



RESOLUTION
OF
THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
ON
updated project on
“NATIONAL HEALTH STRATEGY 2008 – 2013”

(developed on its own initiative)

On grounds of article 15, paragraph 3 of the Law on Economic and Social Council, the Presidents Board, accepting the proposal of Associate Professor Jelyazko Hristov, PhD – a member of ESC from group II – trade unions, took the decision to develop on its own initiative a Resolution on the updated project on “National Health Strategy 2008 – 2013”.

Associate Professor Jelyazko Hristov was appointed rapporteur.

At its Plenary Session of 18.07.2008 the Economic and Social Council adopted the following Resolution.

Over the past 10 years significant changes in the health care sphere have been carried out. Although they have not turned out to be adequate for all sectors of health care, these changes lay the foundations of an entirely new national health system. The reforms in health require a long period of radical changes of values, principles, aims, priorities and resources to improve the nation's health. That is why they **continue to be a central problem for government and society.**

A sign of the efforts to accomplish a long-lasting and sustainable health policy of the state is the developed updated project of the National Health Strategy 2008 – 2013 under the conditions of our actual membership in the European Union.

With the current Resolution the Economic and Social Council expresses the position of the representation of civil society concerning the future development of social health and the health system /ownership, infrastructure, management, financing, contractual relations etc./

The Council's Resolution aims at focusing the attention of state institutions and the society on strategic goals, tasks, policies and expected results in the health system by 2013.

The project of the Strategy is based on the concept of the World Health Organization of health as a state of complete physical, psychological and social welfare, not solely as lack of illness or disability. This also defines the health and political doctrine on which it is grounded **“For healthy nation, making use of accessible and high quality services of the health system”**.

The Economic and Social Council,

- after analyzing the presented political document of the National Health Strategy and taking into consideration the evaluations provided by the experts and the representative groups in it,
- being guided by the patients' rights and interests, in its function to express the will of the organized civil society and to assist the accountable state institutions on society's health issues,

expresses the following position in respect of the adopted strategic goals of development of social health care and the health system:

1. Strategic goal 1 “Providing conditions for health promotion and illness prevention”.

- 1.1. The Council supports the tasks necessary for achieving the formulated aim – focusing on the collective responsibility for health and perceiving the idea about health promotion and prevention of illnesses as useful investment not only for health care, but for the entire development of other sectors, through increasing productivity, employment and social equality.
- 1.2. The Council insists on accomplishing a systematic, long-term national strategy and policy to restrict the pandemic of chronic noninfectious diseases through implementing “Programmes for disease management”, which include an adequate institutional framework for management, co-ordination, dynamic monitoring, control and feedback. Stimulating macrostrategies for restricting health hazards and improving living environment and way of life – changes in the legal documents, facilitating the legal and administrative procedures, more active participation of municipalities in the improvement of local conditions etc.
- 1.3. The Council recommends that more efforts should be directed towards conducting integrated health prevention and the development of preventive programmes of national significance by involving the nationally represented organizations of employers and trade unions and non-governmental organizations.
- 1.4. The Council recommends the creation of specific capacity in health care, focused on problems and needs of people for preventive activity and the development of partners’ relations between institutions, including doctor-patient.

2. Strategic goal 2 “Providing guaranteed health services with improved quality and ensure access to them”.

- 2.1. The Council believes that the instructions given for solving problems, related to securing access and high quality medical help for the population, are well formulated.

- 2.2. The Council believes that the expected results in terms of accessibility, opportuneness and sufficiency of medical help can be achieved and this will bring citizens more satisfaction from the provided health services.
- 2.3. The Council recommends the implementation of modern scientific achievements in the sphere of quality management in health care /a system of professional, behavioural and organizational standards/.

3. Strategic goal 3 “Improving the medical help for out-patients”.

- 3.1. The Council accepts the proposed measures for solving problems related to emergency medical help, optimizing the activities related to initial medical help for out-patients and specialized medical help for out-patients, improving dental health of the population and cares for pregnant women and child health.
- 3.2. The Council recommends improvement of the payment system for workers in the health sector, which will secure better resource management and the achievement of better balance between financial opportunities and health demands. The development of new systems should be done with the participation of nationally represented employers’ and trade union’s organizations in the sector.
- 3.3. The Council recommends that government institutions should direct their attention towards improving the expected results in the sphere of reducing child death and the policy for pregnant women through securing direct access to specialized medical help.

4. Strategic goal 4 “Restructuring and effective management of inpatient help”.

- 4.1. The Council recommends analysis and evaluation of the existing equipment in public hospitals for inpatient help and the conducted investment policy.
- 4.2. The Council insists on hiring professionals as managers of hospitals and clinics in order to improve the efficiency and

effectiveness of hospital and other types of medical and health activities.

- 4.3. The Council believes that the mechanisms of financing hospital medical help should be improved.

5. Strategic aim 5 “Providing medicine and medical products which meet the demands and the economic potential of the population”.

- 5.1. The Council accepts the formulated problems and priorities in the activities related to securing high quality. Efficient and harmless medical products for the population.
- 5.2. The Council recommends the adoption of medical policy which is based on evidence while observing the principle of solidarity without violating the principles of market economy.
- 5.3. The Council insists on improving the transparency of regulation procedures of medicine prices.
- 5.4. The Council insists on improving the balance between generic and innovative medical products in compliance with the good European practices.

6. Strategic goal 6 “Development of human resources in health care”.

- 6.1. The Council supports the proposed scheme for development of human resources in health care and the instructions for improving the legal framework, for strengthening the involvement of the state when performing activities to improve their qualification
- 6.2. The Council proposes more active participation of professional management in the system of institutional and curricula accreditation of Higher Medical Schools.
- 6.3. The Council recommends the adoption of active measures for increasing the number of specialists in health care and improving their social and economic status.
- 6.4. The Council focuses on the necessity for improvement of the system of post-graduate qualification and further education and professional career, including that of young specialists.

7. Strategic goal 7 “Creating an integrated system for electronic exchange of data in health care”.

- 7.1. The Council supports the creation of adequate capacity in the system of health care with the help of modern information technology.
- 7.2. The Council recommends regular analysis and evaluation of information availability in medical establishments.

8. Strategic goal 8 “Securing financial stability of the national health care system”.

- 8.1. The Council believes that the formulated policy for financing the health system, the further improvement of the model for compulsory health insurance and the development of voluntary health insurance are adequate and extremely necessary.
- 8.2. The Council recommends specification of the approach to introducing competitive beginning in improving the compulsory health insurance model.

9. Strategic goal 9 “Effective membership in the European Union”.

- 9.1. The Council believes that the formulated tasks and policies on achieving effective membership of this country in the European Union and the effective absorption of structural funds for the needs of health care are appropriate.
- 9.2. The Council supports the integration of the Bulgarian preventive and treatment medicine in the European medical environment and the active international co-operation in the context of the Global strategy of the World Health Organization.
- 9.3. The Council insists on improving the administrative capacity for implementing the regulations and directives of the European Union in the sphere of health care.

10. About the assessment indicators for applying the Strategy

- 10.1. The Council accepts the proposed system of indicators for analysis and evaluation of observing the Strategy and their standardization in six main groups.

10.2. The Council proposes to assign qualitative values to the adopted indicators using the developed Action Plan and respectively the annual action plans.

11. About monitoring the application of the Strategy.

11.1. The Council believes that it is adequate for the Minister of health to conduct the co-ordination of the monitoring and the evaluation of applying the Strategy at national and local level with the support of interested parties.

The Economic and Social Council adopts the updated project of the National Health Strategy with the proposed notes and recommendations.

Associate Professor Lalko Dulevski
President of the Economic and Social Council