2007 UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing
Participation and Involvement of elderly persons on social life in Romania

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Social Inclusion, Participation and Involvement

To be included needs to be involved

To be involved needs to be responsible

To be responsible needs to be informed
Elderly people participation and involvement

- As a consequence of the totalitarian regime, the Romanian citizens, especially the older ones, have been developed an attitude of passive dependency to the state authorities’ decision

- Beginning with the year of 1990, the participation and involvement of elderly stays in attention of the Romanian policy makers. The legal framework is focused on supporting the participation of the old persons:
  - As citizens, in all aspects of the society;
  - As users, in the provision of social services, especially of personal care services.

Legal framework - 1990-2000 Period

A set of regulations stipulates:

1. The right of association:
2. The support for civil society organizations:

- Governmental Decision regarding the support for the foreign charitable NGO’s
- Laws regarding fiscal facilities for NGO’s
- Law regarding the provision of subsidies from the state and local budgets to the NGO’s licensed as providers of social services

Legal framework – 2000 -2007 Period

- Law regarding the social assistance measures for elderly persons (adopted in 2000);
- Law on setting up the National Council of Elderly Persons (adopted in 2000);
- Law on voluntary movement (adopted in 2001);
- Law on free access to the information of public interest (adopted in 2001);
- Law regarding the houses of mutual aid for pensioners (adopted in 2002);
- Law regarding the transparency of the public administration’s decisions;
- Law on facilitating the pensioners associations (adopted in 2004);
- Governmental Decision regarding the settlement of Consultative Committees of civil dialogue for the elderly persons (adopted in 2004);
- Governmental Decision regarding the national strategy of social assistance development for elderly persons (adopted in 2005).
The NCEP was set up as an autonomous and consultative body, having, as main objective, the institutionalization of social dialogue between public authorities and elderly persons.

The NCEP is build on an associative basis, including 12 organizations, associations and federations of elderly persons, representative at national level; the leaders of the NCEP have the right to be members in different boards of governmental institutions;

The NCEP is financed from the contributions of the component organizations and from the state budget.
THE MAIN TASKS OF THE NCEP

To support the governmental institutions to implement the recommendations of The World Assembly on Ageing

To elaborate proposals of programs concerning the quality of life of elderly persons

To monitor the application of the legislation and to inform the authorities about the identified obstacles

To elaborate, in partnership with competent institutions, studies and sociological analysis

To strengthen the associative movement of elderly persons and their active participation to social life

THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES OF CIVIL DIALOGUE FOR ELDERLY (CCCD)

➢ CCD are organized within the prefect institution;

➢ The main tasks of the CCD are:

To ensure the relationships, collaboration and information exchange between local public authorities and the elderly organizations

To maintain and encourage the consultation of the elderly about the community problems in economic, social, medical and cultural areas

To monitor the implementation of the measures taken based on common agreement and to prepare annual reports
**INVolVEMENT IN THE NGO`S ACTIVITIES OF PERSONAL CARE**

The elderly persons are recipients and actors, 
in relation to personal care services

Elderly involvement in social services field represents a right and responsibility and should be enforceable and accessible

Elderly persons are not solely passive recipients, they must play a full and an active part in social services.

Romania has legal norms regarding the obligation of social services providers, public or private, to involve elderly users and their families in the process of community planning, in designing the individual care plan and in the social services management.

**SHORT SUMMARY OF PRESENT SITUATION**

- More than 20 national organizations and associations of elderly persons are involved in representing the rights of old citizens;
- A range of NGO’s are providing care services for elderly (in each county); the network is in a continuous process of development;
- Federation of the NGO’s specialized in community care for elderly is created;
- National Council of Elderly Persons, with 42 county councils is set up;
- Committees of civil dialogue of elderly persons are working in each prefect office.