be developed.

„Addictions and Lifestyles in Contemporary Europe – Reframing Addictions Project” (ALICE RAP)

Financing source: European Commission -FP7
Project duration: 2011 - 2015
Partners: Project is run by a Consortium of 42 partner institutions, having even a larger number of participants, as the project is structured on seven themes and 21 working groups and intends to approach this issue at the level of European Union. NSPHMPDB participates in this project based on subcontract signed with the Clinical Foundation for Biomedical Research Barcelona within the working group no.5 – in charge with collecting and processing available information about the prevalence of consumption and addiction of alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs and gambling, in order to estimate addictions at national level.

Project website: [www.alicerap.eu](http://www.alicerap.eu)

The project goal is to provide scientific evidences able to stimulate the dialog among civil society and decision makers, leading to productive debates on current and alternative approach to addictions.

Project Objectives are:

- Providing an epidemiologic perspective on addictions alcohol, tobacco, drugs and gambling, in various European countries;
- Estimate the addiction prevalence, by sex and age, in each country;
- Discover the prevalence of abuse and harmful consumption;
- Estimate mortality, years of life lost (YLL) and burden of disease attributable to substance addiction and consumption, by sex and age, in each country.

Besides the activities made in 2014 - elaboration of the two reports “Prevalence of substance use, addiction and gambling in Europe” and „Cannabis – from prohibition to regulation / When the music changes, so does the dance” belonging to the project Policy paper series, in 2015 data collection and augment the questionnaire applied within the project have been achieved in order
to compare substance use at the level of project ALICE RAP countries, and results included in the Report “Addictions and life style in contemporary Europe: Reframing Addictions Project”.

Activity achieved within the projects led to new knowledge and skills, supporting future NSPHMPDB activities. On one hand, the development of training programmes in new areas or subjects is considered, and on the other hand, the experience accumulated is useful for both calling for new research projects or grants, and consultancy and technical assistance provided by the NSPHMPDB.

III. Consultancy and technical assistance

Main activities of consultancy and technical assistance are provided within the contract signed with the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF). The objectives established for year 2015 for these activities were:

- Develop the patient classification system RO DRG
- Achieve studies/analysis dedicated to support an increased health system performance
- Improve the functioning of DRG data collecting and reporting system
- Analyze the impact of changing the lists of day-care hospital services, introducing specific validation system

2015 Objectives related to consultancy and technical assistance have been achieved through:
- Updating the application DRGNational
- Updating the format for collection and reporting of patient minimum data set at level of hospital day-care (PMDSD)
- Improving validation system for hospital day-care data
- Establishing a set of indicators for hospital activity assessment, and elaborate quarterly reports on hospitalized morbidity and publish them on dedicated website www.drg.ro

According to the current legislation, the NSPHMPDB (through the Center of Research and Evaluation of Health Services) receives the reports from all the Romanian hospitals paid by the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF), administrating the DRG National database. Based on
the contract signed with the NHIF, the NSPHMPDB carry out the following activities: electronic data collection of hospital discharged patients, patient validation and classification, evaluation of activities and performances of health services providers, assessment of health services quality, monitoring quality standards for data collected, propose tariff calculation methodologies. Experts of this Center also study and elaborate development proposals for patient classification systems and cost methodologies, participate in elaboration of adjustment methods for the financing of health facilities, assessment criteria for managerial performance and tools for their comparative evaluation.

In 2015, based on our research and analysis, functioning of DRG data collection and reporting system have been improved by updating the DRG National application. The update consisted in changing the interface for data collection for hospital continuous- and day-care, according to the sequential modifications to the minimum data set for hospital continuous and care day-care made by modifications of the MoH and NHIF Order no. 1782-576/2006 regarding registration and statistical report of patients receiving hospital services in continuous- and day-care. Changes of the DRG National application have also been operated in 2015, as needed in order to accept and validate SIUI data with the health card.

A new application for data collection at hospital level by using new information technology, compatible with current operation systems, has also been accomplished in 2015. The new application DRG National 2016 will be tested during first quarter 2016 and provided to the hospitals as soon as the Application Norms for 2016 Framework Contract are approved.

In 2015, hospital data validation system regarding the hospital day-care, introduced in 2014, has also been improved based on our research and analysis. Together with the National Health Insurance Fund and the Ministry of Health, the analysis of hospital clinical activities, codification and sending the Patient Minimum Data Set in hospital day-care in order to adjust the validation rules, have been accomplished.

DRG studies and analysis have been done to identify critical aspects of hospital activity and financing methods in Romania, to monitor and evaluate hospital services in order to provide technical support necessary to make hospital monitoring and control more efficient. Therefore, the following activities have been done during 2015:

1. Update the collection and sending format of the patient minimum data set for hospital day-care (PMDSDC) for:
- activity reports per healthcare facility, corresponding to hospital day-care
- compare the number of patients having hospital (medical and surgical) day-care, and for inpatients having hospital (acute and chronic) continuous care.

2. Elaborate proposals regarding the calculation methodology for CMI and weighted case-based tariffs for the hospitals financed on DRG (case) base, simulations using hospital tariffs calculated on basis of financial data made available by the NHIF – interpret the results obtained and issue recommendations accordingly.

3. Analyze the problems of potential impact over the hospital reimbursement (significant resource consumers) identified by the NSPHMPDB:
   - Analysis the inpatients reported as emergencies according to the hospital admission criteria and pathology
   - Analysis of ”Top 50 hospitals having the biggest proportion of expensive DRGs out of total discharged cases reported and validated”
   - Analysis on coding and reporting errors signaling problems of impact on hospital reimbursement
   - Analysis of the first 10 surgical procedures generating the largest differences in classification of hospital weighted-cases
   - Analysis of the most frequent 20 types of day-care hospital cases and services
   - Comparative analysis of hospital cases reported both in day-care and continuous care, for pathologies or procedures attributable to day-care
   - Proportion of hospital patients admitted as „emergencies”, per hospitals and wards
   - Monitor CMI variation calculated for acute care hospital wards newly contracting with the health insurance fund during last year and not financed on DRG system yet
   - Mark the hospitals registering the largest rate of invalidations for hospital day-care (first 50 hospitals), to the number of hospital cases reported for validation by NSPHMPDB
   - CMI achieved at hospital level, in relation with their own value as published in the Application Norms for the Framework Contract
   - Variation of the case-mix index (CMI) achieved at hospital ward level, in comparison with the national average calculated for the speciality
   - Top 10 diagnostice care generează cele mai mari diferențe în gruparea cases, la nivelul national și în funcție de casa de asigurări
   - Evolution of cases rehospitalized in 48 hours for the same pathology, having the same type of care

4. Starting with the second quarter of year 2015, a set of indicators for hospital evaluation quarterly calculated and posted in a dedicated section on the Website www.drg.ro.
5. Reports regarding the hospitalized morbidity and administrate a dedicated section on the Website www.drg.ro.

6. Activities achieved within five consultancy contracts signed with new partners for the analysis of hospital services reported:
   - statistics regarding certain cardio-vascular, respiratory, rheumatic, oncologic diseases, cerebrovascular accidents and rare diseases, as reported in hospital continuous- and day-care, during 2012-2014 period (S.C. Pfizer Romania S.R.L.);
   - statistics regarding the total number of persons annually discharged from hospitals at national level, number of surgical interventions performed and number of deliveries reported in hospital continuous care, during 2009-2013 period (GROUPAMA Insurance S.A.);
   - statistics regarding the cases of inferior-limb amputation in patients with diabetes type II and peripheral neuropathy discharged during 2013-2014 from the Clinical Hospital “Dr. I. Cantacuzino” Bucharest and the Cluj District Clinical Emergency Hospital (Podiatry Association);
   - statistics regarding the cases of diabetes type I presenting neuropathies, discharged during 2010-2014, at national level (Podiatry Association);
   - statistics regarding the cases diabetes type II presenting neuropathies, discharged during 2010-2014, at national level (Podiatry Association).

IV. Dissemination of the scientific research results

NSPHMPDB objectives in order to disseminate the results of research-development activities for year 2015:

- Increasing the eligibility of research-development programmes/projects at level national and international
- Increasing the visibility degree of results obtained
- Keep our management journal on the international databases as currently indexed and initiate the process of indexation in other international databases
2015 Objectives regarding dissemination of scientific research results have been attained through:

- Publish 16 articles in scientific journals indexed in international databases, out of which 10 articles published in scientific journals of impact factor
- 10 publications in category of manuals and practice guides;
- seven oral communications in international scientific events, five in national scientific events
- 10 systematic literature reviews
- one workshop organized within the international conference ECOSMART 2015
- 31 research articles, out of which 16 having foreign authors, published in our journal „Management in Health”.

Dissemination activity achieved by the National School of Public health, Management and Professional Development during the year 2015, according to annexes 1, 2 and 3, consisted in:

- 16 articles published in scientific journals indexed in international databases, out of which 10 articles published in journals of impact factor;
- 10 publications in category of manuals and practice guides;
- seven oral presentations in international scientific events, five oral presentations in national scientific events;
- 10 systematic literature reviews;
- one workshop organized within the international conference ECOSMART 2015.

An own source of dissemination is the quarterly bilingual scientific Journal “Management in Health”, (http://journal.managementinhealth.com). Since year 2010, the journal turned in B+ category, with score of recognition by the National Scientific Research Board of High Education. Meantime, the journal has also been included in five international databases: Google Scholar, Index Copernicus, DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals), SCOPUS and Elsevier. Since year 2011, the journal is in process of assessment by ISI Thompson. The journal is also credited by the Romanian College of Physicians with 5 points.

Journal volumes published in 2015 include 31 articles and four interviews. Five articles are written by authors or co-authors from NSPHMPDB, 16 articles by foreign authors, and the
interviews with public health and health management personalities well known and recognized at international level, as: Prof. Dr. Vesna Bjegovic-Mikanovic, elected President of the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER); Dr. Carlos Segovia Perez, President of the European Science Advisory Network for Health (EUSANH); Dr. Aurora Dragomiristeanu, General Director of the National Registry of Hematopoietic Stem Cells Voluntary Donors (RNDVCSH), lecturer Dr. Corneliu Florin Buicu, President of the Committee for Health and Family of the Romanian Parliament Chamber of Deputies.

Journal is considerably appreciated at both national and international level, as an important source of scientific publications related to Romanian health system aspects, and also as an information source regarding the scientific development of other health systems.

The NSPHMPDB has also utilized their experience and knowledge accumulated in research activities in order to develop new training programmes. Besides the development of new programmes, NSPHMPDB paid a special attention to improve the existing programmes and continuously adapt to the changing needs, such as to provide much more practical application.

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<tr>
<th>No.</th>
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<th>Journal</th>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Evidence based medicine, support for clinical decision</td>
<td>Raluca Oana Pavelescu, Marian Stamate, Marius Ciutan</td>
<td>Management in Health, XIX/1/2015, pg. 20-22</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Preoperative anaesthetic management for patients with ENT tumors</td>
<td>Raluca Oana Pavelescu, Marian Stamate, Marius Ciutan</td>
<td>Management in Health XIX/2/2015; pg. 21-25</td>
<td>IDB CNCSIS</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Perception of risk, stigma and the need for information regarding tuberculosis</td>
<td>Alaa Hussein Ali Alameri, Daniela Valceanu</td>
<td>Management in Health XIX/2/2015; pg. 29-32</td>
<td>IDB CNCSIS</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Web technology and medical information access</td>
<td>Vasilica Constantinescu</td>
<td>Management in Health XIX/2/2015; pg. 26-28</td>
<td>IDB CNCSIS</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Renal function replacement services in Romania</td>
<td>Emilia Kadour, Daniela Valceanu</td>
<td>Management in Health XIX/2/2015; pg. 37-39</td>
<td>IDB CNCSIS</td>
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**Articles published online**

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**Books/Book chapters/Reports**

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### Annex 2. Papers communicated during year 2015

#### Oral communications at international scientific events

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<tr>
<th>No.</th>
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<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>The impact of post-discharge community mental health service use on psychiatric rehospitalization rates. Results from a systematic review of the literature</td>
<td>Sfetcu R, Musat S, Ciutan M, Scintee SG</td>
<td>Symposium CEPHOS-LINK organized within the Conference ENMESH &quot;Closing the gap between research and policy in mental health&quot;</td>
<td>European Network For Mental Health Service Evaluation</td>
<td>October 1st-3rd, 2015 Malaga</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Policy development in national regionalization of public health services – a systematic review (poster)</td>
<td>Florescu S, Ciutan M, Sasu C, Firuleasa IL, Mihaescu-Pintia C, Vladescu C</td>
<td>8th European Public Health Conference „Health in Europe – from global to local policies, methods and practices”</td>
<td>EUPHA</td>
<td>October 14-17, 2015 Milano</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>National School of Public Health, Management and Professional Development Bucharest – a Project for sustainable development</td>
<td>Scintee SG, Vladescu C</td>
<td>International Conference dedicated to 10-years-anniversary of the Master Programme, topic „Developments and challenges in strengthening capacity of human resources in public health management”</td>
<td>University of Medicine ”Nicolae Testemitanu” Moldova</td>
<td>May 29, 2015 Chisinau</td>
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<td>No.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Improving the methodology for cost measurement and payment mechanisms in the health system</td>
<td>Vladaescu C</td>
<td>National Conference of Pharmacoeconomy and Health Management, topic: Efficient use of health resources in Romania and Central and Eastern European countries</td>
<td>ISPOR Romania, Chamber of Deputies – Committee for Health and Family, Romanian Society of Pharmacoeconomy and Tirgu Mures University of Medicine and Pharmacy</td>
<td>October 14th–17th, 2015, Tirgu Mures</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Optimizing the mix of services contracted with the Social Health Insurance Fund</td>
<td>Gena Adina</td>
<td>National Conference of Pharmacoeconomy and Health Management, topic: Efficient use of health resources in Romania and Central and Eastern European countries</td>
<td>ISPOR Romania, Chamber of Deputies – Committee for Health and Family, Romanian Society of Pharmacoeconomy and Tirgu Mures University of Medicine and Pharmacy</td>
<td>October 14th–17th, 2015, Tirgu Mures</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Adverse Event Reporting Systems</td>
<td>Angheluta Carmen</td>
<td>National Conference of Modern Medical Management - Hospital Authorization, Accreditation and Functioning in Romania</td>
<td>People and Companies</td>
<td>October 2nd–4th, 2015, Sovata</td>
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**Oral communications at national scientific events**

**Annex 3. Protocols and systematic reviews, reviewed by the NSPHMPDB experts within the collaboration with the JBI, during 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Reviewer</th>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mihnea Serban Dosius</td>
<td>The impact on morphine consumption when ketamine is added to a patient controlled analgesic pump in the postoperative period</td>
<td>[JBIISRIR] Systematic Review Protocol</td>
<td>November 25th, 2015</td>
<td>December 23rd, 2015</td>
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<td>Facilitators and barriers to remaining at home for people with a dementia who live alone: protocol for a systematic review of qualitative evidence</td>
<td>Vasilica Constantinescu</td>
<td>October 21st, 2015</td>
<td>November 18th, 2015</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Protocol of a Qualitative Systematic Review of the Barriers and Challenges in the Use of Art as an Intervention for Making Sense of the Cancer Experience</td>
<td>Constanta Mihaescu-Pintia</td>
<td>September 2nd, 2015</td>
<td>September 30th, 2015</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Women's experiences of termination for foetal abnormality in a UK hospital setting: a systematic review protocol</td>
<td>Ingrid-Laura Firuleasa</td>
<td>July 7th, 2015</td>
<td>August 6th, 2015</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>The effectiveness of interventions to manage treatment adherence in adult heart transplant patients: a systematic review</td>
<td>Silvia Florescu</td>
<td>May 1st, 2015</td>
<td>May 29th, 2015</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>The Experiences of Adults Living with an Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator: A Systematic Review of Qualitative Evidence</td>
<td>Silvia Florescu</td>
<td>January 23rd, 2015</td>
<td>February 7th, 2015</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Effective methods in reducing pain related to intravenous potassium chloride infusion: A systematic Review</td>
<td>Ruxandra Diaconescu</td>
<td>May 28th, 2015</td>
<td>June 8th, 2015</td>
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