THE EVALUATION OF 2015 ACTIVITIES

DES

AND COORDINATED STRUCTURES

THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS
THE DEPARTMENT FOR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS
I have known the activity of the emergency services from two perspectives, as former head of the Romanian Police and as the Minister of Internal Affairs.

As Minister, it is my duty to confirm, once again, the crucial role that you have in emergency management, in order to limit their impact and save lives. This past year was a year of reference for the emergency system, marked by events that have tested its capability and capacity.

The tens of thousands of lives saved make the firefighters, the doctors and nurses, along with other rescuers, true unsung heroes. Through their daily sacrifice, they contribute to increasing the safety and protection of the Romanian citizens. I assure you that during my term, I will constantly endeavor to ensure the necessary conditions for conducting your activity in the best conditions.

As a former head of the Romanian Police, we have supported and encouraged cooperation between different structures. We have improved the mechanism for this teamwork. Both the employees from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and from the Ministry of Health have succeeded in building a beneficial partnership based on trust and respect for each other's work.

The Department for Emergency Situations is a young structure, with a foundation based on humanitarian values and noble goals. I confirm my support in developing this structure so as to respond promptly to the needs of our society.

I congratulate you for the work in 2015 and wish you success in 2016!
The emergency system of any country is a strategic area. Its purpose is essential – to save and preserve life, in everyday situations or during major disasters.

Over 7.9 million people have received medical assistance in 2015 from the staff working in the emergency services (SMURD, firefighters, and Ambulance services) or emergency units. This means that many lives were saved. There aren’t many public services that can make such a positive assessment. When we speak of Romania, the integrated emergency system has become a model of best practices regarding cooperation between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

During the recent years, the integrated emergency system has undergone a remarkable evolution. Romanian Government allocated a higher budget from year to year, it was insured the equipping for better interventions, and staff training has always been a priority. But there is always room for improvement, things that can be changed so that the population can have the best and the most effective healthcare. It is essential to learn from situations that we had to face.

As Minister of Health I am directly involved in strengthening the integrated emergency system and, therefore, I assure all those working in this area of my full support.
FOREWORD

This is the second year for the Department for Emergency Situations. 2015 was a challenging year, in which the mechanism of the integrated emergency system was forced to show its strength. The mission of the Department and its coordinated structures is not easy. Emergency situations are become more and more difficult to manage and the challenges are increasingly greater in a society that is constantly developing. That is why the emergency system must always adapt and refine in order to respond efficiently and securely.

The leading role of the Department for Emergency Situations has requires us to identify all possible measures for further development of the emergency system so that our country becomes safer from disasters.

Promoting an efficient and flexible legislative framework for emergencies, increasing the response capacity and resilience through the acquisition of modern equipment from the structural funds, and staff from the different structures that are under the coordination of the Department, are top priority objectives for 2016.

I thank the Minister of Internal Affairs for his permanent support, and to all firefighters, doctors, nurses, paramedics, pilots, Ambulance personnel, mountain rescuers and volunteers for their efforts in saving lives.

“*The leading role of the Department for Emergency Situations has requires us to identify all possible measures for further development of the emergency system so that our country becomes safer from disasters.*”
The objectives of the Department for Emergency Situations (DES), a structure established in 2014, were, from the beginning, ambitious. The DES vision for 2015 is summarized in the goals that it managed to achieve.

**Increasing resilience for its structures**

- Purchases of equipment, through funds allocated from the state budget and through projects financed with European funds, meant an increased capacity of intervention during disasters;
- Under the tutelage of the Ministry of Health a program of equipping the emergency units stated, with a loan from the World Bank;
- The hiring of personnel at the Giurgiu Inspectorate for Emergency Situations meant restoring its operational capacity;
- The start of the Integrated Dispatch in Constanța county;
- The start of other firefighter/SMURD/Ambulance stations in the country;

**Developing a culture of security among the population**

During 2015, the DES and the structures under its coordination conducted public campaigns to increase the preparedness of the population in case of disasters. These campaigns were conducted in mainstream media, in social media and door to door. We can mention two of these campaigns: "No tremor during an earthquake", conducted by DES and the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations (GIES), and "Improvisations are catastrophic!", launched by DES, GIES and E.ON Romania;
The improvement of preventive legislation

July 2015 brought tougher fire safety legislation, by amending Law no. 307/2006 regarding the protection against fire. Afterward, in November came the Decision no. 915 establishing the criteria for stopping the operation or use of buildings or facilities who have serious breach of the requirement of in the fire safety procedures that can endanger the lives of occupants and intervention forces. The same month came the Emergency Ordinance no. 52 which amends Law no. 307/2006, giving new competences in law enforcement to firefighters;

Staff performance improvement

- The second stage of training the paramedical staff has started. The courses are designed to broaden their skills for intravenous access and providing advanced airway support;
- The courses for obtaining the certificate of emergency skills for nurses from the Ambulance services have begun. The procedures for obtaining this certificate for the doctors at the Ambulance services also began;
- With the support of the leadership of Ministry of Internal Affairs, we were able to increase the number of graduates at the School of NCOs from Boldești, from 125-225 per year;
- Drivers from the Ambulance service and SMURD took part at the demonstration courses organized by Titi Aur Driving Academy and the Department for Emergency Situations;
Change of the operative shifts

In the early 2015, the work program for the operational staff from the intervention structures of GIES changed from the 24/72 hours shift to a 24/48 hours shift. This measure was adopted by GEIS in order to provide an optimum intervention at national level necessary to ensure a professional emergency response safety of civil society.

Completion of the international projects

The implementation of the project that saw the extension of SMURD in Republic of Moldova was completed. Through this project helicopters serving the medical operating points from Iași and Galați can execute missions in Moldova. So far, several missions were executed. Another objective of the DES was the continuation of the other international project, in parallel with the expansion of international cooperation.

Purchase of equipment for interventions

With the support of the Ministry of Health, the GIES received 25 vehicles for personnel transportation and multiple victims (ATPVM) and a specialized vehicle for disaster intervention at collective accidents and disasters. The Ministry of Internal Affairs purchased 156 Duster SUV’s. In addition, the Ministry of Health has purchased 30 new ambulances for the Ambulance services.
During the tragedy at the Colectiv club, the DES coordinated, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Defense, the actions of contacting some medical institutions abroad for better treatment of the burnt victims and, when the situation allowed, and the transfer in clinics abroad. The transfers were conducted and coordinated by the DES, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the Romanian Air Force, using the Ministry of Defense resources and those of the General Inspectorate of Aviation (two SMURD planes).

Increased resilience for the emergency structures

With the support of experts from the Paris Fire Brigade, the DES has finalized the strategy to respond to an emergency at the underground transport network of Bucharest. In this regard, the new design has been completed and as a result 40 self contained breathing apparatus with long service life have been purchased. Subsequently, the GIES has purchased another 120 machines for those structures which have tunnels in the area of competence.

Coordination with the international partners

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Multinational telemedicine system

NATO is funding a research study on the establishment of multinational telemedicine system which will ensure rapid access to health care and increase chances of survival during a disaster. In this project, NATO civil experts take part, alongside partners from Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, Finland and representatives from institutions in the United States. The project is coordinated for NATO by the chief of the Department for Emergency Situations.

Jordanian - Romanian Medical Congress

The sixth Jordanian – Romanian Congress of Medicine took place in Târgu Mureș. The Congress benefited from the participation of Princess Muna al-Hussein of Jordan. The Congress was under the patronage of the Royal House.

Relații bilaterale

The DES leadership has initiated a series bilateral cooperation projects with Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Switzerland, France, Holland, Israel, Britain, Norway. In Germany, the chief of the DES attended the Congress for Emergency Situations. Thus Romania could became a partner for the 2016 edition of the European Congress for Emergencies.
In 2015, the Department for Emergency Situations has become a constant presence in social media, with a Facebook page, a Twitter account, a Google Plus page and a YouTube channel.

The Department’s Facebook page attracted over 33,000 friends in less than a year. The posts on social media presented the activities of the DES and of the institutions under its coordination. Also, there were posts that presented the first aid measures, tips and other advices.

In 2015, the Department of Emergency Situations received its own website, which can be accessed at www.dsu.mai.gov.ro. Throughout the month, there are over 25,000 views. The website has provided transparency of the Department’s activity, by publishing the law, the decisions taken by the DES and the institutions under its coordination, press releases and other public information campaigns carried out throughout the year.

The Romanian emergency system has been the subject of extensive reports from prestigious TV stations: National Geographic and TV2 Spain.
The General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations (GIES) and its subordinate structure have been operating under the regulatory framework and specific legislation of areas of competence and responsibility, in accordance with the Government Programme, the Strategic plan of Ministry of Internal Affairs and the plan with the main objectives, measures and actions of IGSU.

The fundamental objectives of the organisation

The institutional effort was directed to the fundamental objective of the institution – development the resilience capacity in crises situation and disasters. During exercise specific attributions, GIES has worked in coordination of The Department for Emergency Situation, collaborating during the specific missions with other law enforcement structure.

The development of response capacity

A special attention was provided to maintaining and developing the response capacity in emergency situations, by diversification, renewal and adaptation of the resources to operational needs revealed by the evolution of the nationwide operational situation.
During 2015, the GIES and its structures were assigned 869,059 calls through the 112 system. It means an average of 2,382 calls a day. Compared to 2014 it is a 7% increase.

There were 397,148 emergencies in 2015. An average of 1,088 emergencies a day. It was a 10.5% increase compared to 2014.
SMURD had 342,161 emergency interventions. An average of 937 cases a day. Compared to 2014 the number of emergency interventions increased by 11%.

The SMURD teams provided medical assistance to 350,636 persons for: general medical conditions, trauma, first aid, road accidents, poisoning, heart diseases, neurological/psychiatric disorders, and other disorders.
The SMURD has an average of 285 first aid crews available daily, 28 crews for mobile intensive care units, and 8 neonatology crews. In 2015, crews for qualified first aid and mobile intensive care units were established as follows: 4 intensive care units - one in Bucharest, Hunedoara, Neamț and Satu Mare, 15 first aid crews in Alba, Arges, Bacau, Buzau, Cluj, Mures (3 teams), Neamț (2 teams), Sibiu (4 teams) and Suceava. In 2015, GIES established several new firefighters points (Brasov, Buzau, Giurgiu, Mures, Sibiu, Suceava), equipped with fire engines.

The average response time remained at 11 minutes, as in 2014.
The General Inspectorate of Aviation (GIA) continued in 2015 its gradual evolution, according to the 2010-2020 Strategy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

The objectives of 2015

The specific objectives for 2015 were:

- the increase of the operational capabilities;
- the development of the logistic capabilities
- the development of a modern training programme for the staff
- the development of international cooperation.

The General Inspectorate for Aviation has 19 helicopters, and 2 medical airplanes. The helicopters are: 6 heavy helicopters (3 MI-17 and 3 MI-8), 13 light helicopters (9 EC-135P2+, 2 EC-135P2, and 2 IAR 316B). Airplanes: 1 PIPER PA-42 Cheyenne III, 1 Cessna Citation V.
At this moment, the number of aeromedical points covers the whole country. Also, through an international project, the helicopters from Iași and Galați may intervene in Republic of Moldova. In 2015, the GIA had 12,820 hours of flight available. Most of them, 5,970 hours were used in SMURD missions.
Amulance Services

Field Operations

Number of 112 calls

- 2012: 3540627
- 2013: 3513530
- 2014: 3476366
- 2015: 3741439

Increase: + 7.08%

Is the increase of calls at the Ambulance Services in 2015, compared to 2014

Number of interventions

- Total: 2,972,305

Is the number of emergency interventions, home consultations, and patient transfers
Number of interventions in every county and Bucharest/Ilfov
HUMAN RESOURCES

Medical doctors employed by the Ambulance Service

As other emergency services, the Ambulance Service also faces a decline in personnel.

Nurses employed by the Ambulance Service
Number of presentations to Emergency Rooms

1,319,896 of all the patients arrive by Ambulance or SMURD.

20% of patients arrive by SMURD.
1 in 5 patients is brought by the Mobile Intensive Care Unit of SMURD.
Number of presentations to Emergency Rooms by county

Hunedoara and Iași county have the highest number of patients coming to the Emergency Rooms, compared to population - 1 in 2. The national average is 23.3%.
HUMAN RESOURCES

Medical doctors in the Emergency Rooms

Medical doctors specialized in emergency medicine

Nurses employed in Emergency Rooms
There are 34 mountain rescue centers in 24 counties.
TOTAL BUDGET IN 2015

GIES BUDGET
390,871,933 euro

GIA BUDGET
20,250,073 euro

AS BUDGET
173,599,733 euro

ER BUDGET
173,599,733 euro

TOTAL BUDGET
703,179,873 euro

+15%
comparing to 2014

0.31%
of Romania’s GDP

43%
is represented by emergency medical assistance (SMURD, ER, Ambulance)
THE OBJECTIVES FOR 2016

- A more active involvement of the citizens through communications campaigns in mainstream media, in social media, and with the help of a dedicated smartphone app.
- To continue to attract external grants. The target for 2016 is 60 million euro for GIES for search and rescue equipment;
- A new aero medical base and a new Training Center for pilots.
- The renewal at the ambulance fleet of the Ambulance Service and of SMURD;
- Increasing the number of stations for the Ambulance Service and for SMURD, to cover rural areas;
- To continue the program of modernization and equipping of the Emergency Rooms, with funding from the World Bank;
- The development and expansion of international cooperation with neighboring countries in the field of emergency situations by developing contingency plans, cooperation, joint action and joint intervention procedures;
- The development and approval of projects on improving operational response capacity through large infrastructure program - "NO REGRET"
- The national assessment of risk through the "RO-RISK" project.