

## **Leadership and driving forces in local health enhancing physical activity (HEPA) policy development in Romania**

Petru Sandu<sup>a</sup>, Diana Rus<sup>a</sup>, Răzvan M. Cherecheș<sup>a</sup>, Cătălina Brînză<sup>a</sup>, Cătălin Baba<sup>a</sup>, Cathrine Juel Lau<sup>b</sup>,  
Ien van de Goor<sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Cluj School of Public Health, Faculty of Political, Administrative and Communication Sciences, “Babes-Bolyai” University, 71 Traian Mosoiu Street, 400132, Cluj Napoca, Romania

<sup>b</sup>Research Centre for Prevention and Health, Copenhagen University Hospital Glostrup, Nordre Ringvej 57, 2600 Glostrup, Denmark

<sup>c</sup>Tranzo, Tilburg School of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Tilburg University, 5037AB, Tilburg, The Netherlands.

\* Corresponding address: Cluj School of Public Health, Pandurilor 7, Universtas Hotel, floor 9, 400376 Cluj Napoca, Romania

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**Introduction:** Increasing the levels of physical activity of populations require the development of evidence informed intersectoral policies. There is a knowledge gap regarding the stakeholders involved in HEPA policy development and their leadership roles.

The objectives of the research are: (1) identify stakeholders involved in local HEPA policy development in Romania and their leadership roles and (2) explore the driving forces for policy development.

**Methods:** A system analysis has been conducted by: (1) document analysis, (2) stakeholders interviews and (3) official requests of public interest information.

**Results:** There are several sources of leadership in local HEPA policy development: financial, institutional, expertise-driven, and resources-driven, exerted by national and local institutions from public, private and civil society sectors. The sport sector has a leading role in HEPA policy development. There are different driving forces exerted by the public and the civil society stakeholders in the policy process.

**Discussion:** The leadership in local HEPA policy development is divided. Unlike high income countries where HEPA policy is part of the health policy, in Romania the sport sector has the lead in this regard. This aspect can influence the goals and outcomes of HEPA policy.