CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING THE RIGHT TO ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES OF IMMIGRANTS IN ROMANIA

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ABSTRACT: The integration of immigrants in the host-state represents an ongoing, long lasting process. Host-states, members of the European Union, in their attempts to support this process, have adopted and are continuously adapting their legislation and search for means to facilitate the integration process of the immigrants in the society. States establish through their legislation the rights immigrants benefit from and one of these rights is of access to health services. In Romania, the legislation in this area, general and nondiscriminatory, provides support for the immigrants. However, the effective exercise of this right highlights real and stringent problems that immigrants have to face when they find themselves in the situation of having to benefit from health services.

KEYWORDS: integration; immigrants; health; health services.

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Regulation of migration and integration of immigrants both represent debate subjects at the level of the European Union as well as at the level of each member state of the EU. The integration of immigrants represents one of the greatest challenges that Europe has to find efficient solutions for. The existence of successful immigration policies is impossible if policies that aim at integrating the immigrants lack. Hence, integration represents a central point of a coherent policy that deals with the phenomenon of immigration. Some states deal with a relatively recent migrational phenomenon compared to other states and therefore the approach of each state is different. Regardless of the situation, however, for all states the true challenge is represented by the integration of immigrants. (Popescu, Toth, 2009, pp.5-6)

Integration aims at the relations established between groups as well as between persons related to their intensity and is a process of active participation of immigrants in a new system, often completely different of that of the original states. (Radu, 2006, pp. 319-341, Cervinschi, p. 46) As a process, integration must be analyzed from the perspective of host states as well as from the perspective of immigrants. The process of integration is a dynamic, bilateral, of reciprocal interaction that entails efforts both on the part of national, regional and local authorities as well as the host community, and of immigrants. Social integration presumes the active implication of citizens from third states in the situation of having to benefit from health services.

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