Romania’s reply to the Call for inputs

on the realisation of the right of persons affected by violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, in relation to SDG3.

Inputs are provided to the questions as identified in the questionnaire:

## Research: understanding the health care needs of LGTBI and GNC people

Within the health field, the mentioned statistical data are collected, but not desegregated on sexual orientation or gender identity. According to the law regulating the health field, one of the essential objectives of the social health insurance system is protecting all insured persons universally, equitably and without any discrimination.

## Inclusion: LGTBI and GNC people in the decision-making process

## The regulation on decision-making transparency in public administration is founded on several principles: the preliminary ex officio public notification on all questions of public interest that are to be debated by the public administration’s authorities, at central or local level, including as regards the draft pieces of legislation; the consultation of citizens and non-governmental organisations, at the initiative of domestic authorities, on the actual draft of legislation pieces, thus allowing natural and legal persons to play an active role in the drafting process.

## A Draft National Strategy for Sexual and Reproductive Health covering the period 2021-2024 was drawn up; once the new National Health Strategy is approved, its implementation and monitoring Plans will also cover the aspects of sexual and reproductive health.

## The domestic authorities identified the need for support in organising training sessions for health personnel, focusing on inequalities in health services provided to LBGTI and GNC persons and on optimal communication methods.

## The domestic authorities identified as a main barrier the lack of a wider human rights based approach in the health field.

## Access: ensuring that LGTBI and GNC people have access to health care

As indicated above, the social health insurance system is protecting all insured persons universally, equitably and without any discrimination. As such, several preventive and treatment measures are taken by the domestic authorities:

- the National Program for Mental Health and prevention in psychiatric pathology, running on an annual basis, focuses on preventing depression and suicide, promoting mental health in the work place, for children and teenagers, consolidating the general practitioners’ intervention in preventing suicide and depression, enabling parents to acquire skills and knowledge to develop their children’s emotional and social abilities

- the National Strategy for the Promotion of Equal Opportunities and Treatment for Women and Men and for Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence for the Period 2018-2021, followed by the National Strategy for preventing and combating sexual violence “SINERGY” 2020-2030 (the National Strategy on Sexual Violence) establish a good framework for a robust multi-agency and multi-sectoral response in Romania for preventing and combating domestic and sexual violence; the National Strategy “SINERGY” 2020-2030 adopts a comprehensive approach and aims at decreasing the number of cases of sexual violence and preventing recidivism, particular attention being paid to measures on cyber violence. Measures foreseen include, inter alia, training of all relevant professionals on  preventing and combating sexual violence, awareness raising activities aimed at  to journalists, bloggers and vloggers, an analysis of the current legislative framework to enhance security in the online environment and combatting pornography, “revenge pornography”20, harassment / blackmail regarding the dissemination of sexually explicit material, psychological support for victims of sexual violence, data collection for offences of sexual violence (including street sexual harassment, online offences), and setting up of specialised units within the prosecutor's office and law enforcement agencies. In addition, forensic services for women victims of rape and sexual violence are being introduced, which complement the approach.

## Training and Education: health care professionals and educational institutions

In the Romanian secondary education system, health education, including aspects concerning family and reproductive health and sexuality education, is approached within compulsory and optional (elective) disciplines[[1]](#footnote-1) by means of contents and competences to be acquired and developed by pupils.

With regard to the core disciplines (compulsory) taught in school, topics relating to health education are included in *Life science* and *Physical education* in primary education and *Biology* at lower and upper secondary education, respectively.

The national curriculum for optional disciplines includes *Health education*, an optional discipline based on a modular syllabus covering all educational levels (primary, lower and upper secondary education) and aiming to promote pupils’ health and wellbeing, their personal development and to prevent habits and attitudes with negative impact on health.

*Health education* covers a variety of sexuality education topics, approached within the discipline’s different thematic areas, which are common to all modules. To exemplify, within the *Family and reproductive health* thematic area the following topics are approached in different modules: “Responsible sexual behaviour: attitudes regarding the start of sexual life”, “Sexually transmitted diseases – risky behaviours in AIDS transmission”, “Future plans: family, social relationships, the impact of sexual life on the future”; “Conception and pregnancy: the risks of pregnancy in puberty and adolescence for mother and child”, “Unwanted pregnancy and abortion: risks, family planning, counselling services”, “Violence in sexuality, sexual abuse”; “Pre and post AIDS test counselling”, “Identity and sexual orientation”, “Legislation on sexuality”. Other relevant topics cover the area of gender discrimination (“Gender identity and gender discrimination”) and domestic violence (“Forms of domestic violence - physical, social, economic, emotional, sexual”). The content and the methodological approaches of this discipline promote multiple perspectives on the topics approached (scientific, pedagogic, legislative etc.).

From the perspective of gender equality, the current lower secondary curriculum (e.i. study plans and school syllabi) adopted in 2016 in the context of the national curricular reform, bring a new perspective on this topic (e.g. through the disciplines *Counselling and personal development, Social education, Physical education, etc.*), both by means of contents as well as by the methods /didactical strategies employed by the teachers. In addition, teachers have been prepared to implement the new curriculum though a nation-wide training programme carried out during the last 3 years, and in this context, they have developed the competences needed to promote the role of gender equality for pupils’ self-knowledge, personal development and career guidance.

Gender equality awareness and understanding, as well as the acquisition of the associated values, and the observance of the corresponding legislation is also promoted and facilitated through the optional courses offer[[2]](#footnote-2), as well as though the extracurricular activities carried out in partnership with governmental, non-governmental and international institutions/ organizations.

Regarding the continuous professional development of teachers, each year, the Teacher Training Houses[[3]](#footnote-3) offer accredited and authorised trainings and courses on a variety of topics in line with teachers’ professional development needs and the educational policies promoted. *Health education*, including the topic on HIV/ AIDS prevention, is a theme constantly approached by the annual teacher training programs offer. In 2020-2021 school year, 1,200 teachers attended accredited teacher trainings on topics such as *Health education*, *Health education – a chance for a successful future generation*, *Health through education, Health education and first aid, Healthy form a young age – health education etc.* In addition, 1,632 teachers attended and completed accredited training programmes on topics such as: *Education for health in the Romanian school*, *Stress management – healthy lifestyle education, Health education- a branch of human culture, One health – health education etc.*

In 2021, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health issued a joined order on ensuring the medical assistance of pre-schoolers and pupils in pre-university education, as well as to students in higher education institutions in view of preserving communities’ health and of promoting a healthy lifestyle. In addition, the medical personnel from the schools’ medical offices provide services by means of health education activities carried out in the classroom, which foster a healthy lifestyle, the topics being approached including topics related to *family life, sexually transmitted diseases*, etc.

## Sustainable Development Goals

The data collected are only male/female-desegregated; the selective statistical research in the social field, in accordance with the European statistical regulations, does not cover the collection of data on gender identity.

1. In pre-university education, the optional courses are offered and carried out within the Curriculum at school’s decision, which includes the educational offer proposed by the school, in line with pupils’ learning needs and interests and the school’s specificity and the local community needs. The course offer may include both the optional disciplines available at national, regional and local level and those developed at the school’s level. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. For example, the following optional disciplines at available at national level: Health education, Education for democracy, Civic culture, Civic education for high school, Intercultural education, etc. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Teacher Training Houses are resource centers having as aim the training and the professional and personal development of the secondary education staff in Romania. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)