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SPECIFIC FEATURES OF THE MDR-TB ENDEMIC IN ROMANIA AND THE NATIONAL TB PREVENTION, SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL PROGRAM'S RESPONSE

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Even though in Romania the TB rate (new cases and relapses) is by far the highest in the EU and one of the highest in the European Region of the OMS, in the past ten years it has decreased by 42 % from a maximum of 142,2 ‰ in 2002 to 82,6 ‰ in 2011 as a consequence of the remarkable growth in the success rate revealed by new cases from 51 % in 1995 to 85,5 % in 2011. The situation is substantially different with regard to the MDR/XDR TB. The main issue is the inability to obtain a significant therapeutic success rate. Thereby the 2008 sample analysis shows, in terms of disease progression categories, 16,3 % cured patients, 3,3% completed treatment (with a 19,6 %) success rate,

23,5 % deceased, 34,7 % failure, 21,6 % dropout and 0,6 % not evaluated.

With remarkable consistency, the success rate is unchanged in 2009 – 19,7 % and 2010 – 19,9 %, being tantamount to the spontaneous favorable evolution rate in the absence of any etiological treatment known in the pre antibiotic period, in flagrant contrast with the GLC sample results. Consequently, the Ministry of Health has launched a specialized program that aims to improve the programmatic management of TB MDR/XDR, the increase of laboratory capacity for the TB MDR management and the provision of a full treatment necessary to all TB MDR/XDR cases.