

Romania Roundtable – a new tool to develop partnerships

Bucharest, 13 March 2009

L.Loredana Simion, National Project
Coordinator MS-ID

Background

- Beginning with 2007 the Romanian Multiple Sclerosis Society (SSMR) was involved in the project Multiple Sclerosis – Information Dividend;
- We understood the major impact that this will bring to our advocacy initiatives at national level;
- Romania was identified as a country in which the quality of services received by people with MS was **very low** (according to the European MS Barometer).

Romanian Roundtable – Part I (EU focus)

- The Secretary General of EMSP, Mr. Cristoph Thalheim opened the day's presentations with an EMSP overview of the key milestones;
- There were made specific recommendations regarding the improvement of the Romania situation as it appear in the European Barometer;
- Mr. Magor Csibi Imre, MEP, sent some powerful signals stating that recognizing people with MS as disabled was a sensitive issue all over Europe stressing out the importance of cross-border medical.

Romanian Roundtable – Part II (Focus on Romania)

- The Acad. Prof. Univ. Dr. Constantin Popa, President of the Neurology Commission within the Health Ministry and Dr. Ligia Moldovan, Counselor Ministry of Health presented the Health Ministry position concerning the MS;
- Unfortunately the representative from the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Protection did not arrive at the meeting;

Results

- **Following the Romania Roundtable we sent an official letter to the Health Ministry** explaining and providing the right information about the services and treatment provided in Romania to patients with MS;
- We were invited to provide more information regarding this issue and to prepare a long term strategy together with the Health Ministry;
- SSMR intends to approach the Labour Ministry in order to develop a common strategy regarding social impact of the MS in the patient's life.

Expected outcomes (midterm and long-term):

- The **enlarged access to DMD** therapies by people with MS.
- **Common strategy** between Romanian MS society and the Health Ministry.
- Specialized MS rehabilitation centers providing in-patient services to people with MS need to be established as soon as possible.
- People with MS need to have the possibility of remaining at work and **maintaining their economic autonomy** despite the development of MS.
- The disability support **payments system** requires a review about the minimum wage and the extent of bureaucracy in administering the system – raising amount of the support payments is imperative.
- Patient organizations need to be an **active consulted** in all the matters and decision that address the MS patients.

The added value

The project gave us the possibility to:

- **Speak about major inequality** at European level regarding the services provided in the EU countries, and mainly in Romania;
- **Have the support of the European bodies** and patients organizations in all our lobby and advocacy initiatives;
- Participate at European events and have the opportunity to establish **new cooperation** relationship and to identify new EU partners for MS projects.



Thank you for your attention!

Romania MS Society
Tel.: +40-359-192-110
Fax: +40-259-406-662
office@smromania.ro
www.smromania.ro