

**CCM Minute Meeting  
March 19, 2008**

**Participants:**

1. Bogdan Ștefănescu	Romanian Harm Reduction Network
2. Ruxandra Iliescu	National Anti Drug Agency
3. Silvia Asandi	“Romanian Angel Appeal” Foundation
4. Husan Iulia	“Romanian Angel Appeal” Foundation
5. Carmen Angheluță	National School of Public Health and Sanitary Management
6. Miralena Marina	Save the Children Romania
7. Cristina Enache	”Health Aid Romania” Foundation
8. Gabriel Cicu	National Anti Drug Agency
9. Marius Dumitru	Romanian Association of TB Infected Persons
10. Ilenuş Ady Popescu	National Health Insurance House
11. Violeta Horhoianu	Society of Sexual and Contraceptive Education
12. Tudor Kovacs	„Population Services International” România
13. Irina Niță	“ACCEPT” Foundation
14. Tiberiu Nicolescu	Project Management Unit- MO
15. Antoanela Poenaru	Project Management Unit- MO
16. Răzvan Vieru	Project Management Unit- MO
17. Mircea Popa	Project Management Unit- MO
18. Maria Varga	Project Management Unit- MO
19. Geta Cucu	National Administration of Penitentiaries
20. Mirela Chirciu	National Administration of Penitentiaries
21. Iliuță Cătălina	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
22. Alina Bocai	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
23. Sorin Petrea	Institute of Infectious Diseases “Prof. Dr. Matei Bals”
24. Odette Chirilă	Institute of Infectious Diseases “Prof. Dr. Matei Bals”
25. Dan Zaharescu	Romanian Association of International Medicines Manufacturers
26. Ioana Nedelcu	National Authority of Child’s Rights Protection
27. Ali Cranta	National Authority of Child’s Rights Protection
28. Paulian Sima	National Authority for People with Disabilities
29. Victoria Mihăiescu	Red Cross Romania

30. Adriana Voica	People Development Foundation
31. Mihaela Ștefănescu	“Romanian Angel Appeal” Foundation
32. Monica Dan	Romanian Anti-AIDS Association
33. Marin Dana	“Romanian Angel Appeal” Foundation
34. Fidelie Kalambayi	“Romanian Angel Appeal” Foundation
35. Ioana Dărămuș	Centre for Health Politics Services
36. Iulian Petre	National Union of Organizations of Persons affected by HIV/AIDS
37. Camil Dumitriu	“Integration” Foundation
38. Eduard Petrescu	UNAIDS

### Meeting Agenda:

1. Introducing the new CCM President- Mr. Mircea Mănuș – State Secretary in Ministry of Health.
2. Report on R2 HIV/AIDS and TB Grant
3. Report on R6 HIV/AIDS and TB Grant
4. Issues concerning VAT reimbursement for R6 PR.
5. Latest initiatives of MO regarding TB and HIV/AIDS therapy.
6. Reallocation, extensions, R2 projects.
7. **Introducing Romanian Association of TB Infected Persons and Integration Association.**
8. State of PR R2 archives.
9. Discussion on the close out procedure for R2, based on the letter sent by GF and which has already been forwarded to all SRs’.

The meeting was led by State Secretary Mr. Mircea Mănuș.

1. **Prof. Dr. Adrian Streinu-Cercel** introduces the new CCM President- State Secretary in Ministry of Health- Mr. Manuș.

**State Secretary Mircea Mănuș** takes over the coordination of the meeting and proceeds to the meeting agenda.

2. R2 report presented by Mr. Tiberiu Nicolescu (implementation stage), Mrs. Maria Varga (R2 Financial Situation), Mr. Răzvan Vieru (Program management of R2) and Dana Podaru (R2 component).

The presentations are available on <http://www.ccmromania-gfatm.com/>.

Mr. Mănuș asks for the data of 2007 as there appears to be some discrepancies in the presentations.

PR R2 replies that these inadequacies exist between the planning and financing stages.

3. PR R6 representative Mrs. Silvia Asandi (Head of *Romanian Angel Appeal Foundation*) delivers the activity report.

The presentation is available on [www.fondulglobal.ro](http://www.fondulglobal.ro) ; [www.cncromania-gfatm.com](http://www.cncromania-gfatm.com).

Mrs. Asandi outlines the difficulties arisen in the program- 6 month’s delay- as an outcome of *National Administration of Penitentiaries’* withdrawal, which recuses its capacities of implementing the program which they applied for. This causes great

delays, the activities being taken over by other organizations which are currently in full selection process.

Iulia Husar presents R6 TB report.

CCM president expresses his concern about the still unrecognized official status of CCM and proposes the initiation of a Ministry Order through which Health Ministry clearly states the existence and the functionality of this mechanism, based on a legislation document.

#### 4. VAT Reimbursement for R6 PR- *Romanian Angel Appeal* Foundation

Mr. Mircea Mănuș states that this issue is carefully revised and will be decided on by Juridical Department in MO, the main concern being to create a legal frame for the procedure of money reimbursement by the Romanian state. Because *RAA* doesn't enter the category of public institutions the process will evolve slowly.

Silvia Asandi – *RAA* President emphasizes that the functioning of the program depends on MO's co financing and in this sense forwards two solicitations:

I. Creating a document that requests *NAP* to state as soon as possible its position in the sub grant (revised annexes; decision regarding *NAP* representatives responsible with the project implementation) considering that they haven't send any more responses sine February 18, 2008.

II. Reallocating funds, using another procedure, for a different organization in Galati as the one selected- *Children Smiling* turned out to have several trials, situation which contradicts GF's functioning principles. For the moment there are discussions with authorities in Galati, which sustain further on *Children Smiling* Association and which demand some clarifications regarding this situation.

It is also mentioned that *Neghinița* Association left the program.

5. The latest initiatives of MO regarding HIV/AIDS and TB matters consist of a progressive decentralization of treatment procurement methods (making the treatment available mainly in pharmacies and partly in hospitals/care centres).

CCM President, Mr. Mircea Mănuș arguments that the decentralization process of ARV treatment procurement in pharmacies will render it more available for a higher number of persons. CCM's members strongly disagree with this decision arguing that it will cause big problems in the surveillance area and will slow down the ARV adherence process of the patients. Iulia Husar suggests a comeback on the decision of decentralization of the TB therapy, claiming that in 3-4 years' time the results will be poor. The patients will no longer be permanently surveyed; DOTS therapy won't be functional causing the emergence of new, MDR resistant, lethal cases of tuberculosis.

Mr. Mircea Mănuș replies that MO doesn't approve of the centralized treatment acquisition because several contracts with the suppliers were signed with much difficulty.

Mr. Eduard Petrescu – UNAIDS proposes a public debate on this matter, as none of the involved parties can agree on the taken decision. The drugs' price will rise up to 30%, locally as a result of the increase in the transport's cost. He also requests the reestablishment of National Commission of Fight against HIV/AIDS.

Mr. Mircea Mănuș ensures the participants of MO's support in re-establishing this mechanism.

Mr. Eduard Petrescu forwards another solicitation, namely that MO should consult with CCM on any decision regarding TB and HIV/AIDS issues, as this mechanism gathers representatives from these two fields and that the present decision regarding the treatment acquisition may lead to unpleasant results. Mr. Petrescu states that the general acceptance of the notion of “public debate” should be reiterated, for in this particular case, despite the contempt of all involved actors (patients, physicians, etc) the decision was however adopted. Another aspect of this problem is that the drugs’ price can’t be reduced and decentralization will only make them more expensive.

In this context the question regarding the lack of the national auctions is raised- why hasn’t there been a national action since 2003, as this also contradicts European norms of drugs’ acquisition?

On a local level there have been signs proving the inexistence of ARV dugs in territories. Many hospitals and dispensaries in villages have few patients with these two health conditions, which leads to a rise of the transport costs up to 30%. The quality of the drugs is also questionable, for even if they have a quality certificate from the producer, during the transportation and the distribution they will deteriorate heavily.

The control of the therapy adherence will be lost as there will no longer be a permanent contact between patients and physicians. Difficulties concerning the distribution costs will generate discontinuities in the supply process which will also cause numberless periods of treatment interruption.

CCM President reminds of the results of GLC mission, which analysed DOTS programs, revealing that there were left little quantities of Capreomycin as the rate of consumption exceeded the calculated one.

6. *ARAS, FDP, Save the Children* etc, still have some activities to accomplish, but little money to do so. Therefore their representatives ask for an activities’ deadline extension. The proposal is to carry discussions on this subject on e-mail and also to initiate the electronic vote to sustain this decision, proposal which was accepted in unanimity.

**7. The two requests addressed by *Association of TB affected Persons and Integration Association* to CCM to become a part of the mechanism were unanimously accepted through voting. CCM Secretariat will draw up all the necessary documentation.**

8-9. Close-out procedure for Round 2 follow the indications received from GF representative- Maria Kirova- through a letter which will be circulated to all CCM members.

In the near future CCM members will have to decide who will take over activities or materials from R2 SRs’ and how this will happen. It is mentioned, however, that in the Grant Accord the main responsible with the projects closing is the PR. All goods acquired through GF programs by member-organizations must remain in their possession, with the mention that these organizations have to sustain similar activities further on, using these acquisitions.

An archive plan for all documents of SRs’ is needed, based on GF indications. Nevertheless it is outlined that each SR is responsible for every single document in front of the law.

Antoanela Poenaru R2, PMU Coordinator solicits the names of the persons who will form the team in charge with the archive’s process. She specifically inquires whether

this team will be composed only out of R2 PR representatives or out of SRs' representatives. It is unanimously agreed that the team will consist only of R2 PR components, which will circulate the document on e-mail, so as to include the SRs' comments in the final document.

Close – out procedure will include the archives' procedure.

*ARAS* Representative- Mrs. Monica Dan solicits MO to ensure the continuity of the activities sustained by GF, after this one has withdrawn, so as not to lose the benefits for the patients obtained through these projects.

*UNODC* Representative- Catalina Iliuta proposes to CCM members to forward a solicitation of reestablishment of National Commission of Fight against AIDS to Health Ministry- Mr. Eugen Nicolaescu.

Eduard Petrescu answers that currently this Commission exists and that MO should demand another nominalization for its members from the integrant institutions.

The Secretariat is asked to formulate a draft letter which will be transmitted to MO and to integrant institutions of the Commission. The meeting participants decide through voting creating this draft by CCM secretariat in one week's time.

In what concerns the M&E program for Round 6, a rigorous study of the plan adopted in 2006 is recommended and in its aftermath all CCM members will agree on the procedures of monitoring field visits.

CCM members are informed about two scheduled trainings- one in reference to M&E procedures and the other one concerning Phase 2 Implementation application.

Last, but not least, it is emphasized the necessity of gathering in one place alone the GF archive and in this sense the Technical Secretariat will contact Mrs. Contescu, Prime Minister Counsellor, in order to take over the archives from the first stage of GF programs.