Meeting Minutes – Health / SRH Partner Meeting, 26 March 2025

World Health Organization
European Region

Meeting Subject	Health/SRH Working Group
Time & Location	26 March 2025, 14:00 pm EEST, online - Zoom.
Chaired by	Dr Silvia Gatscher (WHO Romania)
Minutes prepared by	Raluca Dumitrescu (WHO Romania)
Agenda	1. Updates from Health and SRH sector 2. Planning for the next meeting/training with partners
Participants	Daniela Draghici, Sex vs. Stork Association/ Midwives Association of Romania Cristiana Mateoiu, Regina Maria Social Innovations Foundation Carmen Niculescu, ANES Dorica Dan, Romanian National Alliance for Rare Diseases Raluca Buzea, Romanian Red Cross Silvia Gatscher, WHO Romania Bogdan Halgean, WHO Romania Raluca Dumitrescu, WHO Romania Ioana Tonceanu, WHO Romania Ioana Pop, WHO Romania
AGENDA POINTS	
Agenda Point 1 Updates from Health and SRH sector	The meeting was chaired by Silvia Gatscher (WHO Romania), who welcomed all participants and provided a brief overview of the agenda and objectives of the meeting, emphasizing the importance of coordination and collaboration among partners in the Health and SRH sector. Participants were encouraged to share updates and contribute to discussions. Daniela Draghici, Midwives Association of Romania: • On 19 and 22 March, an immersive experience titled “What do you do when you can’t choose safely?” took place, which explored the challenges of accessing safe reproductive healthcare in the public system, including contraception and abortion. This event provided a space for reflection on these realities and how women, especially those from vulnerable groups, are often left without options. Through this experience, the organizers aimed to highlight the urgent need to address the system’s dysfunctions so that all women can safely access essential medical services. Every public healthcare institution must provide medical and surgical abortion services in accordance with legal timelines for pregnancy termination. The initiative was addressed to

parliamentarians, members of the European Parliament, Ministry and public institution representatives, public authorities, media, embassies, academia, and civil society representatives. For a short time, 23 visitors stepped into the shoes of women who face countless obstacles every day, with no support and under time pressure, to better understand their needs. The immersive experience was available in English or Romanian and lasted 20-25 minutes per person.

- The Order of General Medical Assistants, Midwives, and Medical Assistants in Romania (OAMGMAMAMR), the Association of Independent Midwives, and the Association of Midwives in Romania, supported by 15 member organizations of the Coalition for Gender Equality, have sent an open letter to the Ministry of Health. The letter urges the amendment of Law no. 95/2006 on health reform to strengthen the midwifery profession, recognize midwives as medical service providers, and enable them to independently contract services with health insurance companies, with payments from the Single National Fund for Social Health Insurance.
- On 1 April there will be an interactive online session bringing together midwives from France and Romania for a valuable exchange of knowledge and best practice and discover how midwives work within the French healthcare system, the level of independence of midwives and how they collaborate with other healthcare professionals.
- The Midwives' Association of Romania continues to actively participate in the Ministry of Health Working Group for the 2024-2030 Reproductive Health and Sexuality Strategy. The group, meeting twice a week, is close to finalizing results and indicators by 27 March, with the budgeting aspect pending approval from relevant government decision-makers.

Daniela Draghici, Sex vs. Stork Association:

- The Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association will meet on March 28 in Brasov, organized by the board, with the vice-president also serving as the president of the SEX vs The STORK Association. The meeting will focus on the role of healthcare professionals in implementing the 2024-30 sexual and reproductive health strategy, new developments in hormonal contraception, and early HPV vaccination. A Ministry of Health representative and the facilitator of the SRH working group will also provide updates on the strategy's progress.
- Daniela is available to provide free Empowerment Through Self-Defense training in Bucharest. Given the ongoing focus on Ukrainian refugees, she is confident that there are still many who could benefit from this training (girls, women and adolescent boys).

Silvia Gatscher, WHO Romania:

- Ukrainian refugees face challenges in accessing primary healthcare services, as many family doctors prefer to treat them for free rather than formally registering them due to the administrative burden. On 31 March, WHO is convening representatives from the Ministry of Health (MoH), the National Health Insurance House (NHIH),

	the General Inspectorate for Immigration (IGI) and the College of Physicians to explore ways to reduce the administrative burden on family doctors and assess the feasibility of IGI sharing TP documents of Ukrainian refugees directly with the NHIH. • WHO Romania is hosting a 2-day capacity-building training on 9-10 April for healthcare professionals providing services to Ukrainian refugees, focusing on Refugee and Migrant Health: Global Competency Standards for Health Workers. Partners interested in participating are invited to complete the registration form: https://forms.office.com/e/at2wLbB2s5. • Ioana Tonceanu, the lead of the MHPSS sub-working group, has consulted with its members, and starting with our next coordination meeting on 21 May, the MHPSS sub-working group will join the Health working group. Each session will now include 30 minutes dedicated to Health and 30 minutes focused on MHPSS discussions. • WHO Romania will also explore the possibility of merging existing Telegram groups – as many organizations have their own channels, but everyone's reach seems to be limited. If merging is feasible, WHO and Save the Children will create a larger, centralized channel. If not, information can be shared with Save the Children and other partners, so they can also distribute it through their channel. Cristiana Mateoiu, Regina Maria Social Innovations Foundation: • Regina Maria Social Innovations Foundation continues to offer medical services for Ukrainian patients and generally they are working quite well with the National Insurance House. Out of the ones which are already registered to their family doctor in Policlinica Sociala Baba Novac, they are welcoming patients at: https://www.clinicasalapalatului.ro/ . There is a focal point, in case the Ukrainian refugees have any difficulties: Carolina Salaru, 0744118303, which is acting as a translator and medical navigator as well. Dorica Dan, Romanian National Alliance for Rare Diseases: • Oversees refugee care and provides support through dedicated channels. Given the challenges of accessing local solutions for rare diseases, there is a request to refer such cases to her. When needed, her team connects patients with the European Reference Network.
Next Meeting: Capacity training for partners	• Upcoming Capacity Training, 9-10 April: The topic is "Refugee and Migrant Health: Global Competency Standards for Health Workers". Partners who are interested in joining are invited to complete the form: https://forms.office.com/e/at2wLbB2s5 • Upcoming Meeting: The Health / MHPSS coordination meeting will take place on 21 May, 14:00 - 15:00.