



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF HEALTH
Directorate of Mental Health

Athens, 04 September 2014
Ref. Num. 28177
To: The EU Commissioner for Social Affairs
Mr Lazlo Andor

Dear Commissioner,

Thank you for your letter dated 28-03-2014 regarding your findings on the course of the required actions deriving from the ANDOR-LYKOYRENTZOS Agreement and the realisation of the psychiatric reform programme which is taking place in Greece.

The Directorate of Mental Health on 27-03-2014 by virtue of the document with Ref. no Y5a,b 26480/ 26-03-2014, has submitted an updated assessment of its actions to the Special Service of the Health and Social Solidarity Sector, according to the Action Plan for the realisation of our Memorandum of Cooperation.

Also, documentation on the actions reported has been filed.

In summary, we would like to report the following:

- The new mode of funding mental health units on the basis of cost per beneficiary and type of unit has already been completed through the issuing of the necessary Ministerial Decisions and it has already been implemented for a whole year already.
- The qualitative parameters of the services provided remain to be included in the funding mode. June 2015 has been set as target date for this and the necessary actions are already in development.
- Ministerial Decisions have been issued by virtue of which licensing procedures for mental health units have been simplified while keeping an electronic database of all data and licensing criteria for the existing Mental Health Units. This system is under constant monitoring.
- Out of the total 210 Mental Health Units, 180 have received licensing until now.
- By the Decision with Ref. No Y5b/6871010/04-08-2014 of the Deputy Minister, the time limit for the rest Mental Health Units that are not yet licensed has been extended to 31/10/2014.
- With regard to the signing of agreements between the accredited private legal entity structures and the Ministry of Health on the provision of Mental Health Services, despite the fact that the implementation target date for this was January 2014, it has been requested to postpone it for June 2015, since in order to sign the agreements, the finalization of quality standards, associated with actions of the Agreement (clinical guidelines – treatment protocols etc) should be preceded. For the specifications in question, the collaboration of various scientific groups or Committees is required and, therefore, sufficient time for the implementation is required as well.

Nevertheless, the Directorate of Mental Health will urge on every procedure required from its part, so as to achieve this objective by the end of 2014.

- The definition of qualitative standards on the basis of evaluating rehabilitation work is in development along with the establishment of treatment protocols and clinical guidelines for monitoring rehabilitation work, by utilizing the already existing quality assurance and improvement manual into force in Psychosocial Rehabilitation Units. Guidelines have been elaborated for the main diseases recorded in the existing units, such as dementia, schizophrenia, bipolar emotional disorder, whilst clinical guidelines for other diagnostic categories (e.g. depression) have been recorded as well. All the aforementioned are now under consultation with the competent scientific bodies and are in pilot application before their adjustment to the whole of the units and their establishment.
- For the finalisation of clinical guidelines, scientific groups for dementia, schizophrenia, bipolar emotional disorder have been set up.
- The quality model should be reinforced with the necessary supporting tools in accordance with the clinical guidelines and the quality standards whilst the tool implementation planning is under development.
- The procedure for drawing up the supplementary contract with an Independent Evaluator is under development and upon completion of this there will be normal flow of submitting the interim and annual reports.
- The majority of mental health bodies have been trained on the use of the Information System for Monitoring Mental Health and for the immediate provision and control of the data provided.
- As of 31-3-2014 the Directorate for Mental Health has been authorised by the competent Authority to process personal data, since by virtue of Law 4213/2013 article 27 (Official Gazette 261^A/2013) the obligatory implementation of the Mental Health Monitoring System has been introduced.
- By the virtue of the law 4272/2014 a series of provisions has been enacted that regulate mental health issues related to the organization of Mental Health Units of abolished psychiatric hospitals, the distinct financial management, the operation of institutions involved in the supervision of Mental Health Units (strengthening the sectoral committees and the special audit committee) and the issue of supervision of the private psychiatric clinics.
- Regarding the programme of psychiatric hospitals abolishment, deinstitutionalisation actions have been taken implementing the sheltered apartments programme, the recording of empty beds and chronic patients of Psychiatric Hospitals whilst an operational plan has been prepared for the transformation of psychiatric hospitals. Through relevant interventions the movement of chronic cases into vacant posts of housing type Psychosocial Rehabilitation Units (hospices) is intensified.
- It is noted that the transformation of psychiatric hospitals requires an additional grant from the “Human Resource Development 2007-2013” Operational Programme of about 30,000,000 euro, and to this end we have sent relevant documents to the Special Service of Health and Social Solidarity Sector. Additionally, it has been asked the immediate hire of 1795 people in order to recruit Mental Health Units Public Entities.

- With regard to the development of mental health services for children and adolescents in units with infrastructures we have submitted documents to the competent Managing Authority for determining the cost of developing relevant services.
- In the context of employing health service recipients through the expansion of the institution of Social Cooperatives of Limited Liability (KoiSPE), we have already established two new KoiSPEs in Imathia and Iraklio, and we await the completion of the establishment process in Korinthia, Lasithi Rethimno, whilst the identification of additional mature KoiSPE business plans and their inclusion in co-funding by the NSRF is required. In any case, the target of the Agreement for the development of four new KoiSPEs is evolving very well with the creation of the three already.
- The participation of mental health service recipients both in the decision-making and in the defence of their rights has been institutionalised by the provisions of the articles 9 and 10 of the law 4272/2014.
- Finally, the funding of the Mental Health Units from the NSRF is realised normally after the issuing of the necessary ministerial decisions.

From all the aforementioned, it is clear that the terms defined in the cooperation agreement have been adhered to strictly without deviations in the time frames for the planned action implementation.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER

K. PAPAKOSTA – SIDIROPOULOU