

## ROMANIA

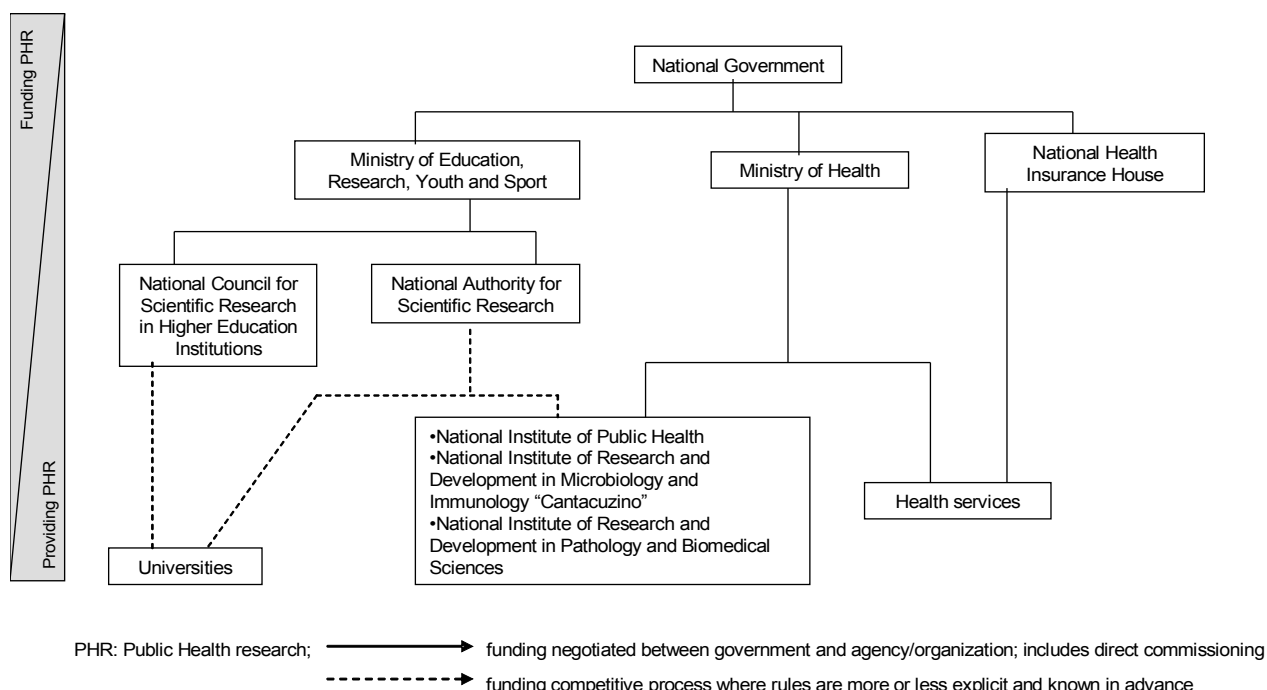
This information on national public-health research structures has been gained from country key informants and internet searches for STEPS (Strengthening Engagement in Public Health Research [www.steps-ph.eu](http://www.steps-ph.eu)). It builds on the country profiles and reports from Ministries of Health and Ministries of Science that were created previously for SPHERE (<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/public-health/sphere/sphereprofiles.htm>).



The organogram shows the structure for managing and providing public-health research from the perspective of financial flows. The main organisations are also briefly described, with their URLs, and other relevant national documents and information on public-health research.

Note: 'Public-health research' includes all health research at population, organisation and system level broadly relevant to health and health-care policy and practice. It excludes clinical and laboratory (biomedical) research.

### 1. Organogram



### 2. Research Commissioners

Romania is a national state divided in 42 counties. The research is planned and financed through national institutions. Even there is a powerful trend of decentralization in some areas (education and health mainly), the responsibilities related to research remained national level.

## 2.1 Ministry of Health

The Ministry of Health ([www.ms.ro](http://www.ms.ro) , available in Romanian) is the national governmental authority responsible for public health. The ministry doesn't finance and promote a formally recognized research activity. However, this ministry finances national health programs that involve also a research component (assessing health status, identifying public health problems, assessing the impact of some public health interventions, data collection and analysis for some public health issues like communicable diseases, cancer registry etc.). The ministry finances the National Institute of Public Health and the hospitals involved in implementing the national programs. The financing flow is made through negotiation or based on the needs assessment, but not through competition.

## 2.2. Ministry of Science

Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sport (<http://www.edu.ro> , only in Romanian) is the national governmental authority in charge with supervising the research field. It is responsible for organizing, managing and financing the national research system. The ministry delegates all this responsibilities to the National Authority for Scientific Research. The Managerial Agency for Scientific Research, Innovation and Technology Transfer (<http://www.amcsit.ro> , available in Romanian) is a public institution founded in 1999, having as goal to support the technical higher education and the technical faculties and universities in developing and implementing research programs. It promotes also the technology transfer. It has a scientific council involved in evaluating the research programs in the technical field.

2.2.1. The National Authority for Scientific Research (<http://www.mct.ro> , partially available in English) exercises the responsibilities of the state authority for research-development in compliance with the provisions of the Government Ordinance No. 57/2002 on the scientific research and technological development with subsequent amendments. It's mission is to ensure the elaboration, application, monitoring and evaluation of the policies in the field of research-development and innovation, consistent with the strategy and the Governing Program. The Authority has the following responsibility:

- to ensure the strategic and tactical planning and objectives in research field;
- to define, apply, monitor and evaluate the research policies;
- to define the normative and methodological, functional, operational and financial framework necessary to apply the policies;
- to ensure communication with the other public authorities in order to achieve a coherent approach of the government policies and also the communication with the civil society structures and with the citizens;
- to define, finance, apply, monitor and evaluate research programs, in line with the objectives of the national research strategy.

2.2.2. The National Council for Scientific Research in Higher Education Institutions (CNCSIS, <http://www.cncsis.ro/> , available in Romanian) is an advisory body of the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sport that expresses the view of the universities regarding the scientific research policy. CNCSIS insures the connection between the universities and the Ministry of Education related to research funding and research quality. Its mission consists in increasing the relevance of the scientific research

from universities and to increase also the international visibility of Romanian universities. This council launches calls for projects on the following themes: human resources and ideas.

### 2.3. Other ministries

2.3.1. The National Health Insurance House ([www.casan.ro](http://www.casan.ro), available in Romanian) is the national authority that deals with the public insurance fund for health. It finances the medical providers per capita, per service or per diagnoses related groups. It finances also the curative part of the national health programs. Some of the programs include practically public health research work such health technology assessment, assessment of the impact of the programs etc, but this are not formally defined as research activities

### 2.4. Regions

### 2.5. Foundations

## 3. Research Performers

A national research & development system is defined by law in Romania (Government Ordinance no 57/2002 with subsequent amendments). This system includes all the institutes (national or regional) for research and development, but also institutes or research units of the Romanian Academies, universities, any public or private entities involved in research and non-governmental organizations. Among these public entities there are also public health institutes and medical providers like hospitals or clinical institutes of excellence in specific fields.

All the research provided that intend to receive public money for research activities have to be accredited by the Advisory Board of the National Authority for Scientific Research, by the Romanian Academy or by the National Council for Scientific Research in Higher Education Institutions (CNCSIS – specific for universities). The accreditation for research activities is not necessary for receiving public money from the Ministry of Health or from the National Health Insurance House.

### 3.1. State Institutes

3.1.1. National Institute of Public Health (<http://www.ispb.ro/> , available in Romania, under construction) is a new entity created through the unification of six institutes of public health that traditionally existed in Romania. It is under the subordination of the Ministry of Health and has as main responsibilities the following: Surveillance and control of communicable disease; Health promotion and health education; Occupational health; Environment and health; Regulations in public health field; Management of public health and specific public health services, including R&D activities.

3.1. National R&D institutes dealing with public health: There are two in Romania – the National Institute of Research and Development in Microbiology and Immunology “Cantacuzino” (<http://www.cantacuzino.ro/ro/> , available in Romanian) and the National Institute of Research and Development in Pathology and Biomedical Sciences “Victor Babes” (<http://www.ivb.ro/indexen.php> , available in English). They are accredited for research, but they deal especially with biomedical research.

### 3.2. Mixed organizations

### 3.3. Universities

Medical and human sciences universities and faculties – there are public and private universities. Usually they are accredited for research and they can receive public money for research. Only some examples are listed below (there are many public and private universities in Romania):

3.3.1. University of Medicine and Pharmacy Carol Davila from Bucharest – actively involved in public health research through its department of public health ([www.univermer-cdgm.ro](http://www.univermer-cdgm.ro), available in Romanian)

3.3.2. University of Bucharest ([http://www.unibuc.ro/en/main\\_cercetare\\_en](http://www.unibuc.ro/en/main_cercetare_en), available in English)

3.3.3. University of Medicine and Pharmacy Iuliu Hatieganu from Cluj (<http://www.umfcluj.ro/en>, available in English)

3.3.4. University Babes – Bolyai Cluj (<http://www.ubbcluj.ro>, partially available in English).

3.3.5. National School of Public Health, Management and Continuous Education in Health ([www.snsps.ro](http://www.snsps.ro), available in Romanian), recently reorganized.

### 3.4. Health Services

Most of medical providers (generally hospitals or clinical institutes of excellence specialized in different topics as HIV, cardiology, gerontology, endocrinology etc, some county hospitals) have national accreditation for research activities. They don't need this accreditation for being involved in the national health programs.

### 3.5. Independent organizations

3.5.1. Non-Government Organizations – there are some NGOs that are actively involved in public health research. Usually they don't receive public money from the Ministry of Education, nor from the Ministry of Health. Also they are not accredited for research at national level, because of the criteria that are too specific (e.g. to have PhD coordinators as employees). However, they really do or facilitate research work in public health area. The STEPS project provides a list of NGOs that declared their interest in the field.

3.5.2. Private companies – some of them are involved in the national health programs (eg. Health promotion campaigns and social marketing researches).

## 4. Research Strategies

4.1. The national strategy for research and development in Romania refers to the period 2007 – 2013. It was approved through a Government decision (GD no. 217/2007). The strategy has three strategic goals: to increase the level of knowledge in Romania and abroad; to increase the competitiveness of the Romanian economy through innovation and translating research into practice; to increase the quality of life in the society through new approaches that suppose increase the efficiency of public policies (including in the health field).

The strategy defines also the priorities for investments during this period, and health is included, together with food safety and biotechnologies. However, the directions for investments mentioned in the strategy are more related to biomedical research than for PHR. (e.g. developing the knowledge of human integrative biological systems, human body mechanisms for adjusting to the dynamics of biological and psycho-social environment factors, investigation and interventional methods based on molecular and

cellular medicine, genomics and proteomics, modern therapies focused on chemical, genetic and cellular support, as well as their benchmarking in line with the bioethical norms, developing the brain-machine interface for investigation and recovery in neurological disorders, implementing new prevention and intervention methods nationwide, specific to the European operation area).

4.2. The second national plan for research, development and innovation 2007 – 2013 ([http://www.mct.ro/img/files\\_up/1188313586PN2%20eng.pdf](http://www.mct.ro/img/files_up/1188313586PN2%20eng.pdf) ) was approved also through a Government decision (no. 475/2007). It has four components: human resources, capacities, ideas and partnerships in nine directions of research, including environment, health, food safety and humanities, innovation and sustaining the institutional performance.

## 5. Programmes and calls

5.1. The total of the National Plan II 2007 – 2013 is stipulated to be financed to 3750 million EUR\* from the state budget, out of which:

I) Human resources – 9%; (implementation body: Executive Unit for Financing Higher Education and Scientific Research in Universities, related to National Council for Scientific Research in Higher Education Institutions)

II) Capacities – 13,5% ( implementation body: National Authority for Scientific Research)

III) Ideas – 18%; (implementation body: Executive Unit for Financing Higher Education and Scientific Research in Universities, related to National Council for Scientific Research in Higher Education Institutions)

IV) Partnerships in the main domains – 36%, of which:

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|---|-----|
| 1) Information and Communication Technology .....     | 10% |
| 2) Energy .....                                       | 10% |
| 3) Environment .....                                  | 14% |
| 4) Health .....                                       | 14% |
| 5) Agriculture, food safety and security .....        | 12% |
| 6) Biotechnologies .....                              | 7%  |
| 7) Innovative materials, processes and products ..... | 15% |
| 8) Space and security .....                           | 8%  |
| 9) Socio-economic and humanistic research .....       | 10% |

V) Innovation – 13,5 % (Managerial Agency for Scientific Research, Innovation and Technology Transfer)

VI) Sustaining the institutional performance – 10%;

\* this amount is stipulated in LEI, and may be subject of rectification.

5.1.1. Human resources Postdoc programs, teams of young researchers, encouraging the return of researchers in Romania

5.1.2. Capacities

Module I: Small projects for investments in R&D infrastructure

Module II: Support projects for increasing impact of R&D activities (currently active, <http://www.ancs.gov.ro/index.php?action=viewart&artid=2151&idcat=38> )

Module III: Support projects for involvement in international R&D projects

Module IV: Support of the Romanian representation in international S&T organizations.

5.4. Ideas

Exploratory research, complex exploratory research projects, exploratory workshops

## 6. European contacts

### 6.1. National FP7 Contact point (Health area)<sup>1</sup>

1. Olguta Iordache, National Authority for Scientific Research, Intermediate Body for Research, Bucharest

2. Letitia Clara Stanila, National Authority for Scientific Research, European Integration and International Co-operation, Bucharest

3. Cristina Tanase, National R&D Institute of Pathology and Biomedical Sciences, Laboratory of biochemistry, Bucharest

4. Horia Stefanescu, University of Medicine and Pharmacy Iuliu Hatieganu, Cluj Napoca

### 6.2. National DG SANCO Contact point<sup>2</sup>

6.2.1. Diana Ditu, Counsellor General Directorate for Foreign Relations and European Affairs, Programme Implementation Unit from the Ministry of Health, [diana.ditu@ms.ro](mailto:diana.ditu@ms.ro)

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<sup>1</sup> Source: [http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ncp\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ncp_en.html), assessed in October 2010

<sup>2</sup> Source: [http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/policy/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/policy/index_en.htm) assessed in February 2010