



ЦЕНТРО ЗА РЕГИОНАЛНИ ИСТРАЖУВАЊА И СОРАБОТКА

OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE
Public Health Program

КОНФЕРЕНЦИЈА

Јавно здравје во Македонија и Ромите

Како досега и понатаму?

22 јануари 2009, почеток 10.00 часот, хотел Холидеј Ин, сала Милениум 1

Exercising Healthcare Protection Rights

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Deputy Ombudsman of the Republic of Macedonia

КОНФЕРЕНЦИЈА: „Јавното здравје во Македонија и Ромите: Како досега и понатаму?“

CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL REGULATIVE

- According to the Constitution, every citizen is guaranteed the right to healthcare protection, however every citizen also has the responsibility to maintain and promote his/her health and the health of others.

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CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL REGULATIVE

- Healthcare protection rights are determined by several laws and under those have been adopted many by-laws determining the citizens' legal rights

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CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL REGULATIVE

- Right to primary healthcare protection (primary healthcare services, free healthcare services by general physician and emergency healthcare, medications; certain services in specialist-consultative healthcare; certain services in hospital healthcare;
- Right to choose general practitioner;
- Treatment abroad;
- Certain services free of charge;
- Right to safe drinking water, healthy environment measures;
- Special healthcare treatment and rehabilitation measures for children with special needs, etc.

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PROBLEMS IN EXERCISING THE RIGHT TO HEALTHCARE PROTECTION

- The Roma population does not have higher number of filed cases than the general population regarding exercising and protection of healthcare rights;
- The Roma population does not have any special or different problems in exercising this right and they share the problems of the other citizens.

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PROBLEMS IN EXERCISING THE RIGHT TO HEALTHCARE PROTECTION

- From the filed cases and our wider knowledge this category of citizens does not have the most adequate conditions to exercise their right to healthcare protection;
- Reasons: poverty, inadequate living conditions that do not provide possibilities for healthy life and maintenance of health and do not provide adequate medical treatments and interventions.

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PROBLEMS IN EXERCISING THE RIGHT TO HEALTHCARE PROTECTION

- Number of the filed cases by Roma population refer to receiving status of insured persons:
- Large number of Roma citizens **do not have health insurance** due to unemployment or lack of certain criteria: regulation of citizenship status, unregistered children in the book of births, etc.

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STATISTICS: FILED CASES TO OMBUDSMAN

- By members of Roma community (that have stated their ethnic background), the Ombudsman has received:
- In 2007 – out of total 67 filed cases referring to healthcare protection only 2 were from Roma
- In 2006 – out of total 59 filed cases referring to healthcare protection only 2 were from Roma
- In 2005 – no cases filed
- In 2004 – out of total 50 filed referring to healthcare protection only 4 were from Roma

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MOST COMMON COMPLAINTS IN EXERCISING THE RIGHT TO HEALTHCARE PROTECTION:

- Uninsured persons (unemployed however ineligible for social or other healthcare insurance. Large number of children do not have the right to health insurance since they are not registered in the book of births);
- Problems with registering under different criteria due to unpaid personal taxes due to expiration;

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OTHER IDENTIFIED CASES:

- Illegal fees made by some healthcare institutions;
- Lack of medications and medical devices in hospital and pharmacies;
- Purchasing medications and medical devices with out-of-pocket money;
- Problems with referrals for treatment abroad;
- Problems with regular treatment for some chronic illnesses;
- Lack of reimbursement for medical costs by the Insurance Fund for treatment in healthcare institutions that do not have contract with the Insurance Fund;
- Low standard of living that creates problems for healthcare protection;
- Low awareness of citizens for maintenance and promotion of their health;
- Frequent consumption of alcohol and cigarettes especially by children, usage of narcotics and energy drinks.