

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002315/24
to the Commission
Claudiu-Richard Târziu (ECR)
(30 October 2024)**

Subject: Suspicious under-reporting of nosocomial infections in Romanian hospitals

Nosocomial (hospital-acquired) infections are a significant public health concern, contributing to the illness of tens of thousands of Romanians and resulting in numerous preventable fatalities. Alarming, Romania's reported cases of healthcare-associated infections remain disproportionately low compared to the European average.

For example, in 2022, Romania reported a rate of just 2% for healthcare-associated infections, in stark contrast to the EU average of 8%. This persistent discrepancy over the years raises concerns about the accuracy and transparency of our reporting practices.

Considering that the health and lives of patients are of the utmost importance, how will the Commission address the lack of transparency and, in fact, the lack of concern of the Romanian authorities, which can have very harmful consequences for the beneficiaries of medical care?

Submitted: 30.10.2024

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(6 February 2025)**

The prevalence of healthcare-associated infections (HAI) reported by Romanian hospitals in the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control's (ECDC) point prevalence surveys (PPS) ⁽¹⁾ is indeed low: 2.8% (second lowest) in 2011-2012 ⁽²⁾, 3.6% (fourth lowest) in 2016-2017 ⁽³⁾, and 3.1% (second lowest) in 2022-2023 ⁽⁴⁾.

Some degree of under-reporting may be possible, as shown by the data on patient case-mix (severity of the clinical condition of hospitalised patients) in the PPS sample from Romania and the results of the validation of this and previous PPS, but the extent of under-reporting cannot be quantified.

The low reported prevalence of HAI can also be partly explained by the very low diagnostic testing in Romanian hospitals (third lowest in 2016-2017 and second lowest in 2022-2023), indicating that some HAI may remain undiagnosed because diagnostic tests are not performed.

In accordance with Article 7(1) of Regulation (EU) 2022/2371 ⁽⁵⁾, Member States must provide a report on their prevention, preparedness and response planning for serious cross-border health threats, which includes their national capacities related to HAI surveillance.

ECDC periodically assesses the Member States' prevention, preparedness and response planning at national level under Article 8 of Regulation (EU) 2022/2371.

Such an assessment ⁽⁶⁾ is scheduled to take place in Romania in 2026. In any case, the Commission remains in contact with the relevant Romanian authorities.

Based on the information provided by the Member States and the results of the assessments carried out by ECDC, the Commission shall produce a report on the state of play and progress and may support the action of the Member States through general recommendations on prevention, preparedness and response planning.

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/search?s=Point+prevalence+survey>

⁽²⁾ <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications-data/point-prevalence-survey-healthcare-associated-infections-and-antimicrobial-use-0>

⁽³⁾ <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications-data/point-prevalence-survey-healthcare-associated-infections-and-antimicrobial-use-5>

⁽⁴⁾ <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications-data/PPS-HAI-AMR-acute-care-europe-2022-2023>

⁽⁵⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/2371/oj>

⁽⁶⁾ <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/about-ecdc/what-we-do/public-health-emergency-preparedness-assessments>