RoNeonat in the Press

The RoNeonat project was very well reflected in mass media in Romania. We were able to collect over 50 articles during the project lifetime. Information provided was accurate and detailed. The print and video articles format was both as descriptive news and interviews with project implementers and main stakeholders. For instance, Manfred Zahorca spoke on television and was quoted in printed articles. Also, Minister of Health – dr. Ovidiu Brinzan, and Ministry of Health officials (Dr. Alin Stanescu and Dr. Gabriela Cristisor), hospital directors – as Dr. Maria Stamatin, Dr. Victoria Pavelcu, Dr. Szabo Bela, Dr. Virgil Trofin, representatives of the county public health authorities as Dr. Alexandru Paziuc and others were present on television and in journals frequently presenting different stages of the project.

Both national and local journals and televisions echoed RoNeonat experiences and achievements. Among the central journals the most active were *Evenimentul, Romania Libera, Viata Medicala* and *Adevarul* and the locals were represented by *Ziarul de Iasi, Monitorul de Suceava, Monitorul de Neamt* and *Ziarul de Mures*.

The typical headlines were the following:

− “Modern equipment brought in Romania by RoNeonat Project”
− “With the help of Swiss, the management of County Hospital wants to lower the infant mortality”
− “Training course for medical equipment in the health units”
− “RoNeonat program for maternities rehabilitation”
− “Social: RoNeonat Program for maternities rehabilitation”
− “The maternity on its way to became a regional center”
− “Campaign for child health”
− “The new hierarchy of neo-natal services”
− “18 billion lei for 23 maternities in Iasi, Neamt, Vaslui, Mures and Harghita county”
− “For the Romanian maternities”
− “A plus for births and a minus for abortion”
− “The Swiss are taking care of the not yet born children in Mures”
− “In Iasi the Baby’s Palace will be established”
− „Five stars hotel for the Moldavian babies”

Although the project was positively and objectively mirrored by the press, the journalists are hunting for shocking news. This is why from time to time in the Romanian news still appear horror depictions of the maternities. The basis of this news lies in the precarious conditions and services that are nevertheless a reality of an unacceptable high number of Romanian hospitals notwithstanding the investments done in the last years. Low numbers of personnel, poor work conditions, low staff salaries, “under the table” payments are sometimes exaggerated by some journalists in order to publish noticeable articles.

The project improved highly the conditions in a number of maternities but a lot of work still has to be done in order to bring the Romanian maternities to EU level and as a consequence to give the press reason only for admiring articles.