European Partnership for Action Against Cancer (EPAAC)

D12.2: REPORT On Psychosocial Oncology Care Training

January 2014
REPORT
On Psychosocial Oncology Care Training

provided by the International Psycho-Oncology Society (IPOS)
in the framework of European Partnership on Action Against Cancer (EPAAC)
WorkPackage7 (WP) on Healthcare – Psychosocial Oncology Action
held at “Prof.Dr. Ion Chiricuta” Institute of Oncology (IOCN)
Cluj-Napoca, Romania
November 18-20, 2013

The Training Course on Psychosocial Oncology Care, held at IOCN was organized by EPAAC-WP7 – IPOS together with the Romanian Ministry of Health (MoH) and IOCN.

IPOS facilitators were Dr. Anja Menhert, PhD Professor of Psychosocial Oncology, University of Leipzig, Germany, member in the IPOS Board of Directors, Dr. Luigi Grassi, MD Professor and Prof. Dr. Maggie Watson. Dr. Luzia Travado was the coordinator on behalf of the Psychosocial Oncology Action EPAAC-WP7. Dr. Degi L. Csaba MSW was a member in the organizing committee, being the IPOS representative in Romania.

IOCN – was represented by Dr. Patriciu Achimas-Cadariu, IOCN Medical Manager, Florina Pop as Clinical Psychologist and MoH was represented by Dr. Florian Alexandru Nicula, the Romanian MoH representative in EPAAC Steering Committee.

The Babes-Bolyai University was represented by Anca Dobrea, Associate professor, MA, PhD, Head of the Department of Clinical Psychology and Psychotherapy, responsible with the training accreditation at the College of Romanian Psychologists.

The registration of participants was available online on IOCN website, and 42 of clinical psychologists registered.

The course agenda is attached and was fully respected.

The training program started with a warm welcome of organizers held by Dr. Patriciu Achimas-Cadariu, IOCN manager, who emphasized the importance of this event for the enhancement of the quality of medical care offered to cancer patients. Dr. Achimas-Cadariu thanked EPAAC-WP7 and IPOS delegates for the efforts made in order to increase the quality of psycho-oncology network in Romania. Dr. Florian Alexandru Nicula, on behalf of MoH, welcomed all the participants and thanked Dr. Luzia Travado for bringing this training in Romania. Lastly Dr. Luzia Travado thanked the local authorities for their collaboration in hosting this program, for their commitment to improve psychosocial cancer care in Romania and endorsing the IPOS standard in quality cancer care, and introduced with a short presentation the WP7-EPAAC Psychosocial Oncology Action objectives.

The first part of the training aimed at screening for emotional distress in cancer patients was presented by Prof. Anja Menhert.

The second part, presented by Prof. Luigi Grassi aimed at the way one could deal with affective disorders. The presentation of Dr. Luigi Grassi was presented theoretically and practically by organizing the participants into small groups.
The third part aimed at two essential aspects: on the one hand the modalities of organizing psycho-oncology services, and on the other hand the advanced practice of Cognitive-Behavior Therapy. This part was presented by Prof. Dr. Maggie Watson, IPOS Faculty.

The participants proved to be very interested in improving their knowledge base and skills throughout the practical exercises in small work groups.

At the end of the training, organizers, faculty and participants concluded on some main common activities as outputs of this action:

1. Report endorsed to all organizers.
2. IPOS will organize through the Romanian Psycho-Oncology Society translation and dissemination of professional recommendations, materials for the Romanian clinical network; RP-OS will enlarge, becoming nationally representative.
3. The final report will be sent to the Oncology Commission of MoH and to political decision-makers in the MoH, together with a requisition for assuring psycho-oncology assistance for cancer patients, and a proposition for setting up specialized psycho-oncology comprehensive cancer centers in oncology institutions and other regional and county-level centers, which will align to IPOS standards; these activities should be included on the list of services discounted by the Romanian Health Insurance Fund.
4. Also, we will propose Moh and Labor Ministry to implement measures of alignment of specific specialty classified list and training curricula to existent models in the European Community.

Outcome:
The participants rated the course as very highly useful and satisfactory.