



Cluj hospitals fell to bed

* **Stand-by. Though in the medical system there are 112 rehabilitation and construction projects, most of the works haven't been started yet.**

* **The limited number of hospital beds puts the patients on the waiting list**

Whether we talk about equipment, conditions and services or money invested, Romanian medical system leaves a bitter taste, being under the European average. Lack of money and investment in this area raises issues that jeopardize the right of patients to quality medical service. The large number of patients that address to health units exceeds their capacity to serve, waiting lists being a common practice, found in most hospitals and clinics in Romania. The precarious state of health system and the more frequent complaints of patients regarding the lack of hospital conditions have imposed the achievement of national statistics, a market study on Romania's medical system with hospitals, clinics and offices in the design stage, construction or rehabilitation. In an attempt to monitor the level of investment in Romanian medical system, Information for Business and Construction (IBC) Focus, has carried out the **Hospitals and Clinics Report**, which contains data on 112 health units that are being designed, are built or that are being rehabilitated in Romania.

Hospitals' number is growing.

The 112 projects fall into: 43 private investments and 69 public investments. According to the report, in the following two years the works for over 69 hospitals will be completed in Romania. 38 buildings of the public investments are new hospitals, and 31 will benefit from rehabilitation works or expansion. "Currently, only 10 of the hospitals are in construction, unfortunately to over 75% of the works contained in this report the works haven't started yet," said **Adriana Bodron, executive director IBC Focus**. She also mentioned that "if these plans will be finalized until 2011, they will lead to an increase of 8% over the number of hospitals in Romania, plus a number of 15,000 new hospital beds, in addition to the 136,000 existing beds at the national level."

In Cluj the rehabilitations are the most used solutions

In Cluj County there are 24 public and private hospitals, 30 clinics and medical centers, and about 7200 hospital beds. According to the **IBC Focus** representative these are not enough to cover the need of the county. In the **IBC Focus database** for Cluj there are 4 projects for new medical units only in the city and 6 for the entire county, only 2 of these being under construction. The rest are only at the design stage. Most of the health units in Cluj are running

rehabilitation works. Mrs. Sanda Patrichi, the manager of The Recovery Clinic hospital, confirms that at the moment, the hospital is running infrastructure rehabilitation works, the surgery unit being already finished. "We finished the works at the surgery unit, which was financed by the Health Ministry. The next step is to equip this unit, but we don't have any funds so far. We are waiting for the Ministry's amend announced for September. Now are in progress the works for the roof, but also works of paving and cleaning, that will continue towards the end of the year" mentioned Patrichi.

Waiting in line

Regarding the hospital capacity and the number of beds, the things do not look so good for the actual and future patients of the Recovery Hospital. "97% of the patients are on the waiting list, because the demand is considerably higher than our possibilities. From the moment of demand, the patients have to wait an average of 6 weeks until they are able to intern", mentioned Patrichi. She also adds that the main problem for this situation is the limited space in the hospital, that hasn't been extended for more than 30 years and the laws impose a limited number of beds per saloon. "If we put more beds, we would break the law", said Patrichi. At the moment the hospital has 406 beds, although the number was supplemented there are still not enough beds according to the demands.

Long-term plans

The Clinic Pneumofiziologie Hospital „Leon Daniello” also has in progress projects of rehabilitation. At present there are running works at the 2nd pavilion, which will continue during the whole year. "We are hoping that next year we will be able to start the works at the 1st pavilion as well. In the last years we invested approximately 10-12 billion Lions in works of rehabilitation, 80% of the money coming from the County Council and the rest of 20% coming from the Local Council", mentioned Vasile Mureşan, the manager of the Cluj Clinic Pneumofiziologie Hospital. He also said that this unit doesn't have any shortage of beds, the 260 beds from here being sufficient for the demand of the patients. In the future, the directors of the hospital take into account a project of extension, which would imply the pent-housing of the old buildings.

On paper Transylvania is leading

The IBC Focus Report shows that from the total of the projects, the Transylvanian region has the highest percentage. Thus, in Transylvania there have been recorded 46 projects, 41 in Wallachia, and only 25 in Moldavia. Regarding the new private investments, the best positioned is the capital (at least 6 new units), closely followed by Sibiu (5) and Brasov (3).