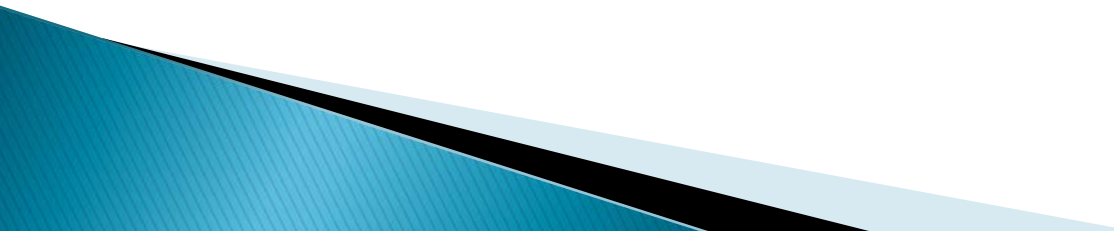


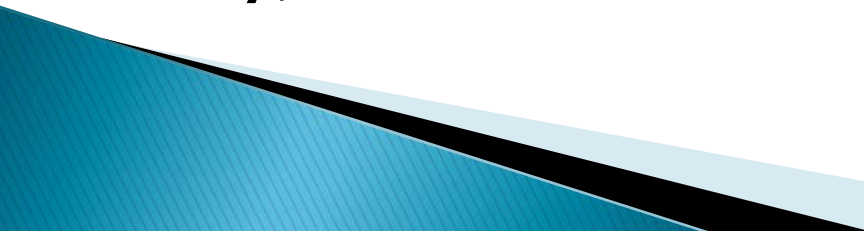
The current status of the elderly in Romania

Asociatia Habilitas – Centru de Resurse si
Formare Profesionale
Psih. Ioana Caciula – Project Manager
–Carpi, ITALY, 25th–27th May2015–

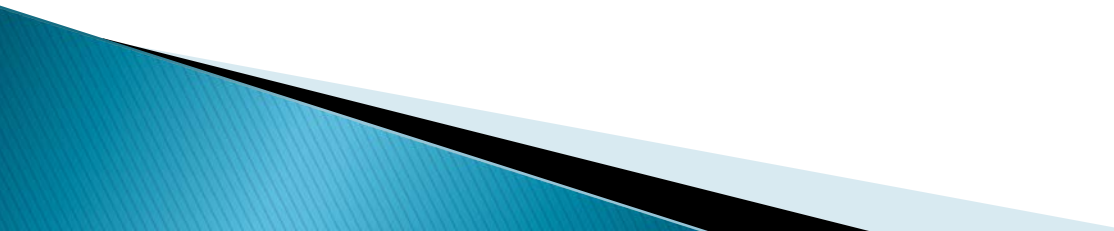
Habilitas Association

- ▶ Created in 2007
 - ▶ Develops projects in the field of elderly care and training of formal caregivers
 - ▶ Is authorized to deliver training courses for the qualification “elderly home caregiver”
 - ▶ Is involved in several European and national projects
- 

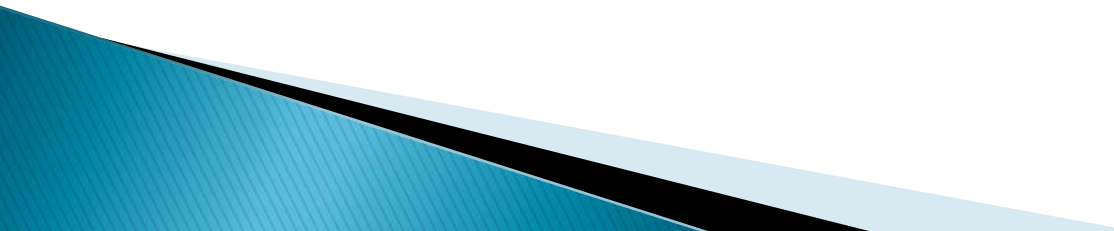
Habilitas Association

- ▶ IQEA project – implementing the ECVET system for elderly care assistants in Italy, Poland and Romania (2010–2013)
 - ▶ IDECO project – creating a training model and an ECVET correspondance for department coordinators in residential facilities between Germany and Italy (2011–2013)
 - ▶ AMICO project – creating an electronic tool to assess the competencies of migrant elderly caregivers which will be functional in Romania, Italy, Poland and Germany (2012–2014)
- 

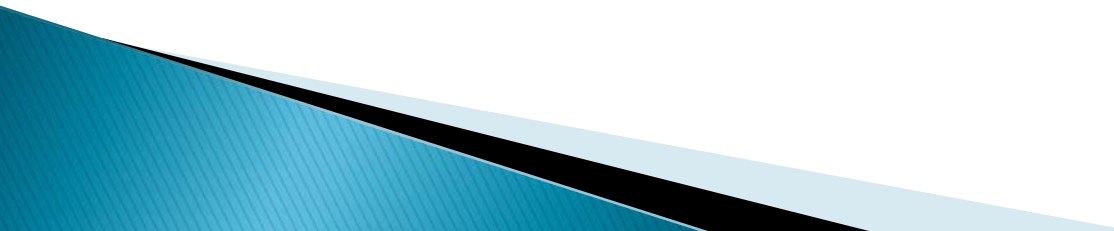
Habilitas Association

- ▶ **SenioriNet – creating a national informal network of social and medical homecare providers, improving the visibility of members and training on advocacy and strategic planning**
 - ▶ **ELMI project – transfer from Italy to Romania of an e-learning course for family carers of people with dementia in order to help them improve their skills to re-integrate on the labour market as formal carers**
- 

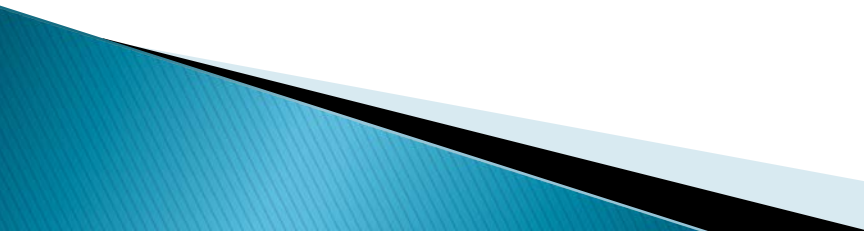
Habilitas Association

- ▶ **“Seniors – Resources in the community: Volunteering at third age” – training older persons as volunteers, placing them in social institutions as volunteers and creating a network of seniors volunteers in Bucharest**
 - ▶ **“SES – Economical and Social Support for Vulnerable Persons” – a social economy project where there will be created structures employing disadvantaged persons in the care sector**
- 


Current figures

- ▶ **Currently 15% of the population of Romania is aged 65 or more**
 - ▶ **This amounts to approx. 3 million Romanians**
 - ▶ **By 2050 these figures will double**
 - ▶ **The average pension value is approx. 150–200 euro/month**
- 

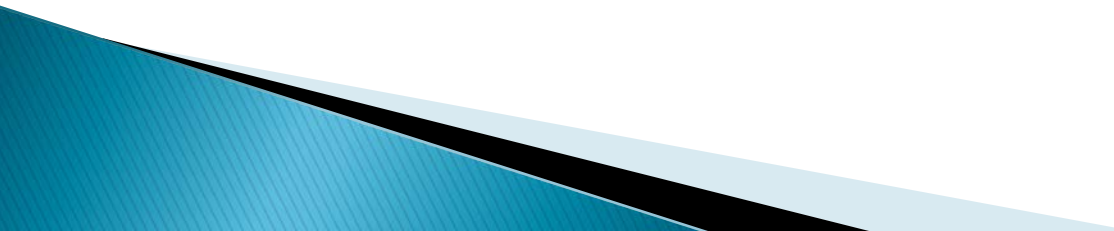
Medical care

- ▶ Most elderly are covered, from a medical insurance point of view, by the National Health Insurance System
 - ▶ This status ensures free of charge access to primary medical care and hospital admissions when needed.
 - ▶ Also it allows for basic free blood testing twice per year and imaging when needed
 - ▶ Part of the medication is partially or totally covered by the NHIS
 - ▶ Geriatrics hospitals or Geriatrics wards exist mainly in large cities
- 

Social care system

- ▶ **State run system of residential facilities – limited number of places that do not cover the actual need**
 - ▶ **State run day care facilities – with insufficient capacity**
 - ▶ **State run/financed homecare for both medical and social services**
 - ▶ **State run seniors clubs**
 - ▶ **Private care institutions – mainly nursing homes**
- 

Current elder abuse prevention and situation in Romania

- ▶ No data on the dimensions of this phenomenon exists. There is no national level research done on the issue
 - ▶ Not included in health care workers curricula
 - ▶ No courses provided on this issue to formal and informal caregivers
 - ▶ Minimum national quality standards for residential facilities and for homecare services for older persons include protection against abuse and neglect and the obligation of staff to report
- 

Hawes & al , 2001 identify situations that could be considered forms of neglect

Could be considered forms of neglect in Ro.?

U.S.A.	Romania–long term care unit
no oral/dental care	It is not a part of current care
not doing range of motion exercises	Understaffed ; is done in selected cases
not changing residents each time they are wet after an episode of incontinence	Limited 3 diapers / day
ignoring residents who are bedfast, particularly not offering activities to them	Not available staff for offering activities to bedridden persons
doing a one–person transfer when the resident requires a two–person transfer	Sometimes there is only one caregiver per shift, 30 people
taking no action on the resident's request	Unacceptable

Possible causes of the inadequate management of the cases

of abuse and neglect in long – term care units

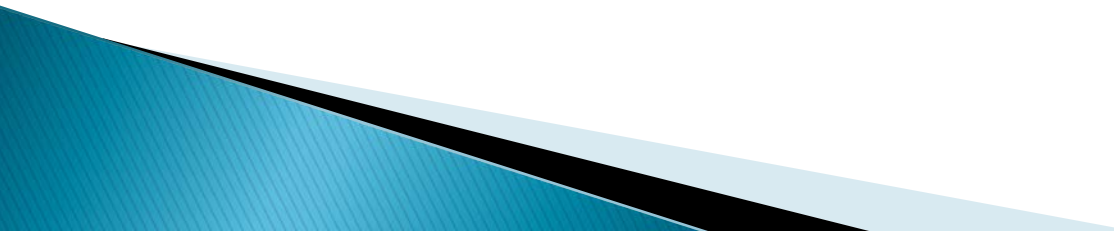
- ▶ **Insufficient training, particularly for care staff**
- ▶ **Insufficient care staff(maximum 2 nurses/shift/30 people)**
- ▶ **Physical and mental exhaustion**
- ▶ **Ineffective supervision of the carers**
- ▶ **Small salary, not motivating competent staff and professional aspirations**
- ▶ **Absence of procedures in institutions regarding handling abuse, although there are quality standards at national level for long term care institutions**

(M. Ceuca, MD)

Current elder abuse prevention and situation in Romania

- ▶ In 2010 the study “Recognition of elder abuse by home care workers and older people in Romania” (Caciula, I., Livingston, G., Caciula, R., Cooper, C.) was conducted by the NGO EquiLibre Association and University College London on the issue of recognizing elderly abuse and published in International Psychogeriatrics.
- ▶ It showed that the more experienced the formal home caregivers were, they were less likely to correctly recognize elderly abuse
- ▶ Also the elderly were more perceptive in recognizing different forms of abuse
- ▶ Due to lack of appropriate training the interviewed caregivers were 50% less capable to recognize physical restriction and neglect items as being abuse

Current training and awareness activities

- ▶ **The first marking of the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on the 15th of June 2013 during an event organized for the elderly by a local retired persons organization in collaboration with the Habilitas Association and medical associations**
 - ▶ **Training provided for young doctors on this issue by the Young Geriatricians Association in Romania**
- 

Current training and awareness activities

- ▶ Training on the elderly abuse for social and medical professionals provided in October 2013 by Alma France Association, in the framework of the “Learning how to respect or grandparents” project, financed by the French Embassy in Romania and developed by the Equilibre Association
- ▶ Another project of Habilitas – “Breaking the silence – saying NO to abuse of older persons and disabled persons” – financed by Lord Michelham Foundation – aim of training trainers and then professionals in Romania by ALMA France Association in the subject of mistreatment of vulnerable persons

▶ THANK YOU!

▶ Habilitas Association – Romania:

asoc.habilitas@yahoo.com

0040757022382

