Meeting Minutes – Health / SRH / MHPSS Partner Meeting, 21 May 2025

World Health Organization
European Region

Meeting Subject	Health/SRH/MHPSS Working Group
Time & Location	21 May 2025, 14:00 pm EEST, online - Zoom.
Chaired by	Dr Silvia Gatscher (WHO Romania), Ioana Tonceanu (WHO Romania)
Minutes prepared by	Raluca Dumitrescu (WHO Romania)
Agenda	1. Updates from Health, SRH, MHPSS sector 2. Social Prescribing Study – FONSS 3. Planning for the next meeting/training with partners
Participants	Daniela Draghici, Sex vs. Stork Association/ Midwives Association of Romania Raluca Buzea, Romanian Red Cross Silvia Gatscher, WHO Romania Bogdan Halgean, WHO Romania Raluca Dumitrescu, WHO Romania Ioana Tonceanu, WHO Romania Diana Chiriacescu, FONSS Mihaela Olteanu, FONSS Mihaela Munteanu, FONSS Carmen Niculescu, ANES Luna Mehrain, UNFPA Diana Biclineru, Plan International Carmen Radu, Asociatia Moaselor din Romania (AMsR) Alina Garleanu, Romanian Red Cross Cristina Vladescu, Terre des hommes Daniela Dragomir, Save the Children Romania
AGENDA POINTS	
Agenda Point 1 Updates from Health and SRH sector	The meeting was co-chaired co-chaired by Silvia Gatscher (WHO Romania), and Ioana Tonceanu (WHO Romania) who welcomed all participants and provided a brief overview of the agenda and objectives of the meeting. She highlighted the crucial role of coordination and collaboration among partners in the Health, SRH and MHPSS sector. Attendees were invited to actively share updates and engage in meaningful discussions throughout the session. Silvia Gatscher, WHO Romania

	• A qualitative study on childhood vaccination, with a focus on MMR, is currently underway. The findings are being discussed with the Ministry of Health and the National Institute of Public Health (INSP). A dedicated event will be organized to officially launch the study, and health sector partners will be invited to participate. The resulting recommendations will be implemented to benefit both Romanian and Ukrainian refugee communities. Daniela Draghici, Sex vs. Stork Association/ Midwives Association of Romania: • Training for women at ROMEXPO – pending confirmation of details regarding the midwives' involvement. Daniela will provide a brief summary of the upcoming events Carmen Niculescu, ANES • As part of a bilateral project, a report by a group of experts (in English and Romanian) will be shared, focusing on improving access for sexual violence victims in partnership with 10 Romanian counties. It will support advocacy efforts with the Romanian health system. • Links: New report: Improving Access to Healthcare and Justice for Sexual Violence Survivors Raport-tradus_FINAL-RO.pdf una Mehrain, UNFPA • Celebration day of midwife: our commitment to – celebrate with the order of midwifes – and – event at the French Embassy – applaud everyone who is involved in this movement and wants to praise Diana Biclineru, Plan International • Plan International continues to face challenges but remains committed to ongoing activities, particularly in the area of Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH). In collaboration with Carusel and Youth for Youth, they are supporting SRH initiatives targeting young people. Youth for Youth is delivering awareness-raising trainings, while Carusel provides essential SRH services, including medical check-ups, safe abortion care, and mental health support.
Agenda Point 2: Social Medical Prescription Study – FONSS	Diana Chiriacescu, FONSS The study *Socio-Cultural Prescription Mechanism in Romania* was presented. The study has already been developed by the Economic and Social Council, at the initiative of the Cluj Cultural Centre – the main promoter of this mechanism in Romania. Key points from the presentation:

	• The study aims to introduce the socio-cultural prescription model and outline the necessary conditions and levers for its effective implementation. • Socio-cultural prescriptions refer vulnerable individuals to non-medical community services such as cultural, social, volunteering, or personal development activities. • These interventions aim to promote health and well-being and can, in some cases, be covered by medical insurance. • Target groups include people with chronic illnesses (e.g. diabetes, hypertension), mental health conditions, social isolation, marginalization, refugees, and migrants. • The mechanism involves a *Social/Cultural Navigator* (link worker), who is well-connected with local resources and supports individuals in accessing suitable community activities. • Examples of prescribed activities: theatre, music, sports, dance, yoga, creative arts, and therapeutic gardening. • Referrals are based on a needs assessment conducted by medical professionals or social workers. • The model has been successfully implemented in other countries, including the UK (since 2019 – over 2.5 million referrals and 3,500 specialists), Ireland, Finland, Sweden, Portugal, Austria, New Zealand, and Canada. • The mechanism contributes to reducing the demand for medical services and the associated healthcare costs, while improving community health outcomes.
Next Meeting: Capacity training for partners	• Upcoming Networking Meeting take place on 10 July, 10:00 – 14:00