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**ІННОВАЦІЙНІ ТЕХНОЛОГІЇ В СИСТЕМІ
ПІДВИЩЕННЯ КВАЛІФІКАЦІЇ ФАХІВЦІВ
ФІЗИЧНОГО ВИХОВАННЯ І СПОРТУ**

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HEALTH EDUCATION IN ROMANIAN SCHOOLS

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During two recent decades, health education became one of the critical issues in the context of modernization of education in Romania. Government as well as educators and healthcare professionals viewed health education as an investment in developing country's human resources. Interest in quality assurance and development of standards for professional preparation of health educators emerged.

The National Health Education Program was adopted in 2001 as a joint initiative of the Ministry of Education and Research and the Ministry of Public Health. The aim of the program was to introduce Health Education in all Romanian schools, as a part of curriculum, extra-curricular and extra-school activity. World Bank, UNICEF, USAID, UNFPA and numerous non-governmental organizations in Romania supported the initiative, assisted with its implementation and funding.

The program is coordinated by Ministry of Education and Research. It addressed school students, aged 7-18/20 years old as well as their parents and the whole community. Involving curricular, extracurricular and extra-scholar activities aimed at harmonious development of infants and youth.

The main objectives of the program were the following: to improve students' health and well-being; to assist students' personal development; to ensure disease prevention.

In 2002, implementation strategy was elaborated and didactic materials were prepared. In 2003, multiple changes in the schools' curriculum took place, individual programs for schools were developed, information guides and manuals for teachers were provided. Approximately 9000 teachers from different schools in Romania got instructions and training in order to introduce elements

of health education in their disciplines. The courses and workshops were developed for teachers of Biology, Ecology, Physics and Social Science.

Numerous schools offer extra-curricular activities aimed at health promotion. Schools and lyceums added Health Education to the curriculum as an optional subject.

The course Health Education promotes knowledge of different health issues and assists in forming habits and attitudes that encourage responsible and healthy way of life.

The National Health Education Program was successful in fulfilling the following functions:

- to promote healthy way of life among infants and youth;
- to ensure access to correct information on health issues in urban and rural areas;
- to educate adults in indirect way;
- to diminish the number of illnesses and reduce health risk behavior;
- to improve the quality of medical aid.

Results are significant not only regarding the impact on students' knowledge, but also in terms of transformations of the educational system. At present, the program is functioning on the national level at numerous schools and lyceums of Romania.

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