



Ministry of Health Romania

Prof. Virgil Paunescu, MD
Secretary of State for Health Care



Health Care Modernization Romania

- Political context of the health care reform
- Main stages of the health care reform
- Report highlights



Statistical data

- 2004 Total population: 21,790,000
- 2003- 50 000 physicians (1.9/1000 inhabitants)
- 2003- 86 000 nurses (3.89/ 1000 inhabitants)
- 2003 Life expectancy at birth (years) 68 males and 75 females
- Hospitals 483

Political context of the health care reform

- 1989 - democratic government with a president and a two-chamber parliament
- 1989-1996 left government
- 1996- 2000 right government
- 2000 –2004 left-leaning social democratic led government
- 2004 – liberal-democratic center-right coalition



Main stages of the reform I

- Until 1997 centralized system Semashko
- 1997 – Law of social health insurance provides general framework and principles for social health insurance
- 1997-2000 – The necessary package of secondary laws in order to implement the health insurance law had not been approved



Main stages of the reform II

- Funds allocated for health care increased (1998-900 million US \$ /2006-4 billion €)
- Increase of the hospitals' debts
- Crisis of the compensated drugs delivery



Main stages of the reform III

- **2000-2004**

- The legal framework is not changing
- The debts are rolling over
- The compensated drugs crisis are repeating each year

- **2003**

- The state had covered the debts
- The “debts and crisis” process is reemerging



Main stages of the reform IV

- **2005 – Re-launch of the reform**
- **2006 - “The law of the health reform” includes 17 laws titles**
 - Public health
 - National health programs
 - Primary health care
 - National emergency health care and qualified first aid system
 - Community health care
 - The prelevation and transplant of organs and human origin cells for therapeutic purpose
 - Hospitals
 - Social health insurance



The law of the health reform

- European and national card of social health insurance
- Financing of some health expenditures (tax on cigarettes and alcohol)
- The practice of physician profession. Organization and functioning of the Romanian College of Physicians
- The practice of dentist physician profession. Organization and functioning of the Romanian College of Dentist Physicians
- The practice of pharmacist profession. Organization and functioning of the Romanian College of Pharmacists
- Voluntary health insurance
- Civil responsibilities of medical staff and of products and medical services provider
- Establishing a national school of public health and health management services
- The medicine



The law of the health reform

- The main measures are related to Control of hospitals where 70 % of funds are allocated
 - Management contracts with the hospitals' managers
 - Conflicts of interests
 - Incompatibilities

Report highlights I

- Define a basic benefits package for the national social health insurance program
- Design and implement a formal co-payment system
- Adopt a tax on cigarettes and alcohol



Report highlights II

- Conduct a comprehensive needs assessment of the health care system
- Engage stakeholders through multi-stakeholder dialogues
- Develop demonstration projects for “Health Centers of Excellence”



Report highlights III

- Create national medical informatics standards
- Strengthen primary health care and public health infrastructure
- Develop explicit criteria for the pricing of pharmaceutical products.

