



MINISTERUL MUNCII
ȘI JUSTIȚIEI SOCIALE

Social Protection Reform Project
中国-欧盟社会保护改革项目



National social assistance system in Romania

Social Services Policies Directorate
Ministry of Labor and Social Justice

13 September, 2017, Bucharest

Territorial - administrative division of Romania



Population (2012)	Approx. 19 million
GDP per capita (2012)	EUR 9,754 (\$14544)
Governmental revenues (% of GDP, 2012)	33.0
Governmental expenditure % of GDP, 2012), out of which:	35.5
Social protection expenditure (% of GDP, 2012), out of which:	14.3
Pensions	11.0
Unemployment Benefits	0.4
Social benefits and services	2.9

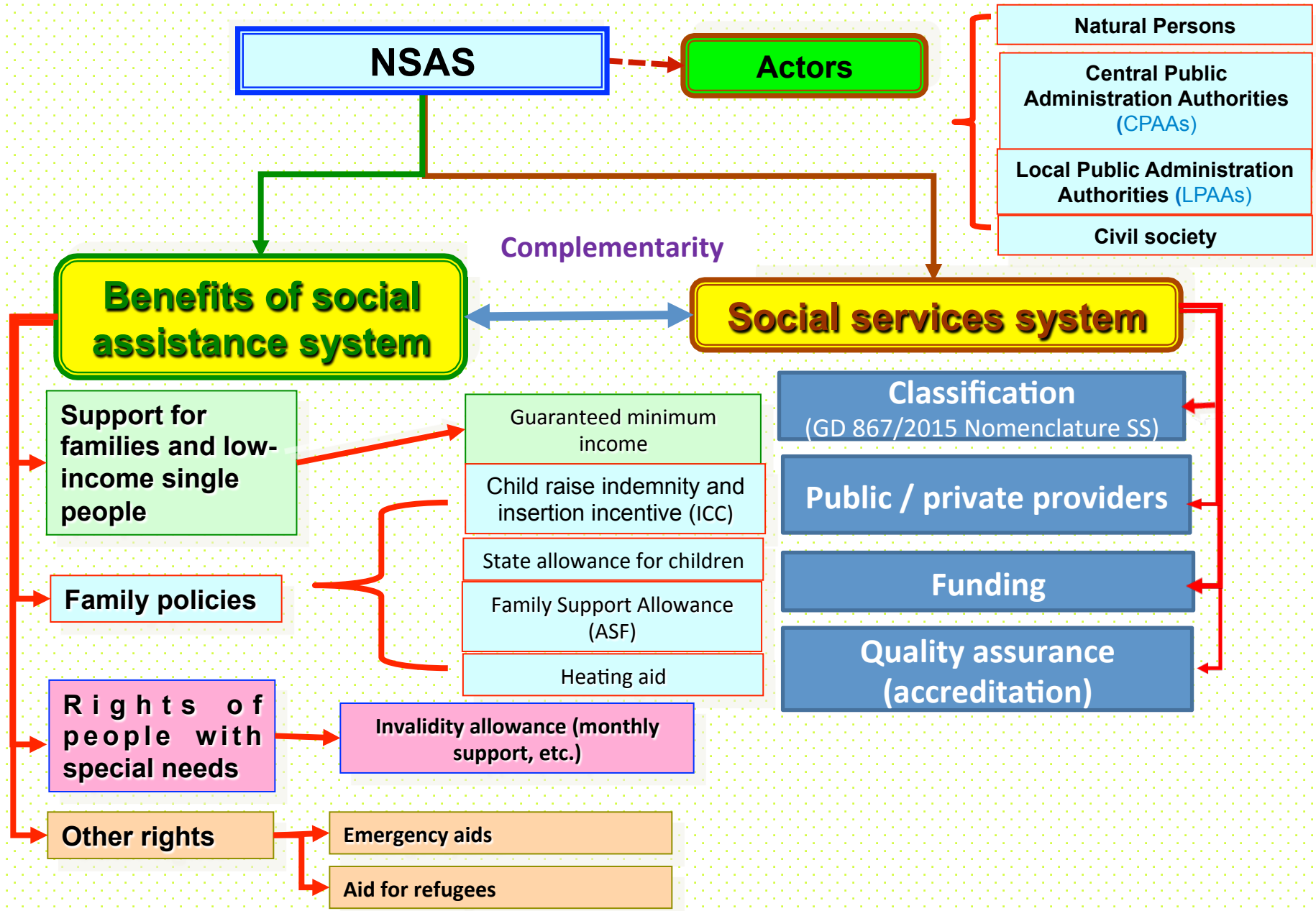
- 41 Counties + Bucharest Municipality (County Councils + BM Council)
- 3181 administrative-territorial units (Local Councils):
 - ❖ 320 urban units (towns and municipalities) ~66% of pop.
 - ❖ 2861 rural units (communes) ~44% of pop.
 - 13.285 villages (1 commune = 5 villages in average)



National Social Assistance System (NSAS)



- Social welfare framework law no. 292/2011, as amended and supplemented (O.U.G. nr. 31/2015) – establishes the organization, operation and financing of national social assistance system (NSAS)
- NSAS = institutions, measures and actions by which the state(central and local public administration authorities) and civil society intervene to prevent, limit or eliminate the temporary or permanent effects of situations that may lead to marginalization or social exclusion of the person, family, groups or communities
- NSAS = social assistance benefits system + social services system
 - social benefits of and social services constitute a unitary package of correlated and complementary measures;
 - social services should take precedence over social benefits if their cost and impact on beneficiaries are similar;
 - social assistance measures to be periodically evaluated from the point of view of their effectiveness and efficiency in order to be permanently adapted and adjusted to the actual needs of the beneficiaries;
 - to contribute to the integration into the labor market of the beneficiaries;
 - to prevent and limit any form of dependence on state or community support.



NSAS

Actors

Natural Persons

Central Public Administration Authorities (CPAAs)

Local Public Administration Authorities (LPAAs)

Civil society

Complementary

Benefits of social assistance system

Social services system

Support for families and low-income single people

Family policies

Rights of people with special needs

Other rights

Guaranteed minimum income

Child raise indemnity and insertion incentive (ICC)

State allowance for children

Family Support Allowance (ASF)

Heating aid

Invalidity allowance (monthly support, etc.)

Emergency aids

Aid for refugees

Classification

(GD 867/2015 Nomenclature SS)

Public / private providers

Funding

Quality assurance (accreditation)

NSAS – regulated by Social Assistance Law no. 292/2011, amended and supplemented

Institutional organization of NSAS

- based on the principles of decentralization and local autonomy
- the application of social policies is carried out by local public administration authorities (LPAAs)

LPAAs => obligation to set up PSAS (public social assistance services), and implicitly attributions regarding the administration and granting of benefits of social assistance and social services (SS).

CPAAs => design social policies, accredits SS public / private suppliers and SS licenses (in order to guarantee the fulfillment of minimum quality standards).

Central level:

- **Ministry of Labor and Social Justice (MMJS)** = the central public authority under the Government's responsibility to develop social assistance policy sets out the national and sectoral development strategy in the social field, coordinates and monitors their implementation, financially and technically supports social programs and exercises control over the benefits of social assistance and social services.
- **MMJS subordinated / coordinated institutions :**
 - ✓ National Authority for Persons with Disabilities (ANPD)
 - ✓ National Authority for the Protection of Child's Rights and Adoption (ANPDCA)
 - ✓ National Agency for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men (ANES)
 - ✓ National Agency for Payments and Social Inspection (ANPIS)
 - ✓ National Agency for Employment (ANOFM)
 - ✓ National House of Public Pensions (CNPP)
 - ✓ Labor inspection (IM)

Institutional organization of NSAS (II)

County level:

- (I) Territorial (County) Agencies for Payments and Social Inspection (AJPIS)
- (II) Public Social Assistance Services - General Directorates for Social Assistance and Child Protection (DGASPC) (under the subordination of the county council)

Local level:

- Public Social Assistance Services (**PSAS**) (under the subordination of the local councils of towns and municipalities)
- Public Social Assistance Services (**PSAS**) (in the mayor's specialty apparatus at commune level)



CENTRAL LEVEL

MINISTRY OF LABOR AND SOCIAL JUSTICE (MMJS)

EMPLOYMENT, COMPETENCIES AND PROFESSIONAL MOBILITY POLICIES DIRECTORATE

SALARY POLICIES DIRECTORATE

SOCIAL SECURITY DIRECTORATE

SOCIAL BENEFITS POLICIES DIRECTORATE

SOCIAL SERVICES POLICIES DIRECTORATE

National Agency for Employment (ANOFM))

Work Inspection (IM)

National Agency for Payments and Social Inspection (ANPIS)

National Authority for Persons with Disabilities (ANPD)

National Authority for the Protection of Child's Rights and Adoption (ANPDCA)

National Agency for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men(ANES)

Public Employment Service (PES)

Territorial Work Inspection ITM (42)

AJPIS (42)

COUNTY COUNCIL

PSAS
General Directorates for Social Assistance and Child Protection (DGASPC) (42+6)

COUNTY LEVEL

Local Council of the municipality/town

Local Council of the commune

PSAS (Directorate level)

PSAS (compartment level)

LOCAL LEVEL

Main strategic documents

- National Strategy on Reform in Social Assistance (SNRAS) 2011-2013-2017 – Memo.Guv. 2011, 2015
- National Strategy on Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction (SNISR) 2015–2020 – GD no. 383/2015
- National Strategy to Promote Active Aging and Protection of the Elderly (SNPIAPPV) 2015 – 2020 – GD no. 566/2015



Main provisions of the strategic documents

1. SNRAS

2011-2013-
017

Improving SNAS performance by strengthening performance management; improving administrative fairness and efficiency; reducing errors and fraud; Increasing forecasting capability, strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation, and improving the quality of human resources in the system (quantitative and qualitative) (50% of PSAS=social workers)

2. SNISR

2015-
2020

Area-based policies, people-based policies (social transfers, social services, employment, education, health, housing, social participation, etc.) and strengthening institutional capacity to reduce poverty and promote inclusion (enhancing capacity for policy formulation and management at all levels, developing an integrated approach in the field of social policy development, developing monitoring and evaluation systems, improving service delivery with information and communication technologies, modernizing payment systems)

3. SNPIAPPV

2015-2020

Strategic goals: Extending active life, Promoting active and worthy social participation for Elderly, Enhanced independence and security for people with long-term care needs

Recent Achievements of ...

(1)



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- To ensure quality in social services, MMJS has regulated the accreditation of social service providers (public or private) and the licensing of social services that meet the minimum quality standards:
- Social Assistance Law no. 292/2011,
- Ministerial Order no. 424/2014 approving the specific criteria underlying the accreditation of social service providers,
- Law no. 197/2012 on quality assurance in the field of social services,
- GD no.867 / 2015 for the approval of the Social Services Nomenclature, as well as the framework regulations for the organization and functioning of social services,
- GD no.978 / 2015 on the approval of minimum cost standards for social services,
- Ministerial Order no. 2126/2014 on the approval of minimum quality standards for the accreditation of social services for elderly people, homeless people, young people who have left the child protection system and other categories of adult people in difficulty, as well as for services provided in the community, integrated services and social canteens, Annexes 1-10

Recent Achievements of ...

(2)



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- **OUG 82/2016 – approval of the special public function of social inspector**
 - ANPIS = unique control institution in social assistance,
 - the evaluation, monitoring and control activity in social assistance is carried out by social inspectors,
 - **Public function of social inspector** - exercised by a person with multidisciplinary, multidisciplinary and professional experience, ensuring the necessary competence to carry out the tasks assigned to the inspection missions,
 - rights, duties and incompatibilities specific to the social inspector, higher than other civil servants, including the higher risk of abuse of the beneficiary than in other services (these are mainly persons / groups in difficulty, risk of exclusion, level of knowledge of rights and low level of self-determination -> high degree of vulnerability in relation to suppliers)



- **Proposal of a G.D. on** the approval of the three framework regulations on organization and functioning of PSASs, the structure guideline and the deadlines for the adoption by LPAAs
 - MMJS supports the LPAAs to organize their activities regarding the unitary management of social services, their provision through specialized structures, the collaboration of DGASPC / PSAS / the department responsible for contracting social services etc.,
- **Integrated Services - Multidisciplinary teams :**
 - According to the law 292/2011, social services can be offered on an integrated basis: when the initial assessment highlights special needs whose work involves interdisciplinary teamwork and / or involvement of other institutions, it is recommended to carry out the complex evaluation, completed with the individualized assistance and care plan;
 - The specialist in the team typically uses standardized tools and techniques specific to the field of activity.
- **Elaboration of guides, methodologies and training in their use - POCA 2014-2020 project** - development of maps of SS and SS infrastructure

Goals...

through SNISR 2015-2020 (1)



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- Investments in SNAS development and professionalization of social and HR services in the system by:
 - Strengthening the capacity of MMJS and their agencies,
 - Develop institutional (administrative, managerial, informational) capacity and SNAS and SPO resources at the local level (HR employment, training, etc.) and stimulate partnerships at local level,
 - Growth no. of professionals in strategic planning, monitoring, evaluation and case management in DGASPC (for increasing the role in strategic planning, methodological coordination and support for SPAS and monitoring and evaluation of social service providers in the county),
 - Developing the continuous professional training system for social services professionals, including those responsible for regulating social services as well as for education, community mediators and other relevant professionals in the integrated approach to service delivery;
 - Extension no. of professionals in diagnosis, early needs of children with disabilities

Goals... through SNISR 2015-2020 (2)



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- Establishment of PSAS in all localities where it does not exist, especially in small rural areas;
- Existence of min. 1 full-time social worker in each locality;
- Reconsider the level of salaries of workers / social workers;
- Knowledge and respect of the responsibilities of the workers / social workers and the status of the social worker;
- clear and unified procedures for needs assessment, planning, financing, contracting, monitoring and evaluation of social services,
- Use of ICT + Modern Case Management Methods + Appropriate Training and Remuneration => Social Assistant = Informed and proactive agent, capable of clear case diagnostics, able to direct beneficiaries to a wide range of services to overcome vulnerability,
- Integration of social benefits, social services, employment services and other services-> social assistant => 'integrator' with a solid case management function.



- Development of integrated social services at Community level, through:

1. Developing Community Integrated Intervention Teams:

- Establishment of multi-disciplinary local specialist teams and inter-sectoral and multi-department cooperation at all levels as a first step;
- The implementation of the national capacity-building and PSAS capacity-building program as an essential prerequisite;
- Ensure that a higher budget is transferred to local authorities,

2. Development of the organizational-methodological framework (methodologies and tools for carrying out the comprehensive needs assessment, protocols for guiding the work of the teams, with clear responsibilities and rules, etc., establishing the functional relations between the teams and the levels of management, ensuring the coordination of the professions, and training / re-qualification, defining functional links between teams and other providers (e.g. family doctors, nurses and NGOs).

Goals...

through SNISR 2015-2020 (4)



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- Increase policymaking and management capacity through :

1. Fundamental policies, programs and services on relevant research and needs assessment;
2. Strengthen the systems for monitoring and periodic evaluation of the effectiveness of interventions through:
 - (i) improving the mechanisms for collecting administrative data and research data on a regular basis;
 - (ii) developing staff capacity (central, county and local) to analyze quantitative and qualitative data in the areas of poverty and exclusion;
 - (iii) increasing the competencies of the personnel of the responsible ministries responsible for the implementation of SNISR, on carrying out needs assessments, process and impact assessments, cost-benefit analyzes, etc);
 - (iv) enhancing cooperation and coordination between different institutions in carrying out activities in the areas of poverty reduction and promoting social inclusion.

Thank you for your attention !



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